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The Weekly Post

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Military provides unexpected career for Crouch

By MOLLY RICHESON

For The Weekly Post

ELMWOOD – Looking for a way to pay for college turned into a lifetime career for Elmwood native Ron Crouch.

Crouch spent a few days short of 41 years in the military: 40 years, 11 months and some odd days of service, to be exact. All that came after Crouch and five friends joined the Air National Guard in November 1976 while he was 17 and still in high school. Crouch retired as a lieutenant colonel of the Air Force in 2017 at the age of 58.

Crouch was valedictorian of Elmwood's graduating class of 1977. When his parents told him



they were not going to help him with the cost of his college, he took matters into his own hands. When a recruiter visited the high school, Crouch decided the Air National Guard could help pay his way.

His mother, Pat Crouch, was not keen on the idea, what with the Vietnam War ending one year prior. But his father, Mick, signed off on his enlistment.

"My mom said no son of hers was joining the military, so when

I joined she didn't speak to me for two weeks," Ron said, adding, "I don't know how long she didn't speak to (his father)."

Drill weekends began immediately after enlistment and, after graduation, he was off to basic training in just a few weeks. Even then, the military was not his primary option, as his initial career interest was agriculture.

"FFA did more to prepare me for life than any other class. And I've told (my FFA teacher) Gene Vaughan that. So everything was agriculture when I was growing up," Ron said. "I just had a strong agricultural background and did really well in FFA. I won a lot of contests and that's where my in-

terest was when I was 17.

"But life happens, and God has a plan."

Ron began by attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville where he played football. After dislocating his elbow, he was given a different opportunity.

"The Guard offered me a full-time job making basically what college was telling me I was going to make in ag when I graduated," he said. "So I ended up working full time and working my way through school."

He finished his studies at Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois-Springfield.

"I think most people that join the military will tell you that ev-



Ron Crouch wore his military tuxedo to the wedding of his daughter, Brittany, in 2018.

erybody should have to go through basic training," Ron said.

The structure and discipline required in basic training are only some of the benefits.

"People that join the military seem to just jumpstart their

Continued on Page 10

Guns in court

U.S. Supreme Court asked to review Illinois weapons ban

By PETER HANCOCK

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Gun-rights advocates say they intend to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the state's assault-weapons ban after a federal appeals court on Friday refused to block enforcement of the law.

The Illinois State Rifle Association said in a statement it was not surprised by the 7th Circuit panel's recent 2-1 decision, which said plaintiffs in the consolidated cases had not met their burden to show they were likely to win in a constitutional challenge to the law.

"It has always been and is our intent to take our case to the U.S. Supreme Court where we believe we can get a favorable ruling for law-abiding gun owners in Illinois," the organization said. "We will continue to stand up for the Second Amendment and Illinois law-abiding gun owners and against our anti-gun Governor Pritzker and General

Continued on Page 9

GRAHAM DONATION



Graham Health System formalized its donation of \$1 million to the YMCA/Wellness Center in Elmwood on Monday. Pictured are, Front row (left to right): Chasity Swope, Graham Board of Trustees Chairman Mike Renner (holding check), Diane Oberhelman, Doug Oberhelman (holding check), Dick Taylor, Jeannie Breese and Kristen Jackson. Second row (l to r): Samantha Knott, Holly Henline, Brian Slayback and Ali Sours. Back row (l to r): Greater Peoria Family YMCA President Andy Thornton and Graham CEO Bob Senneff. Photo by Alesia Shaw.

Graham pledges \$1 million to center

ELMWOOD – Graham Health System has pledged \$1 million to the Elmwood Community Foundation for a regional YMCA/Wellness Center. The proposed \$14.5

million-dollar, 33,000-square-foot center will serve about 8,000 families within 20 minutes of the facility and will be adjacent to Graham Medical Group's clinic on the

north edge of Elmwood. Bob Senneff, President and CEO of Graham Health System, said, the facility will have a huge impact on the region.

Continued on Page 9

Rate rise?

Williamsfield considering water rate, property tax hike

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

WILLIAMSFIELD – Significant increases in water rates and property taxes appear to be in store for Williamsfield residents.

A proposed 2024 property-tax levy is about 70% higher than the previous one. An increase of about 540% in monthly water rates has been recommended.

The Village Board is likely to decide on the proposed increases during its meeting Dec. 4. A Truth in Taxation hearing regarding the property tax probably will be held before the meeting.

Village President Robert Johnson cited increased expenses, revenue shortfalls, federal and state requirements and years of infrastructure neglect and not keeping pace with inflation as reasons for the proposed hikes.

"We're behind umpteen years of how

Continued on Page 2

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BILLTOWN: Water operations losing money

Continued from Page 1
many years this has been going on," Johnson said during a board meeting Monday night. "We've been kicking the can down the road, and this is the end of the road. We don't have any money to spend on anything."

A study the Taylorville-based Illinois Rural Water Association undertook for the village suggested it's losing plenty of money regarding its water operations, which serve 288 customers. The current annual deficit is \$67,292.03, a shortfall of more than 25%, according to the study.

The Billtown monthly water rate should rise from \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons to \$20.18, the study recom-

mended. The new rate is almost evenly split between production costs and repaying about \$2.75 million in loans for an ongoing village water-infrastructure project.

"If the village had been doing its due diligence since the '80s and replacing 100-year-old pipes then, we wouldn't be facing this big loan," Johnson said. "The rate should have crept up every year by 3%. It never did."

The proposed property-tax levy is designed to help cover a budget deficit of more than \$42,000, according to village documents. The projected levy for 2024 is \$54,030. The previous levy was \$31,849. The increase is about \$37

per resident.

Village trustees authorized part of the levy Monday. A new street-lighting fund of \$3,760 is to help pay for electricity-rate increases, according to Johnson. Estimated street-lighting expenses in the fiscal year that ended April 30 were \$14,748, about \$4,500 higher than the previous year.

Still, Trustee Lucas Leckrone appeared wary of the fiscal one-two punch.

"Those are just awfully big numbers," he said. "I think that's going to drum up a lot of complaint."

Trustee Nancy Everett said the proposed increases are a necessary evil. Johnson concurred. He suggested subsequent hikes be tied to inflation.

"No one is going to be happy about it," Johnson said. "I'm not happy about my taxes going up, but (they) should have been

going up all along. We have to bite the bullet."

Informally, the board rejected a request to spend up to \$50,000 to cover cost overruns regarding the water-infrastructure project. Andy Logsdon of Bruner, Cooper & Zuck Inc., a Galesburg engineering firm, said state-required research and paperwork were part of the cause.

"We'll finish up the project and we'll take a financial loss on it," said Logsdon, who estimated work will be completed this spring.

The board voted to use about \$11,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act money to upgrade the water-plant computer system and replace residential water meters.

Also approved was a \$454.72 expense with Walmart to purchase new tires for a village maintenance

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THE WEEK AHEAD

This Week's Hot Picks

- **Seed Exchange** – A native-seed exchange will be held Saturday, Nov. 11, from 1-3 p.m. at Salem Township Library in Yates City.
- **Clothing Drive** – St. Joseph Catholic Church clothing exchange is Nov. 10, 1-5 p.m., and Nov. 11, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Brimfield. Items are free. Exchange not required. Drop-off is Nov. 9, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Nov. 10, 8 a.m. to noon. Clothing, pots, pans, dishes, toys, small furniture welcome. No TVs or computers.
- **Fall Fair** – Elmwood United Methodist Church's Fall Fair is Nov. 11, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Soup and Maid-Rites. Silent-basket auction.

The Weekly Post Seven-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Partly Sunny	Partly Sunny
57 35	55 28	56 34	59 35	62 38	62 41	40 29
WNW 10 mph	WNW 11 mph	SSE 6 mph	SSW 9 mph	WSW 9 mph	S 11 mph	SSW 13 mph

This Week's Events

- **Ham Loaf** – Orders due for Farmington United Methodist Church's annual ham loaf sale by Nov. 8. Cost \$4 per loaf. Pick up Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (309) 245-4310.
- **Meet the Team** – Brimfield's Meet the Team night is Friday, Nov. 10. Dinner 5-6:30 p.m. Games start 6:30.
- Meet the Farmers night is Friday, Nov. 10, 5:30-7 p.m. in Farmington.
- **Veterans Day** – Farmington-area veterans are invited to attend the Farmington High School Veterans Day program Nov. 10 at 8:30 a.m.
- Veterans invited to Elmwood High School's Veterans Day breakfast and program Nov. 10, 8:15-9:30 a.m. RSVP by Nov. 3 to (309) 742-2851.
- The Princeville community is invited to the Princeville schools Veterans Day Program in the high school gym on Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. Refreshments.

- Elmwood's Veterans Day service is Saturday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m. in Central Park.
- **Purse Auction** – Elmwood Business Women Purse Auction fundraiser is Nov. 11 at noon at Elmwood Presbyterian Church. \$18. Tickets at Jordan's Service Station or from committee member.
- **Soup Supper** – Farmington Presbyterian Church's Soup Supper is Saturday, Nov. 11, 4:30-7 p.m. \$5. Proceeds go to the Honor Flight Guardians.
- **School Play** – Elmwood students present "The Outsiders" Friday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 12, at 3 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Cost \$7 adults, \$4 students.

