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Thursday  
February 15, 2024  
Vol. 12 No. 2

# The Weekly Post

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## Elmwood schools hire Schmieg as new superintendent

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

ELMWOOD – The Elmwood School Board didn't have to look far in its search for a new superintendent of schools.

The board voted unanimously during a special meeting Monday to hire Elmwood resident Joel Schmieg to lead the school district starting in July.

"I've had my superintendent endorsement since 2017, but I wanted to wait for the right moment for the right position," Schmieg said. "And when Elm-

wood came open, not only do I live in the community, but I understand the value of the school and I think this is a destination school district and one that I really wanted to be a part of."

Schmieg, 42, receives a three-year contract with a starting annual salary of \$130,000.

Current Elmwood Superinten-



Schmieg

dent Chad Wagner is leaving to take over management of the Genoa-Kingston school district, effective July 1.

Schmieg has worked in the Pekin Community High School district since 2011. Since July 2021 he has been Pekin High School principal after serving six years as assistant principal of curriculum and instruction. He was also dean of students and a social studies department chair.

Schmieg lives in Elmwood with his wife, Stephanie, an attorney at Whitney & Potts, and

children Silas and Sydney.

"We had nine candidates and Joel rose to the top. And it was not because he's from Elmwood, though that's a bonus and we appreciate that," said Mark Davis, Elmwood School Board president. "He's very well versed. He wrote well and spoke well and he answered questions well."

Fellow board member Jessica Reyling agreed, saying "Mr. Schmieg's leadership experience cultivating an inclusive culture grounded in personal,

professional and academic success for students, teachers and administrators is a perfect fit for our growing district."

A native of Percy (population 970) in the coal country of southern Illinois, Schmieg did his undergraduate studies at Southern Illinois University, earned a master's degree at Eastern Illinois University and a superintendent certificate from Illinois State University.

He started his career in education in 2006 as a high school so-

*Continued on Page 2*

## SAVING LIVES FOR FIVE DECADES

### BYE facing needs after 50 years

EMTs, paramedics sought for ambulance service

By MOLLY RICHESON

For The Weekly Post

In 1971, if you lived in a rural area and needed to get to a hospital quickly, more than likely you would be driven there in the local hearse. No joke. In most small towns, the hearse served as the local ambulance, in addition to its other duties.

While the change in hospital transportation from hearse to ambulance has been a positive one, there's quite a story about what initiated the shift.

On June 1, 1973, a federal law went into effect called the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act. This law required ambulance services, including funeral homes, to have trained EMTs and at least one



BYE board members stand in front of ambulance bays at the ambulance service's Elmwood building. Pictured from left to right are Peggy Gibson, Doug Cosby, Mike Miller and David Maher. Photo by Molly Richeson.

ambulance that met federal requirements within a year. Furthermore, the service had to be willing to take any person who required their services – regardless of ability to pay – and to be in business 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

When those driving hearses as ambulances heard about the new requirements in 1972, before the law

took effect, most no longer wanted to offer a service they were basically supplying out of kindness. That's when people in smaller communities realized that ambulance services on which they had relied would cease to exist. It didn't take long for the collective community to say, "We've got to do something about

*Continued on Page 8*

## Wind-farm worries

New incentives filling developers' sails

I've been scanning the public notices in The Weekly Post for the past few months watching for any notices regarding the construction of an industrial wind farm here in northwest Peoria County.

Three meteorological towers installed in the area have been gathering data since late 2021. Assuming the data is favorable, it's just a matter of time before those of us living

nearby will be dodging cement trucks and tractor-trailers hauling massive cranes and turbine components.

The U.S. government maintains a wind-turbine database that shows the location, height, size and

other data of every turbine in the nation. It's easily accessed online.

According to the database, there are 73,352 wind turbines in the U.S. Texas has the greatest number, 18,552. Illinois

ranks sixth with 3,622 towers overlooking our prairie state.

Construction of new wind farms slowed to a trickle in the past couple of years.