Future Events

- **Harvest Home** – Fundraiser dinner for the annual Harvest Home festival is Nov. 16 at the Yates City Community Center, 4:30-7 p.m. Meal consists of chicken alfredo, vegetable, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. Cost \$13.

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Village of Princeville Reminders:

- **Open Burning of Landscape Waste** is allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Fires must be extinguished by 5pm. Open burning is only permissible for landscape waste which is dry and which is generated on the premises where the fire is located.
- A fire must be attended at all times. Open burning is prohibited on all public streets, rights of way and sidewalks. It is further prohibited at any location sufficiently close to any building or structure that the fire would place the building or structure at risk.**
- Bonfires:** It is unlawful to build or light any bonfire so close to any building or other structure as to endanger such building or structure, or on any public street, rights of way, or sidewalk. ONLY dry wood, and no garbage or other refuse may be burned in a bonfire. *Village Code, 9.16.040, Open Burning and Bonfires*

Last day for landscape waste pickups is November 14. Call the Village Hall office to arrange pick ups, 309-385-4765.

- The leaf vacuum will run Monday thru Friday until most of the Village's leaves are down. Leaves need to be raked onto the street, next to the curb. If your street doesn't have a curb, then place them out on the sides of the street. (the vac cannot reach into ditches)
- Leaves only! No sticks, branches, rocks, stones, bricks or other items in your leaf piles. Items other than leaves can damage the equipment.**
- Leaves can be raked/blown into the street any day of the week.
- Please do not park vehicles or garbage totes inside or next to leaf piles as the driver will not be able to collect those leaves.**
- You can always call Village Hall to let us know you'll have leaves out for the next days pick up.

Questions, please call Village Hall, 309-385-4765

The Weekly Post

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Quotable - "Native plants give us a sense of where we are in this great land of ours. I want Texas to look like Texas and Vermont to look like Vermont."
- Lady Bird Johnson

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SCATTERSHOOTING



Of seed swapping, veterans & wellness

Rambling through central Illinois, pondering the cruelties of old age.

When it comes time to pick purple coneflower seeds, I often feel a tinge of guilt. Somewhere nearby, surely a goldfinch is perched, cursing me through its beak for greedily snatching up his winter larder. In that regard, seed collecting is similar to religion: Both are rooted in guilt. But the pay-off in seed collecting is faster. Sow seeds in spring (or winter, as I prefer for prairie plants) and you can ensure food for future generations of goldfinches and other seed-eating critters. Plus, you can enjoy the spectacle of seeing low-maintenance native plants grow and bloom. ... All of that is a reminder that this Saturday, Nov. 11, **Ellen Gibbons** of Maquon and I will hold a native-seed exchange at Salem Township Library in Yates City from 1-3 p.m. - hours set up so you can fit the exchange in between deer hunting or any other fall activity. Bring any seed or acorns you have, or even just a plant story to tell. And plan to take some seeds home for your own



Jeff LAMPE

garden. Ellen is the inspiration for this event and has all sorts of goodies to swap: turtlehead, wild petunia, persimmon, hazelnut, ironweed, sneezeweed, cup plant, milkweed, Indian grass, goldenrod and more. There's a good chance native seed guru **Greg Herrmann** will also make an appearance. With help from his family, Greg has run Pleasant Prairie Nursery near Williamsfield since 2009. He is an avid collector who spends long hours scouring fields, creekbeds and hillsides for seed. So come on out and join us.

Among the Veterans Day celebrations this weekend is dedication of a monument in Trivoli Cemetery to commemorate veterans. **Jen Andrews** says the ceremony Saturday starts at 1 p.m. and will include a 21-gun salute, the playing of "Taps" and raising of three new flags in the cemetery. ... Pastor **Tim Cavallo** said Elmwood's annual Trunk or Treat went very well despite cool weather. On behalf of the Elmwood Ministerium, he praised the City of Elmwood for its donation and thanked local businesses for donating gift certificates to the winning trunks: 1. The Little Mermaid, 2. The Great Punkin, 3. Hocus Pocus and 4. Trick or Pete.

Speaking of Elmwood, there have

been plenty of skeptics who since 2014 have doubted that a health and wellness center would ever be built north of town near the Graham Medical Center. I know, because for a period of time I was one of those skeptics. While a center has always seemed to be a great idea, paying for it once seemed an insurmountable hurdle. But continued success in fundraising for the project has turned me into a believer. On Monday, Graham officially presented a \$1 million check toward the \$12 million project. And that's not the only check that has been written for the proposed 33,000-square-foot center. Those in the know say fundraising is coming along nicely and goes well beyond the \$3.75 million federal appropriation U.S. Rep. **Darin LaHood** was in town to tout this summer. Hard work by the Elmwood Community Foundation appears to be paying off. This week alone, members made their pitch to leaders in Brimfield, Hanna City and Elmwood and to the Greater Peoria Family YMCA board. ... Parting shot: Ever hear of a fellow named **Arnold Dorsey**? Probably not. For some curious reason he adopted the name **Engelbert Humperdinck** for the stage and has gone on to live a many-splendored existence.

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

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The City of Elmwood Leaf Pickup

The City of Elmwood will be picking up leaves starting the week of November 6th. If you do not have a curb and gutter, leaves will need to be in the street.

The leaf vacuum cannot pick up leaves out of ditches. The leaf vacuum cannot pick up leaves on top of gravel. We are also unable to go down any streets which are dead end.

No appointment or call will be necessary for pick up.

Please remove all sticks and branches from leaves. If there are any present we will not pick up. No pile can be taller than three foot but as long as you need.

St. Joseph Catholic Church Annual Clothing Exchange

Friday, Nov 10th 1-5pm
Saturday, Nov 11th 8am-1pm

Drop Off Only:
Thursday, Nov 9th 8am-4pm
Friday, Nov 10th 8am-Noon

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10am-1:30pm

Soup & Maid Rites
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Winners will be notified after 1:30pm on Nov 11th

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GUEST VOICES

Harvest has changed, but joys still remain

The hardest work I've ever done was helping to pick ear corn. Our neighbor Earl Curry ran a two-row, pull-type picker. I hauled in corn with the Farmall 656 tractor and elevated it into the corn crib.

When the wagon was full, Earl would pull the pin and drive ahead so I could bring the empty wagon to him, then I'd back up to the full load. I'd jump off, drop the pin into his wagon, hope I'd positioned my tractor correctly to drop the pin into its drawbar, and take off down, then up the steep hills to the barnyard at our Other Place.

Once I'd parked the wagon in what I hoped was the correct spot, I would disembark again, hook up the hydraulic hose that raised the wagon, tug down the hopper of the elevator, start the H (which powered the elevator,) engage the power takeoff and then lift the bar to raise the wagon tailgate to allow ears of corn to drop noisily into the hopper.

I then went back to the 656 to gradually raise the angle of the box so all the corn could slowly slide out, but not all at once, which would clog the elevator and bring the whole process to a crashing halt.

From time to time, I clambered up the ladder inside the old corn crib and stepped carefully across the beams spanning the bay to reposition the elevator spout. Then it was back down to do everything in reverse, being sure to undo the hydraulic hose.

The goal was to get back to the field before Earl filled the next wagon so he didn't have to wait. I didn't always make it. Sometimes I made it only because the picker was plugged. This was not fun. We would have to painstakingly pull stalks out one by one until the whole wad was loose enough that we could finally ease it out in one big, scratchy armful.

But Earl was never impatient or ill-tempered about it. He would just point out that, like many problems,

this one could best be solved by removing one small piece at a time.

This would have been almost 40 years ago. I couldn't do it now. I could barely do it then.

I do still get to help with harvest, though. Sometimes I haul in corn and unload it. That's where the similarity ends. Now I sit in an air-conditioned cab and, if all goes well, seldom need to get out. My biggest challenge now is figuring out where Joyce will be with the combine when I get back to the field. She is also infinitely patient and thanks to text messaging, she can usually coach me into a section of the field where I can spot her silver Gleaner, brimful with bright yellow corn.

In late October, just before the rains came, she was combining The Big Hill. This is a challenging field to navigate. She had just finished the actual Big Hill and was moving to the adjacent Field Behind the Big Hill, which is a little bottom along Walnut Creek. Like most creek bottoms, the field is ringed with trees, which makes it a scenic haven for wildlife, but can pose problems for a combine with an eight-row head.

I was perched up on The Big Hill, watching her dance along the edges to open a space to work, nosing the huge machine into the corn, then expertly backing up to carve out enough space to turn around. She can mentally calculate on the fly how much corn is in the hopper and how far she can go before it is chock full. She also makes sure that point is accessible to my limited abilities as an auger cart driver.

I had just surmised she was going to try to make it past a copse of trees to an open area near the path to the exit from the field. I had just shifted out of neutral when I saw her back up, move over, back up, then stop. My phone rang.

"I was going to make it to the other end, but there's a tree down and now I'm full," she said. "You'll have to come down here. I'll pick you out."

She was laughing a bit, knowing my insecurities in getting my rig into a situation that might require backing out. But down the hill I went, the

empty cart bumping loudly.

Joyce positioned the Gleaner in such a way that I could pull under the spout without much trouble. Once she was empty, she went on picking.

I left to unload and all was well. There was more corn, already shelled, in that auger cart than Earl and I could have picked in a full day with the picker. It is so different. And yet there is that same sense of accomplishment in bringing in a crop and joy in working with good neighbors. I hope that part never changes.

AUTUMN HARVEST
BRAISED BEEF BRISKET

Ingredients

- 1 beef brisket flat half boneless (2-1/2 to 3-1/2 pounds)
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 cup cran-apple, cranberry or apple juice, divided
- 3-4 medium red apples, cored, cut into 16 wedges (about 1-1/4 pounds)
- 3/4 cup dried sweetened cranberries
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch

Directions

1. Combine cumin and cinnamon; rub over beef brisket. Heat oil in stockpot over medium heat until hot. brown brisket; season beef with salt and pepper, as desired.

2. Add 3/4 cup juice and garlic to stockpot; bring liquid to a boil. Reduce heat; cover tightly and simmer 2-3/4 to 3-1/4 hours. Add apples and cranberries to stockpot. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 20-25 minutes or until brisket and apples are fork-tender, stirring and rearranging apples once during cooking.

3. Remove brisket, keep warm. Combine remaining 1/4 cup juice and cornstarch; stir cornstarch mixture into apple mixture. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil 1-2 minutes or until mixture has thickened.

4. Trim fat from brisket. Carve diagonally across the grain into thin slices. Season with salt and pepper. Serve beef with apple mixture.

Jeanne Harland is a cow-calf producer in Knox County where she and her husband, A.J., also raise corn, soybeans, oats and turnips.



Jeanne
HARLAND

Pickleball crew will miss Harley Krider

To The Editor:

The Elmwood pickleball community is grieving, we have lost one of our own. Not just one of our own, but the unofficial leader of our group.

Harley Krider of Elmwood died Oct. 28. He and his wife, Barb, laid the groundwork in getting our group started 10+ years ago. Harley made sure the courts were in good order. He took care of the money and bought equipment when it was needed. He came early to set up the courts and stayed after play time to put them away. He did this



faithfully right up until the last play time before he died.

When I started playing pickleball, I found it to be fun and good exercise.

But a higher priority asserted itself as I got to know the players. When you see people twice per week, partner with them, face them on the court, swap stories and share each other's lives, you miss them when they're gone. Harley's absence at the community center will loom large in the months to come.

I will miss the wicked spin Harley put on his serve. (Really.) I will miss hearing him mutter "fiddlesticks" when he hit a ball into the net. I will miss being amused at his habit of wearing jeans rather than moveable athletic wear. I will miss his wonderful humor and the pure gentleman that he was.

I will miss Harley. We all will.

— **Lori Herold**, Brimfield

The Weekly Post welcomes letters to the editor.

Email to jeff@wklypost.com

or mail to: The Weekly Post, PO Box 745, Elmwood, IL 61529. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Give Thanks
Happy Thanksgiving!

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AUCTIONS & REAL ESTATE SALES

Continued from Page 6
DEFENDANTS.
NO. 2022-FC-0000155
114 EAST BRIARWOOD COURT
PEORIA, IL 61603

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 October 18, 2023, Sheriff of Peoria County will on 12/11/2023, in ROOM 203 OF THE COURTHOUSE, 324 MAIN STREET, PEORIA, IL 61602, at 8:30 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:

TAX NO. 14-33-451-019
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 114 East Briarwood Court Peoria, IL 61603
Description of Improvements: The property is a single family home. The Judgment amount was \$84,972.18.

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 subject 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://iforeclosuresales.mrpllc.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# 22-095801L

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.
I3231969
Published 11/2, 11/9, 11/16/23

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC PLAINTIFF
Vs.
Nathaniel Allen; et. al.
DEFENDANTS
No. 2023-FC-0000101
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 08/23/2023, the Sheriff of Peoria County, Illinois will on December 6, 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:

PIN 08-15-278-008
Improved with Residential COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 703 S Brookfield Drive Dunlap, IL 61525

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).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. 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.

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 14-23-02666.
I3231982
Published 11/2, 11/9, 11/16/23

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF PEORIA PEORIA, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC TRUST, SERIES 2016-CTT; Plaintiff, vs. KENNETH H. KARPULEON; MARIA KARPULEON; CAMELOT ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION, INC; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR COUNTRYWIDE MORTGAGE VENTURES LLC DBA PARAGON FINANCIAL MORTGAGE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 17 CH 330

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Peoria County will on Monday, December 11, 2023, at the hour of 8:30 a.m. in Room 203 of the Courthouse, 324 Main St., Peoria, IL, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 17-31-330-018.

Commonly known as 9720 West Lake Lancelot Drive, Mapleton, Illinois 61547-9423.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the

ESTATE AUCTION

November 18, 2023 @ 9:00AM

Auction Location: 7526 Old Sate Rt. 121 Hopedale, IL 61747
For Pictures, Updates & Terms Go To:
www.skauctions.net
www.auctionzip.com ID# 51582, or
www.gotoauctions.com ID# 10344

Owners Patricia Oliver Estate & Linda Stansbury Estate

Furniture: Antiques & Collectables: Tools: House Hold: Misc:

Auction Conducted by S & K Auctions LLC Hopedale IL
Auctioneers: Brent Schmidgall 309-202-8378
Cal Kaufman 309-696-9019

assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 LUCERNE DRIVE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130. 440-572-1511.
I3232057
Published 11/2, 11/9, 11/16/23

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS

TRUIST BANK, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO SUNTRUST BANK, PLAINTIFF, VS. JUAN ARANDA-MEDINA A/K/A JUAN M ARANDA MEDINA; RUBI J CORTEZ; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.
NO. 22 FC 0000217
2114 WEST WINNEBAGO DRIVE PEORIA, IL 61614

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 September 7, 2023, Sheriff of Peoria County will on 12/11/2023, 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:

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://iforeclosuresales.mrpllc.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# 22-095801L

DESCRIPTION OF IMPROVEMENTS: The property is a single family. The property has a two car garage. The garage is attached. The exterior is vinyl siding. The color is yellow. The property does not have a fence. The property is occupied.

The Judgment amount was \$150,814.94.

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 subject 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://iforeclosuresales.mrpllc.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# 20-026371L

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.
I3229367
Published 11/2, 11/9, 11/16/23

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATE-HOLDERS OF THE COWALTS, INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2005-J3 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-J3 Plaintiff, -v- CATHIE A. MARCUS, BANK OF AMERICA, NA, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant
2023 FC 0000063

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 11, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on December 12, 2023, at the Peoria County Courthouse, 324 Main Street (South Door), PEORIA, IL, 61602, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 2629 N. SPRINGDALE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL 61603

Property Index No. 14-34-181-010
The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$47,106.26.

Sale terms: 100% of the bid amount shall be paid in certified funds immediately by the highest and best bidder at the conclusion of the sale. The certified check must be made payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. 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.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

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 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

PUBLIC AUCTION

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Saturday, November 11, 2023
at 9:30 A.M.
Old High School Gym
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--	---

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Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other counties where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact Travis P. Barry, KELLEY, KRONENBERG, P.A. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 20 N CLARK STREET SUITE 1150, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 216-8828. Please refer

 **Elmwood CUSD #322 is taking applications for School Bus Drivers!**
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PUBLIC RECORD

NOTE: Charges are merely an accusation. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Local man charged in Hancock Co. shooting

• **CARTHAGE** – A Yates City man was denied bail after he was implicated in a Hancock County shooting, according to authorities.

Terry R. Lansford, 49, was arrested about 10 p.m. Oct. 14 at the scene, a residence in the 2500 block of E. County Road 1850 near Webster. That unincorporated community is located about 10 miles east of Carthage and about 75 miles west of Yates City.



Lansford

During a Hancock County Circuit Court appearance Oct. 17, Lansford was accused of aggravated discharge of a firearm and of aggravated battery involving discharge of a firearm, a Class X felony.

Judge Rodney Clark decided Lansford posed a threat to the community and wouldn't follow pretrial conditions, according to court records. As of last week, Lansford was being held in the Hancock County Jail. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for today (Nov. 9).

About 2½ hours before Lansford was arrested, the injured victim drove to Memorial Hospital in Carthage, a Hancock County Sheriff's Office news release stated. The man sustained multiple gunshot wounds at his residence and identified Lansford as his assailant.

The victim's girlfriend and Lansford were inside the residence following the shooting, but deputies contacted her and she was able to flee without his knowledge. All parties involved knew each other, according to the sheriff's office.

A helicopter transported the victim to HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield. He was in stable condition at the time and was hospitalized when Lansford first appeared in court.

Police Reports

• **FARMINGTON** – A driver from Canton required a trip to a Peoria hospital following a one-vehicle accident east of Farmington.

Emma M. Lane was behind the wheel of a southbound 2006 Mitsubishi Endeavor about 2:45 p.m. Oct. 27 in the 600 block of N. Downs School Road when the back of the vehicle slid onto the left shoulder, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report.