Wind-farm developers in the U.S. were stifled by the headwinds of skyrocketing inflation and interest rates.

Those factors plus the government's phase-out of federal tax credits left new projects on the drawing board and brought

*Continued on Page 13*



Ron DIETER



## Ag Market Outlook Farmers Breakfast

Thursday, February 29th

Guest Speakers:

Kurt Emken, Bayer Chemistry, "Weed Control & Industry Update"

John Nafziger, Hopedale Agri Center Inc., "Maximum Profit through Rumen Optimization"

Nik Adams, John Graham & Associates, "Investment Updates"

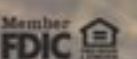
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## SCHMIEG: Could see himself retiring in Elmwood

*Continued from Page 1*  
cial studies teacher for Peoria Public Schools District 150. That's also when he and wife Stephanie moved to Elmwood.

"I could see myself being here until retirement," Schmieg said. "We've been here and had kids and having my kids grow up in the community, we've enjoyed it. I've found a second home here."

That's one reason Schmieg was a candidate for the job as soon as Wagner announced he would be leaving. And it may have influenced the school board's decision to handle the superintendent hiring on its own instead of hiring an outside firm

to provide a slate of candidates.

A question Schmieg was asked during the interview process was about his lack of superintendent experience and how he would handle the financial responsibilities that are a major part of his new position.

"I'm coming from a high-school-only district that has around 2,000 people in it every single day," he said. "That requires a lot of inner controls when it comes to budget and finance. So I'm well versed when it comes to running budgets and being well versed in that aspect of it."

Schmieg said he also has several other superin-



Joel Schmieg takes time after Monday's meeting of the Elmwood School Board for a picture with wife Stephanie and children Sydney and Silas. Photo by Tori Goedeke.

tendents he can lean on, naming Jerry Becker of Galva, his brother-in-law Landon Sommer of Century School District in Ullin and, from Pekin, Superintendent Danielle Owens, Assistant Superintendent Sheila Coussens-Martin and Director of Business Carla Schaefer.

Schmieg also said he plans to work closely with Wagner from now through the end of June.

"That's why the timing of this position is so attractive for me. Because now we have months to collaborate and share information and I can start being part of decisions

now that are being made for next school year," Schmieg said.

Moving forward, Schmieg said he thinks there is more that can be done to upgrade facilities. He also indicated an interest in more active promotion of the school to the community and more collaboration with teachers and staff.

In its only other action item Monday, the board voted to nullify its e-learning program so that any future days of missed school this year will be deemed as Act of God days and will not result in e-learning from home.

Ag Market Outlook Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>

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**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**This Week's Hot Picks**

- **Harvest Home** – Fundraiser dinner for the annual Harvest Home festival is today, Feb. 15, 4:30-7 p.m. at Yates City Community Center. Grilled ham, baked potatoes, baked beans, roll, dessert and drink for \$13. Dine in or carry out.
- **Fish Fry** – A fish fry will be held Friday, Feb. 16, March 15 and March 29 at Kickapoo Sportsman's Club. Hot dogs for kids.
- **Fish Fry** – Lenten catfish fry will be held Friday, Feb. 16, and March 1 at St. Mary of the Woods church in Princeville, 4:30-7 p.m. Shrimp offered.

**The Weekly Post Seven-Day Forecast**

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly Sunny	Snow Showers	Sunny	Sunny	Partly Sunny	Partly Sunny	Partly Sunny
<b>45</b> 27	<b>35</b> 18	<b>45</b> 27	<b>46</b> 26	<b>48</b> 30	<b>50</b> 31	<b>51</b> 33
NW 16 mph	NNW 13 mph	W 16 mph	WSW 11 mph	S 10 mph	WSW 12 mph	SSW 10 mph

**This Week's Events**

- **Toddler Time** – Toddler play time held in the Elmwood Community Center gym every Friday when school is in session in Elmwood, 9-11 a.m. Cost \$1 per child.
- **SWCD Meeting** – Peoria County SWCD has its 83rd annual meeting Saturday, Feb. 17, at 8 a.m. at Brimfield American Legion. Cost \$8, includes breakfast.
- **Food Pantry** – Christ Alive Church in Kickapoo opens its food pantry the third Monday each month, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- **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.

has fish fries Feb. 23, March 8 and 22 from 5-7 p.m. at Brimfield American Legion. \$13 shrimp, \$15 for catfish, \$4 for hot dog and fries. Carryout available.