As Lane attempted to steer away from the shoulder, the vehicle skidded and rolled multiple times before it came to rest on the driver's side in the northbound lane. Lane pulled herself out of the vehicle and flagged down a passerby for help.

Lane was transported by ambulance to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. Her injuries were minor, according to the sheriff's office. The vehicle sustained significant overall damage and was towed.

• **MONICA** – A utility pole toppled after a Peoria man drove a tractor into it on a farm near Monica.

Power lines fell across Illinois Route 90 because of the accident

that happened about 10:45 a.m. Oct. 23 one-half mile west of Kraft Road. The pole on the south side of the state highway was snapped at its base and also supported a transformer, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report.

Ralph J. Schwegmann said he was operating the westbound 2021 John Deere 8R 370 tractor when a disc caught the pole. Schwegmann reported no injuries, and the tractor wasn't damaged. Akron-Princeville firefighters also responded.

• **FARMINGTON** – A Hanna City driver was accused of illegal possession of adult-use cannabis in Farmington.

Christopher T. Harn, 20, was driving a 2008 Nissan Sentra about 9 p.m. Oct. 23 when at high speed he pulled into a parking lot in the 100 block of W. Barlow Rd. When a Farmington police officer approached Harn, he said he didn't have a valid driver's license and the vehicle was not his, a report stated.

The officer noticed a cannabis odor. Inside the vehicle, he found 8 grams of cannabis and a pipe. The vehicle belonged to a Pekin woman who is the guardian of Harn's two passengers, 17- and 14-year-old males. The guardian arrived and both children left with her companion.

In addition to the cannabis charge, Harn also was cited for not having a valid driver's license. He left the scene with the children's guardian.

• **HANNA CITY** – A flock of birds distracted a driver whose vehicle rear-ended another west of Hanna City, according to a report.

Thomas C. Bricker of Avon was driving an eastbound 1997 Chrysler Sebring at 3:15 p.m. Oct. 21 on Illinois Route 116 at Eden Road when his vehicle struck a 2016 Nissan Pathfinder driven by Bret Johnson of Peoria, a Peoria County Sheriff's report stated.

Bricker said he was watching the birds and didn't notice traffic slowed because a vehicle was turning south onto Eden Road. Johnson complained of a sore tailbone. His vehicle sustained a dislodged rear bumper. The Sebring was towed after its front hood, bumper and headlights were damaged.

• **TRIVOLI** – A 31-year-old man was accused of disorderly conduct following a domestic dispute in rural Trivoli.

The incident happened about 4 p.m. Oct. 18 at a residence in the 17000 block of W. Smithville Rd. A woman there accused Devin M. DeWitt of blocking the driveway with his vehicle, a Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck, and preventing passage of her GMC Yukon, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated.

DeWitt, whose hometown was unavailable, was there for a child-custody exchange, according to the report. He received a notice to appear Nov. 29 in Peoria County Circuit Court.

• **PRINCEVILLE** – No injuries were reported after an automobile collided with a riding lawnmower at a Princeville intersection.

The accident happened about 4:45 p.m. Oct. 17 at Main Street and Walnut Avenue, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated.

Olivia Rhoads of Princeville was driving west on Main Street in a 2016 Hyundai Elantra and did not

notice Don M. Clark crossing the intersection north along Walnut Avenue aboard the mower. The Elantra's front bumper struck the mower's right side. The car was drivable. The mower was hauled away atop a trailer.

• **FARMINGTON** – Cody S. Harper, 32, and Kati R. Fox, 28, both of Farmington, were arrested shortly after 6 p.m. Oct. 19 at Prospect and Main streets on Fulton County warrants, according to a Farmington Police Department report. Harper was wanted for failure to appear in court for driving with a suspended license.

Fox was wanted for failure to appear in court on a burglary charge. Both posted bond – \$750 for Fox, \$600 for Harper – and received notices to appear Nov. 29 in Fulton County Circuit Court in Lewistown.

• **PRINCEVILLE** – About 11:45 a.m. Oct. 15, Shawn Bay of Princeville was driving a Dodge Caravan south in the 14500 block of N. Princeville-Jubilee Rd. when the vehicle struck a deer. It wasn't clear if Bay was injured, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report. The vehicle sustained significant damage to its driver's-side front fender.

• **LAURA** – Serenity M. Lope-man, 19, of Laura was arrested about 4:45 a.m. Nov. 1 and accused of failure to appear in court, obstructing justice/inducing a witness and resisting a peace officer, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

• **TRIVOLI** – Nichole L. Craft, 39, of Trivoli was arrested about 3:45 a.m. Oct. 31 and accused of driving on a suspended license, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

• **YATES CITY** – Jaycob L. Hanning, 40, of Yates City was arrested shortly before 3:15 a.m. Oct. 29 and accused of driving under the influence of alcohol, illegal transportation of alcohol, driving the wrong way on a one-way street and unlawful possession of cannabis, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

• **GALESBURG** – These were among calls to which the Knox County Sheriff's Office responded between Oct. 22-28: domestic disturbance, Yates City; suspicious incident, Williamsfield; domestic disturbance, Williamsfield; fraud, Dahinda; other-animal complaint, Yates City; grass fire, Galva; other-animal complaint, Dahinda; service other agency, Williamsfield; domestic disturbance, Oak Run; and animal in the road, Williamsfield.

Marriage licenses

• Jyssika Lynn Spray and Chen Wang, both of Edwards.

• Ashley Elizabeth Farris and Nathaniel James Monroe, both of Farmington.

• Carlee Faye Louise Baysingar and Samuel John Keith Halverson, both of Elmwood.

• Lindsey Ann Markle and Jonathan Davis Obergfel, both of Brimfield.

GUNS: Assault weapons ban stands

Continued from Page 1
Assembly.”

In addition, the National Foundation for Gun Rights – which provided attorneys involved in the consolidated case – said it will appeal as well.

The 7th Circuit’s decision last Friday left in place the state’s assault weapons ban as well as local bans in Cook County, Chicago and Naperville.

The majority opinion from the 7th Circuit focused on whether that type of weapon, or others like it, were protected under the Second Amendment. That opinion, written by Judge

Diane Wood and cosigned by Judge Frank Easterbrook, drew a distinction between “bearable” arms used for self-defense and weapons typically reserved for military uses.

In a dissenting opinion, Judge Michael Brennan said the law goes far beyond banning firearms defined as “assault weapons,” saying it “eliminates the ownership, possession, and use for self-defense of many of the most commonly owned semiautomatic handguns, shotguns, rifles and magazines.”

“The Second Amend-

ment ‘right of the people to keep and bear Arms’ is not a second-class right,” he wrote. “Yet the state of Illinois and several Illinois municipalities have categorically banned law-abiding citizens from keeping and bearing a sweeping range of firearms and magazines.”

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear at least three other gun-related cases in its 2023-24 term. One is a case it was to start hearing Tuesday challenging a federal law banning the possession of guns by people subject to domestic-violence restraining orders.

GRAHAM: Three groups involved

Continued from Page 1
“With the YMCA/Wellness Center on the Elmwood GMG site, our cardiac rehab patients and our physical and occupational therapy patients will be able to receive care in the area as opposed to traveling to receive the care they need,” Seneff said.

The regional wellness center is a partnership among The Elmwood Community Foundation, The Greater Peoria Family YMCA and Graham Health System. Learn more at www.imaginewc.org.

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000 N. RT. 8 & RT 78 - Elmwood IL 13.61 acres
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000 Whittaker Rd - Brimfield IL 61517
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000 Eiker Rd - Knoxville IL
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CROUCH: Helped initiate post office dedication

Continued from Page 1
peers,” Ron said. “Because they have a strong work ethic, they’re drug free and they’re given responsibility way past what their peers are getting.”

Ron next attended technical school and was an aircraft technician at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul now decommissioned.

This was still only the beginning. Up next was commissioning school, which Ron called “basic training on steroids.”

Commissioning school doesn’t come standard; you have to have a college de-

gree and then be selected for this officer training. For Ron, the additional training was a turning point.

“Up until commissioning school, I was still thinking I was working on my degree and once I got it, I was probably going somewhere else,” he said.

Instead, he stayed in the military. Ron’s first deployment was to Honduras in 1984.

“There were seven phone lines that left the country of Honduras,” Ron said.

Asked how one stays in touch at a time like that, he said, “You don’t. That’s the nice thing about technology today. You can FaceTime. You can talk. I really feel for the World War I, World War II, Vietnam and Korean veterans. They had snail mail, if it even got to them at all. Where today, not only can you talk to them, you can see them.”

“Technology really makes the world so much smaller, and it makes deployment so much easier than it was back then.”

Ron also deployed to Iraq, Germany, Oman, Panama, England, Qatar, Azores and Puerto Rico and in support of operations including Joint Endeavor, Joint Forge, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. In 2015, he began considering retirement.

“I didn’t want, as a commander, to leave at the wrong time, just before a deployment or just before an inspection or something like that,” he said.

A phone call from the Pentagon delayed those plans. Ron was called in January 2016 to run tactical communications for the Air Force and was on the job in February. He agreed to stay an additional year but declined an offer of another



Ron Crouch (far right) poses with his wife Kim Crouch and U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood in front of a plaque dedicating the Elmwood Post Office to the late Cpl. Benjamin DeSilets. Submitted photo.

two years. “I did enjoy what I was doing, and I’ll never know how some things finished out, but I’ve got acreage and everything,” he said. “It was never part of my plan.”

Ron finished his service as Secretary of Air Force/ chief information officer tactical communications lead at the Pentagon before retiring in 2017.

Today, he has a farm and dabbles in woodworking, even making his own rustic pavilion that incorporated the wheels of a manure spreader and an old hay rake into chandeliers and decorative features. Ron and his wife, Kim, have eight children and stepchildren and 11 grandchildren.

“I said I had five years of projects waiting for me when I retired, and I way undershot that,” Ron said. “You need a plan for what you’re going to do when you retire. I’ve buried too many people that didn’t have a plan.”

Ron said he is busier than ever now, running his sawmill, helping his parents and playing grandpa.

“I’m putting the granddaughter onto the school bus two or three times a week,” he said. “I’m very busy, but I’m doing what I want.”

Being a part of the community is difficult when you’re enlisted, so Ron said wants to give back now that he can. He served three years as a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer, is a United Service Organization volunteer and sits on the Board of America’s Gold Star Families.

Ron also initiated dedication of the Cpl. Benjamin Desilets Post Office in Elmwood. The dedication was supposed to happen around the 15th anniversary of Desilets’ death but was delayed.

“This should not be political. His mom, Brenda, was the one that asked me to get on the Board of Gold Star Families,” Ron said. “So that’s one of the things we are working on in Gold Star Families, is to take the politics out of this.”

After a life in the military, Ron had this to share: “War is total hell that should be avoided at all costs. There is such a small percentage of our population that’s in the military anymore, people aren’t touched by it, and they don’t feel the pain of a loved one getting killed. You’ve got to have some empathy.”

Ron encourages people to visit the Gold Star Families website (americasgoldstarfamilies.org) or to donate to the group.

“I’d like to see a veteran highlighted every year around Veterans Day or to encourage participation with Gold Star Families,” Ron said. “And that’s the nice thing about where we live. People are so giving.”

And he said if you see a memorial dedicated to a fallen hero, take a minute to search their name and learn about the person behind the name.

BRIMFIELD

Meet the Team Night

Friday, Nov 10th

Games Start at 6:30pm

DINNER: 5 - 6:30pm
Pork Chop Dinner \$10
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Auditor praises Farmington finances

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

FARMINGTON – The Farmington City Council heard good news about its finances Monday night and passed on hints of what could be good news for local business owners and would-be developers.

Auditor Aaron Phillips of Phillips, Salmi and Associates LLC recently completed an audit of the city.

“Overall there’s not much I can say negative about the finances of the city,” Phillips said. “You guys are doing a great job.”

Phillips said Farmington’s cash reserves have increased from \$1.6 million in 2019 to \$2.6 million. Phillips said that increase came despite an outlay of \$1.9 million in one-time projects. Reserves in the sewer fund increased from \$1.5 million to \$2 million over the same period.

“We didn’t have any issues and we didn’t find anything unusual,” Phillips said.

With that as a backdrop, Mayor Kenn Stufflebeam announced plans to launch a new program in the next few months that will assist developers in purchasing and developing business real estate.

“Tell your friends, we’ve got money available and we will help you,” Stufflebeam said.

Funds for the still loosely defined program will come from Farmington’s TIF district. Stufflebeam said assistance will be available

for tear-downs of structures and redevelopment.

One development project poised to receive city funding is being spearheaded by Cassandra Anderson, owner of SoVia Home. Farmington’s CEDC group recommended that Anderson be approved for 75 percent of the \$75,000 she spent to acquire a building at 165 E. Fort St. Anderson has remodeled the building and is moving her business out of 100 E. Fort St. into the new building.

A decision on that recommendation and an affiliated ordinance was tabled until the next meeting. Stufflebeam said a few items need to be clarified.

Also tabled was proposed installation of a key-fob access system for the City Hall building and for city

maintenance buildings.

City Manager Bettina Bohanan will seek additional quotes after Teufel Hunden Electronics of Peoria submitted a bid of \$17,845 for the city building and \$3,514 for the maintenance buildings.

The board unanimously passed a plan to increase the 2024 tax levy by 5 percent to \$350,227, with most of the increase going to city parks.

The board also approved a bid of \$600 from Josh Balagna to remove a boiler in the city building and agreed to trade part of a city-owned lot on West Vernon Street to MidCentury Communications in exchange for free wi-fi in the downtown area and at Jacobs Park.

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5th Annual Stevens Square Christmas Tree Display

In an effort to promote holiday cheer, the Village of Princeville, would like to give the community an opportunity to sponsor and decorate a Christmas tree in Stevens Square Park.

Residents, businesses, groups and clubs are invited to sponsor a tree that will bear their name or sponsor a tree in memory of a loved one.

To sign up, fill out a sponsor form, forms are found on the village's website, www.princeville.org or stop by Princeville Village Hall.

Tree cost is \$45.00. Questions, contact Princeville Village Hall, 309-385-4765.

Requests for trees will be taken until Nov. 17 or the Village runs out of trees!

The Princeville Civic Association will host a Tree Lighting and Holiday Stroll on Sunday, Nov. 26, 4:30-6:30pm. A brief ceremony and lighting of the park will be at 5pm in Stevens Square.

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BRIEFS

Princeville board hears concerns about debris

PRINCEVILLE – Village Board members heard about efforts to combat issues like inoperable vehicles, leaves and other debris within town at their Monday meeting.

Village President Jeff Troutman said those issues flare about this time every year. Steps including code-violation citations and even eventual legal action were discussed.

In other action, the board:

- Approved a language change to the Solar Energy Code.
- Approved a \$2,500 application for roofing at 115 S. Cottage Grove Ave. as part of the Residential Redevelopment Program.
- Received an update on the environmental study necessary for the ongoing sale of the Alcoa site and further meetings with the sellers. "We've been working on it for years already," Troutman said.

• Approved building permits for a display window at Ada Laine Boutique, 106 E. Main and replacing fence panels at 209 S. Walnut St.

– Bob Grimson

Politicians, sheriff set town hall for Nov. 13

HANNA CITY – State Rep. Travis Weaver, State Sen. Neil Anderson and Peoria County Sheriff Chris Watkins will attend a town hall on Nov.

13 from 6-7 p.m. at the Coffee Can in Hanna City.

Those who attend can ask questions of these elected officials and can receive assistance with issues related to state government or local law enforcement.

Pheasants Forever offering free hunts

PRINCEVILLE – The Illinois Valley chapter of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever will sponsor free pheasant hunts for youths, women and veterans this fall.

The pheasant hunts will be held the weekend following Thanksgiving Day, on Nov. 25 and 26 at the Gilles farm, located at 22512 N. Maher Road, north off of Illinois Route 90 and west of Princeville.

Men who have never hunted pheasants before are also welcome to sign up. No hunting license is required.

Each hunter will have the opportunity to shoot two pheasants, provided by Pheasants Forever. There will be three hunting groups with dogs, dog handlers and bird setters.

Hunters can use their own shotguns, though 12 gauge and 20 gauge guns and ammunition will be available for no charge.

Youth ages 9-18 may attend the hunt, but they must have passed a hunter safety class.

All hunters are asked to wear orange hunting attire.

One-hour time slots are available both days starting at 9 a.m. and ending with a hunt beginning at 3 p.m.

To reserve your spot and hunting time, call Mike Aldrich at (309) 229-4090.

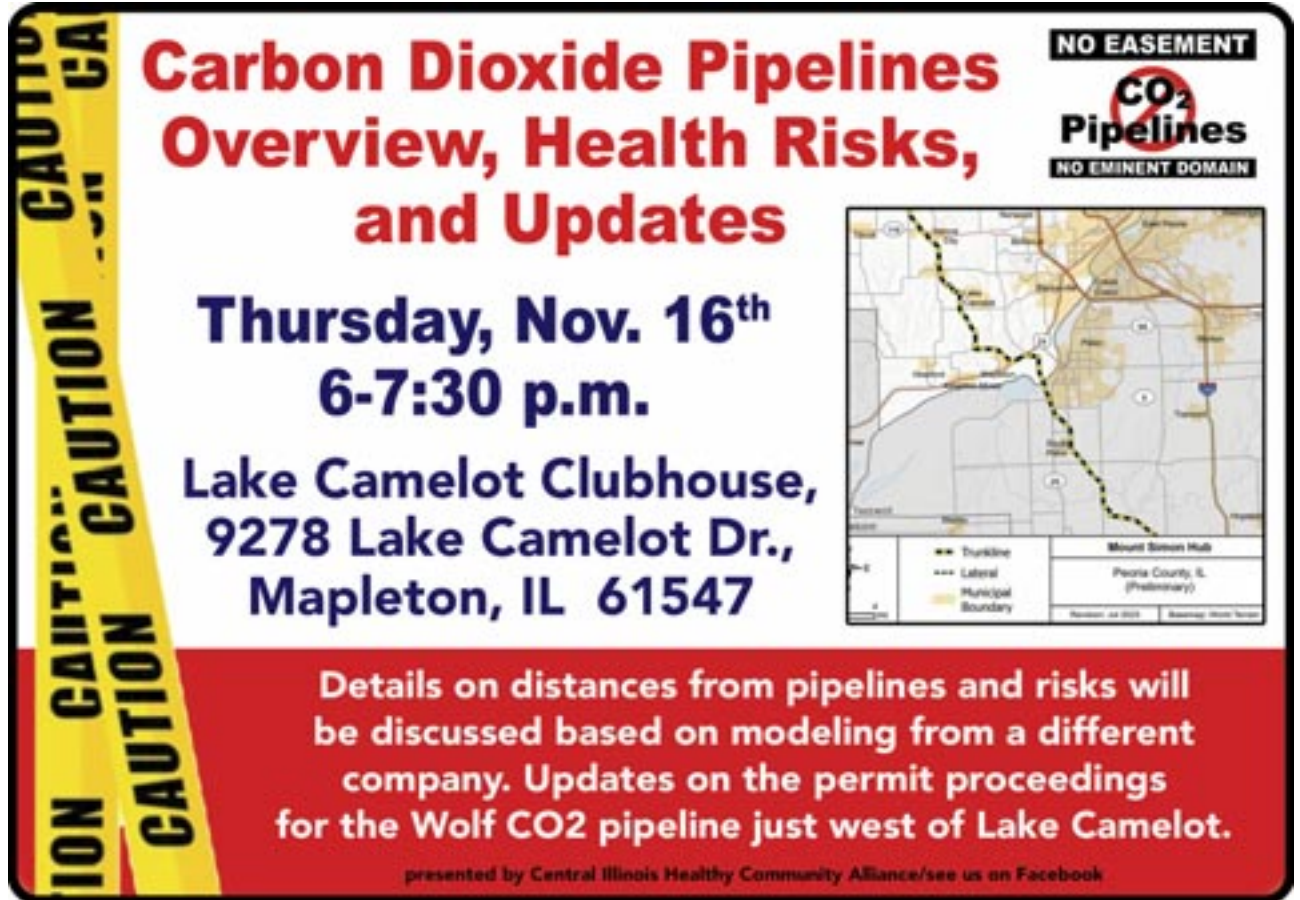
Peoria Co. increases pay for election judges

PEORIA – The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners has increased the daily starting pay of its election judges from \$165 to \$200 as part of its annual budget. The Peoria County Election Commission is recruiting election judges to serve starting with the upcoming March 19 general primary election.

Election judge duties include setting up voting equipment, signing in and processing voters, demonstrating voting procedures, assisting voters, closing the polls and returning election materials at the end of the night.

To be an election judge you must be a U.S. citizen; be a registered voter; meet physical and mental requirements; speak, read and write the English language; not be a candidate for office or an elected precinct committeeperson; and not be a sex offender. High school juniors and seniors in good standing with a grade point average of at least 3.0 may be eligible to serve.

Learn more at www.peoriaelections.gov/203/Election-Judge-Portal or call (309) 324-2300.



Carbon Dioxide Pipelines Overview, Health Risks, and Updates

Thursday, Nov. 16th 6-7:30 p.m.

Lake Camelot Clubhouse, 9278 Lake Camelot Dr., Mapleton, IL 61547

Details on distances from pipelines and risks will be discussed based on modeling from a different company. Updates on the permit proceedings for the Wolf CO2 pipeline just west of Lake Camelot.

presented by Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance/see us on Facebook

Brimfield board hears facility pitch

By **MOLLY RICHESON**
For The Weekly Post

BRIMFIELD – The Brimfield Village Board expressed support for a proposed wellness center to be built near Elmwood but has thus far declined donating to the project.

Representatives from three organizations presented a plan to the village board Monday regarding the 33,000-square-foot wellness center. Those in attendance were Dick Taylor of the Elmwood Community Foundation, Andy Thornton, president of the Greater Peoria Family YMCA, and Bob Senneff, president and CEO of Graham Health System.

The group is currently fundraising for the facility, which would be located next door to Graham Medical Group in Elmwood.

Presenters said the facility would not

rely on tax subsidies but would operate using money generated by YMCA-organized programs and services and an endowment.

The \$14.5 million project will take approximately \$12 million to build and \$2 million for the endowment. So far the group has made fundraising headway with a \$3.75 million USDA grant, a \$1 million donation for capital investment from Graham Medical Group and a \$500,000 anonymous donation.

The hope is \$7 million will be raised by the end of the year. The earliest the facility could open would be 2025.

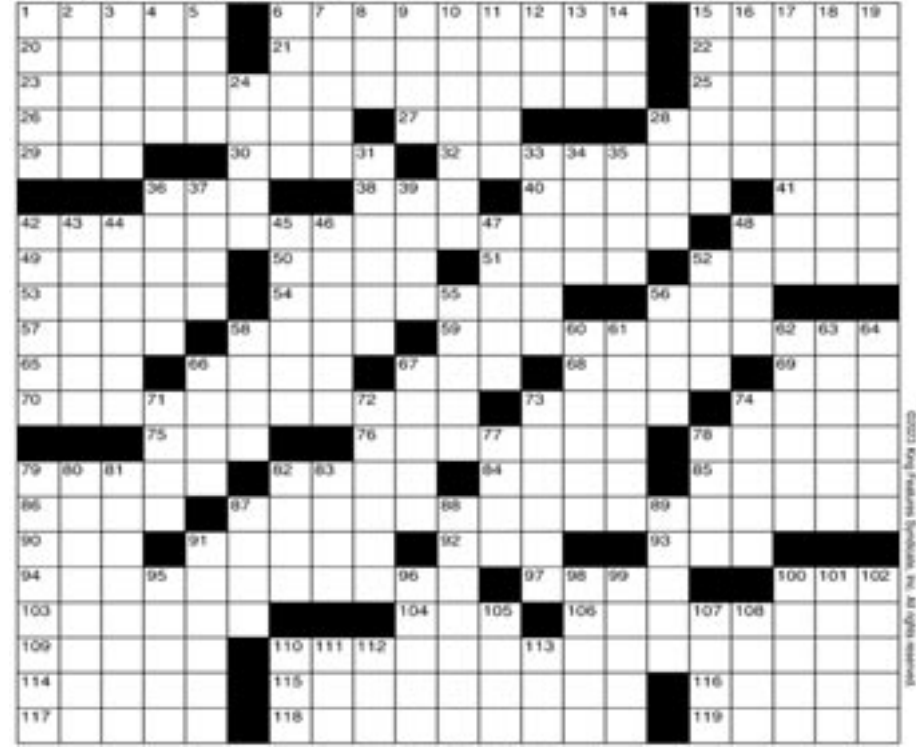
In other business, the board talked about shopping for trees, voted to fix a truck, approved the purchase of an \$87 well pump, increased pay for cleaning park bathrooms and decided to put up more school speed-limit signs in the village.

Answers on Page 14

Super Crossword

GOLDEN STATE GIRLS

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| ACROSS | 49 Continuously | 90 Gore — (rainwear fabric) | DOWN | 37 Puppies | 79 Test versions of smartphone programs, e.g. |
| 1 Requested | 50 Cruel emperor | 91 Herb in pesto | 1 Get a lock on | 39 Boatloads | 80 Vacant political position |
| 6 Miss helpers | 51 Troop's group | 92 Farm female | 2 Milan's La — | 42 Piece of tile art | 81 Oil, in slang |
| 15 Foil maker | 52 Partners | 93 FedEx competitor | 3 Gold purity unit | 43 Zoo dweller | 82 High-speed |
| 20 Empathetic declaration | 53 Scenes | 94 1996-2002 "Saturday Night Live" cast member | 4 St. Pat's land | 44 Eyeball part | 83 A Great Lake |
| 21 Steak lover, e.g. | 54 Title sorority in a 1985 film | 95 1996-2002 "Saturday Night Live" cast member | 5 Bargain buy | 45 India's Gandhi | 84 Military post |
| 22 Lounges idly | 56 Turkish cap | 96 1996-2002 "Saturday Night Live" cast member | 6 Home | 46 Be wobbly | 85 Scans again |
| 23 Italian developer of an educational method | 57 French friends | 97 Agra apparel | 7 Advances, as money | 47 Fog or steam | 86 Artists' club |
| 25 Third month | 58 Smithereens | 98 Bard's job | 8 Vietnamese New Year | 48 Lounge around | 87 Falls in ballet |
| 26 "Two Years Before the Mast" star | 59 Onetime rival of Steffi Graf | 100 Guarantee | 9 Several | 52 Fishnet stuff | 88 Invited one intake |
| 27 Film director Craven | 65 Swimmer Thorpe | 104 The, to Henri vocalist | 10 Lay away | 55 Oven brand | 89 "Duck —" (Warner Bros. short) |
| 28 Family-style Chinese dish | 66 Farm female | 105 "Velvet Fog" vocalist | 11 Deep-voiced singer | 56 "Good" or "bad" dietary | 90 Zelig of the screen |
| 29 Body design, in brief | 67 Disfigure | 109 Actor Falk | 12 Slogan tripeperson | 58 Bundle of joy | 91 Body part often pulled by an athlete |
| 30 The new girl on "New Girl" | 68 Calculus, e.g. | 110 Comedian with the 1990 HBO special "Cats, Cops and Stuff" | 13 "— out!" | 60 Cry upon arriving | 101 "— buying it" |
| 32 French painter of "The Horse Fair" | 69 Made in the manner of | 111 Resistance to alternating current | 14 — Lankan | 61 Leading to something | 102 "Hero" actress Davis |
| 36 Commotion | 70 American Red Cross founder | 116 Hunter constellation | 15 Kind of nut | 62 Drank like a dog or cat | 103 "Hera" missive |
| 38 The "N" of USNA; Abbr. | 73 Therefore | 117 RBIs, e.g. | 16 Averse | 63 Go by | 104 "Hera" missive |
| 40 "— never believes me!" | 74 Fix, as a pet | 118 Engulfed by fire | 17 Criticized petulantly | 64 Gives assent | 105 Emailed junk |
| 41 Rap's "Dr." | 75 Frigid | 119 It can precede eight first names in this puzzle to form the names of California cities | 18 "No question" | 65 Speed-of-sound ratio | 106 General — chicken |
| 42 She played Abby Cadabby on HBO's "The Decu" | 76 House pests | | 19 Some hardwoods | 66 Green stuff | 107 Other, in Oviedo |
| 48 Cut with a light beam | 78 Spited | | 24 Part of MLB | 67 Paddy crop | 108 More, in a music score |
| | 79 Flub up | | 28 Boxer Oscar de la — | 68 Like a tinny recording | 109 Band blaster |
| | 82 Sense by touch | | 31 Curs' sounds | 69 City of ancient Egypt | 110 News avc. |
| | 84 Zeus' wife | | 33 Add while mixing | 74 Plants-to-be | 111 Vocalist Yoko |
| | 85 Singer Della | | 34 Throat-clearing noise | 77 Tobacco plug | |
| | 86 Fencing sword | | 35 Flock of quail | 78 Get set for surgery | |
| | 87 She played Miss Elle Ewing on "Dallas" | | 36 Dancer de Mile | | |



The Heart of a Prince

Princeville Schools are again holding a campaign to raise funds to purchase Thanksgiving dinner baskets for people in the Princeville Community who are currently in need. The baskets will include a turkey and the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Any individuals or groups who would like to donate money to the program can call the PHS office at 385-4660. Checks may also be sent to the high school at 302 Cordis Avenue, Princeville, IL 61559 and should be made payable to Princeville High School. Princeville Grade School students and Princeville State Bank will be given a list of specific items needed for the Thanksgiving baskets if anyone would like to donate food items. Princeville State Bank will also accept monetary donations. Funds and items will be collected until Friday, November 17th. Princeville High School and the National Honor Society would greatly appreciate any contributions that you would like to give.

Families or individuals who would like to request a basket should call Princeville High School at 385-4660 ext. 1116. Deliveries can only be made to individuals that reside within the Princeville School District. Requests for baskets will be taken through Monday, November 13th. Baskets will be delivered Tuesday, November 21st between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

GRIM & BEAR IT

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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- ### Trivia test
- by Fifi Rodriguez
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the second-largest country in South America?
 - COMICS: What is Dennis the Menace's last name?
 - SCIENCE: Who established the universal laws of motion in the 17th century?
 - MOVIES: What is the name of Marlon Brando's character in "A Streetcar Named Desire"?
 - FOOD & DRINK: What is The Dude's favorite beverage in "The Big Lebowski"?
 - TELEVISION: Which long-running TV comedy features a character named Diane Chambers?
 - AD SLOGANS: What item did this ad slogan say you should not leave home without?
 - LANGUAGE: What is chiaroscuro?
 - HISTORY: What was the name of the building where the former Beatle John Lennon was shot to death in 1980?
 - ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system is covered in sulphuric acid clouds?

Answers

- Argentina.
- Mitchell.
- Isaac Newton.
- Stanley Kowalski.
- White Russian.
- "Cheers."
- The American Express card.
- Distribution of light and dark in drawing and painting.
- The Dakota apartment building.
- Venus.

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FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 14

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXH 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.

P TAZTBU JTN FJH TSPAPFB FY
UTB VY. FJTF'U JYZ P LTAAHN
RB YZV UJYFU.
— UPNVHB KYPPHC

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TOP 10 MOVIES

- Five Nights at Freddy's (PG-13)
- Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour (PG-13)
- Killers of the Flower Moon (R)
- After Death (PG-13)
- The Exorcist: Believer (R)
- PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG)
- The Nightmare Before Christmas (PG)
- Freelance (R)
- Saw X (R)
- The Creator (PG-13)

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2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) assumes principal and interest remain on deposit for the term of the certificate. All interest payments for the APY will be made at the end of the term or annually, whichever occurs first. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees could reduce earnings on the account.

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OBITUARIES

Earl E. Cape

ELMWOOD – Earl E. Cape, 83, of Elmwood, passed away at 2:26 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

He was born Dec. 2, 1939, to Everett and Agnes (Binegar) Cape in Edwards, Ill. He married Caroland Green on Sept. 17, 1960, in Edwards. She preceded him in death on Oct. 14, 2001. He later married Brenda Gorham on Nov. 7, 2007, at the United Methodist Church in Edwards. She survives.

He is also survived by one son, Greg Cape of Hanna City; one stepson, Hank Williams of Elmwood; one brother, Patrick (Nancy) Cape; one sister, Carol (Terry) Aman; two grandchildren, Jessica (Johnny) Mathis and Sawyer Williams; one niece, Pam Aman; and two nephews, Todd Aman and Daryl Cape.

He is also preceded in death by his parents. Earl was a member of the local Masons organization. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting and watching all sports.



Cape

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, at Oaks-Hines Funeral Home in Elmwood. A visitation will be held prior to the service, from 10-11 a.m., at the funeral home. Burial will immediately follow the service at Combs Cemetery in rural Edwards.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to B.Y.E. Ambulance. To leave online condolences, please visit www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com.

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

John W. Kunkle

BRIMFIELD – John W. Kunkle, age 83, of Brimfield, passed away on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, Ill.

John was born on Dec. 16, 1939, in Peoria, a son of Jay E. and Kathryn (Laux) Kunkle. He married Margaret “Peggy” O’Toole on Aug. 10, 2013, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Kickapoo, Ill.



Kunkle

She survives. John is also survived by his three daughters, Debra K. Whited of Las Vegas, Nev., Christina T. Dwyer of Peoria and Julie A. (Paul) Irvin of Elmwood, Ill.; grandchildren Brandy Whited Crawley, Andrew (Sarah) Kunkle, Amy (Jake) Irvin and Amberly Thuline; great-grandson Jonathan Kunkle; stepson Steven Viehmeyer; nieces and nephews Jennipher (Keith) Politte, Todd (Stacey) Johnson; great-grandchildren Jackie and Bubba Crawley; and sister, Karen (Dave) Johnson.

John was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Kimberly; and one son, Kenneth.

John graduated from Antioch College with his bachelor’s degree in labor studies. He also attended Illinois Central College and Western Illinois University. He worked at Pabst Brewing Company as a brewer for over 25 years, then worked in labor relations for the union. He also was a self-employed general contractor for 42 years.

John loved to golf, bowl, fish and hunt, especially deer hunting. John and Peggy were members of St. Mary’s Catholic Church of Kickapoo. John was very active in the church and he was also a past-

Farmington United Methodist Church

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Thank You

We want to express our great appreciation to everyone who took the time to attend services, send flowers, cards, and messages after the loss of David. Thank you for memorial donations to the American Cancer Society and the Greater Peoria Honor Flight. Although it was sudden, we take great comfort from all the support. It was just another reminder that David never met a stranger.

The Sprout Family

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Answers

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ICARE	BEEFEATER	LOAFS
MARIAMONTESSORI	MARCH	
ALANLADD	WES	HOTPOT
TAT	JESS	ROSABONHEUR
ADO	NAV	THEYD
MARGARITALEVIEVA	LASE	
ONEND	NERO	ARMY
MATES		
SITES	DELTA	PI
FEZ		
AMIS	BITS	MONICASELES
IAN	MARE	MAR
MATH	ALA	
CLARABARTON	THUS	SPAY
ICY	ROACHES	PEPPY
BOTCH	FEEL	HERA
REESE		
EPEE	BARBARABEL	GEDDES
TEX	BASIL	EWELUPS
ANAGASTEYER	SARI	GIG
ASSURE	LES	MELTORME
PETER	PAULAPOUNDSTONE	
PAESE	IMPEDANCE	ORION
STATS	UPINSMOKE	SANTA

CryptoQuote

answer

I always had the ability to say no. That’s how I called my own shots.

— Sidney Poitier

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Size wears on Farmington in playoff loss

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

NORMAL – In the NFL you might expect to see a 6-foot-6, 235-pound quarterback. In Class 2A football? Not so much.

But the unusual size of junior Colin Hayes is one big reason why Bloomington Central Catholic is unbeaten this year and why Farmington saw its season end Saturday in a 27-12 loss in the second round of the Class 2A playoffs.

With Hayes carrying the ball early and often, Central Catholic (11-0) was able to wear down a determined but outsized Farmington team.

Hayes ran for 167 yards and passed for 108 – including 51 on a back-breaking touchdown pass in the second half.

“We’ve been riding him most of the season. He’s just a good all-around player,” Saints Coach Kevin Braucht said.

Farmington Coach Toby Vallas said the combined size of Hayes and his offensive line took a toll on the Farmers’ defense.

“We had two linemen giving up 100 pounds, and I thought they fought their butts off. I’m proud of those guys. But it’s 100 pounds,” Vallas said. “It wasn’t about effort, it wasn’t about energy. They’re a talented team and very big and physical.”

Hayes scored the first of his two running touch-



Lane Wheelwright makes a diving tackle on Bloomington Central Catholic's 6-foot-6, 235-pound quarterback Colin Hayes in Saturday's playoff game. Photo by Dave Giagnoni.

downs on a 44-yard rumble that made the score 10-0 with 8:52 left in the second quarter.

Bloomington Central Catholic also got field goals of 28 and 24 yards to open a 13-0 lead.

On the last play of the first half, though, Lane Wheelwright connected with Jack Gronewold on a 26-yard scoring pass up the middle of the field.

Any momentum the Farmers gained fizzled on their first drive of the third quarter. Farmington went three-and-out and was forced to punt. Central Catholic followed that with an 11-play drive capped by Hayes' 1-year run with 6:07 left in the third.

“We couldn’t get any-

thing going on offense and there was too much pressure,” Vallas said. “We couldn’t sustain drives and I think we left our defense out there too long.”

The dagger came in the fourth when Hayes connected with TJ Larson in stride on his way to a 51-yard score.

“We really haven’t been forced to throw all year,” Braucht said. “Give Farmington credit. They did a nice job and tweaked some things defensively and we had to change some things.”

After that score, some Central Catholic fans chanted, “Start your tractors,” in place of the usual chant of “Start the buses.” The Farmers put together

one more scoring drive, capped by Lane Wheelwright’s 2-yard run with 3:11 remaining.

That was one of the few bright spots on the ground for Wheelwright, who was an obvious focus of the Central Catholic defense.

“He’s a very dynamic player,” Braucht said. “He’s a very good athlete and a good quarterback who can run it and throw it. So we were definitely focused on him all week.”

Wheelwright rushed for 86 yards and completed 11 of 18 passes for 83 yards. For the season, he finished with 1,328 yards on 91-for-157 passing with 19 TDs and five interceptions. The junior also ran for 1,015 yards and 15 scores.

Central Catholic out-gained Farmington 373-232, with 266 yards coming on the ground.

After the game was over, Central Catholic treated its fans to a several-minute fireworks show.

“Good, small-town football at its best,” Vallas cracked. “That would have been our whole city budget.”

Indeed, the setting of the Central Catholic campus had a collegiate feel.

“It was like going to Monmouth College and playing,” Vallas said.

Except even Monmouth College doesn’t have a 6-6 quarterback.

XC: Officials DQ Princeville all-state placer

Continued from Page 20

Gavin Genisio defended his Class 1A state title by finishing in 14:12.56 – almost 45 seconds faster than last year’s winning time.

Elmwood’s 166 points pushed the Trojans well ahead of Niles Northridge Prep (202) and season-long rival Eureka (213).

E-B and Eureka spent most of the season trading spots, with one beating the other each week. While E-B topped Eureka at regionals, the Trojans were second to Eureka at the sectional.

On Saturday, though, Hill’s fifth-place run was even more meaningful for the team because of all the additional runners between him and Eureka’s top runner, who placed 36th.

“When Isaiah came by me after the half-mile he was in 18th place and I thought he was in perfect shape,” Meyers said.

“When he came by at the mile he had moved up to 12th. Coming into the triangle he had moved up to seventh and then made the final push up to fifth.”

With the rest of the pack



Elmwood-Brimfield senior Isaiah Hill moves up on the field at the Class 1A state cross country meet last Saturday at Peoria’s Detweiler Park. Hill posted the third-fastest time at state in Trojans history. Photo by Dave Giagnoni.

keeping close enough together, E-B was able to earn yet another state award for an already-packed trophy case.

Along with three third-place finishes, E-B also has eight state titles and five second-place finishes in boys cross country.

“You had two really good teams in front of us today in a loaded field,” Meyers said. “To see how

our juniors and seniors have come along since they were freshmen is really big. They’ve grown both physically, mentally and emotionally.”

The same is true of E-B’s lone girls runner at the meet, senior Addie Symonds, who placed 39th in 18:36.78. She was 48th at state last year in 19:10.76.

The race ended on a sour note for Princeville senior

Joey Bosch. In unofficial results posted after the race, Bosch was listed as 25th in the Class 1A race with a personal-best time of 15:24. That would have qualified him as an all-state runner.

But according to Princeville Coach Jeremy Melick, “Joey and another runner (Noah Luke of Palos Heights Chicago Christian) got tangled up as they crossed the finish line. The officials felt that, in the course of their entanglement, each of them broke stride in a manner that impeded the progress of the other, leading to them both being disqualified.”

Princeville’s two other runners were Bethany Sennett and Tucker Sennett. Bethany placed 51st and had a personal-record time of 18:53.3, besting her previous PR by 11 seconds.

“She ran a really smart, controlled race, too, which helped her pick up 43 places in the last two miles,” Melick said.

Tucker Sennett placed 82nd, 22 places ahead of last year, with a time of 16:14.6.

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Weekly Post Sports

Thursday, November 9, 2023

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ROWVA-Williamsfield's Preston Schroeder hits Stark County quarterback Luke Rewerts in Saturday's Class 1A playoff game. Photo by Colin Fairfield.

R-W stuns Stark Co.

Defense sparks Cougars' 36-8 upset

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

ONEIDA – The ROWVA-Williamsfield football team made sure Vada Gullstrand had a happy birthday. The R-W defense dominated previously undefeated Stark County in a 36-8 Class 1A second-round playoffs victory Nov. 4 at Bill Adams Field. Behind a 1A record-tying five interceptions, the Cougars (9-2) advanced to a home game Saturday at 1

p.m. vs. fifth-ranked Chicago Hope Academy (10-1). But before R-W Coach Grant Gullstrand could ponder that quarterfinal, he wanted to savor this victory over a LincolnLand Conference small-division rival. And perhaps savor a little cake in celebration of his 5-year-old daughter's big day. "I wanted to make sure we won for multiple reasons, and that was one of

Continued on Page 18

E-B boys run to 3rd at state

Hill finishes fifth to lead Trojans to 16th state cross country trophy

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

PEORIA – Isaiah Hill is in lofty company in the Elmwood-Brimfield cross country annals. So are all his teammates after a Saturday that saw E-B place third in Class 1A at Detweiler Park while Hill was fifth.

Hill's all-state time of 14:48.95 ranks third all-time among Trojans cross country runners behind only Brad Fryer's 14:43 in 1975 and Steve Wilson's 14:47 in 2000.

"That's pretty good company," E-B Coach Gregg Meyers said. "He closed really well and had a sub-five last mile. That's pretty darned impressive."

Hill, who suffered through stomach distress immediately after the race, said he wished he could have moved up a few more spots in the last mile.

"It's my senior year, we got third, a team trophy for the first time ever for me," Hill said. "That's a big accomplishment and it feels really good.



The Elmwood-Brimfield boys cross country team placed third Saturday in Class 1A. Pictured are: Front row (left to right): Mika Nelson, Mason Siegel, L.J. Higgs, Isaiah Hill, Reed Florey and Silas Schmieg. Middle row (l to r): Calvin Peele, Hason Hubbard, Aiden Faulkner, Darwin Herman, Garrett Webster and Kam Stevenson. Back row (l to r): Assistant Coaches Tom Gorham and Cooper Hoffmann, Head Coach Greg Meyers and Assistant Coach Kyle Anderson.

"Everyone did what they needed to do and that's all you can ask." Support for Hill's all-state run came from E-B's other scoring runners: sophomore Aiden Faulkner (40th, 15:46.86), junior Mika Nelson (42nd, 15:48.51), junior Reed Florey (51st, 15:51.08) and senior L.J. Higgs (78th, 16:12.33). Rounding out the state runners were sophomore Darwin Herman (154th, 16:53.4) and sophomore Garrett Webster (195th, 17:22.58). "Our 2-3-4 and 5 runners all ran really well together and kept each

other in sight. And everybody moved up throughout the race, which is what we talked about," Meyers said. "Once again, we had four guys under 16 and our fifth guy was 16:12. I think we had two state-championship teams that were right about that same thing."

That E-B wasn't really in contention for a title this year is due to the season-long domination by state champion Tuscola, whose 97 points put them just ahead of runner-up Benton, with 104 points. Benton's

Continued on Page 19

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