- **Meals on Wheels** – Meals on Wheels delivered in Elmwood and Yates City Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. \$5. Call Gerri at (309) 742-3303 or 251-7006.
- **Bingo** – Salem Township Library in Yates City has bingo on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2 p.m., including Feb. 22.
- **Food Pantry** – Free food boxes given out the last Friday each month at Elmwood United Methodist Church, 10-11 a.m. Call (309) 742-7221.
- **Free Food** – Food for needy in pantry in northeast corner of lot next to St. Patrick's church in Elmwood.

**Future Events**

- **Fish Fry** – Brimfield Area Men's Club

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# The Weekly Post

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**Quotable** - "My philosophy is I'm raising future adults, not children."  
- Usher

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## GUEST VOICES



Pick the one that erupts every 95 to 120 minutes.



## Of early blooms, pole vaults & floor mops

Rambling through central Illinois, pondering how **Usher** sold 75 million records.

door practice, Strahm cleared 13 feet, 7 inches – a state record for Illinois girls prep track.

them in a south-facing window and get a jumpstart on spring. So last Sunday was spent filling 90 pots with peat moss and perlite to accommodate a much-reduced crop (when not cursing the Chiefs). The acorn cutback is due to a carryover of 90 trees from last year. When bringing acorns out of the fridge, you never know what you'll encounter. But with 29 of 31 chestnuts showing roots and plenty of oak acorns ready to hatch, I was pleased ... right until overtime ended.

Recent warm weather sure has been nice after that frigid snap, but it's also cause for concern. My indicator plant for early flowering is a big star magnolia bush on the west side of our house. Gauging by the magnolia's slightly opened buds, there will be some flower damage, but it doesn't look too bad, yet. If we get many more 60-degree days followed by the inevitable frosts to come, there could be real impact on early spring bloomers. ... Many parents dream of children someday earning Division I scholarships for sports. In all but a very few cases, those are pipe dreams. Brimfield pole vaulter **Mya Strahm** is one of those rare elite athletes – a junior who has already earned an Illinois state title and runner-up medal and has committed to attend the University of Tennessee to compete in track and field. What's it take to go D-1? A few months ago during an in-

As another basketball season nears an end, I'm left with one unanswered question: What happened to mopping the court during breaks in the game? Do players no longer sweat? Did COVID eliminate the need for floor-cleaning? Is there a new magic floor wax that dissolves dust and hair, two of the many slip-inducing substances found on the hardwood? Seriously, when is the last time you saw somebody mop a floor at a prep game, even after blood, sweat or tears dripped onto the surface? ... Don't get me wrong about the Super Bowl halftime show. Usher is a skilled roller skater and dancer. And maybe it was just the sound quality that was poor. But Usher is no **Prince**.

Read somewhere that about 1 in 10 fathers experience depression after their baby's birth. Well, speaking from experience, I can tell you that number soars to 10 in 10 before the child is full grown. ... Things I'd like to see: a beer-drinking contest in heaven between **Andre the Giant** and **Bill Rucks**, the first 7-footer in University of Illinois basketball history. Those bug men drank beer out of pitchers, not glasses. And don't quote me a German song about no beer in heaven. No way **God** would allow that. ... Parting shot: Remind me to share the story of a Chicago-based associate who catches monster rats with a fishing rod, treble hook and peanut-butter-filled doughballs.

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



Jeff LAMPE

**Farmington Rotary**  
February 2024  
**Student of the Month**

**Marlena Foust**

Marlena Foust was selected as Farmington Central High School's February Senior of the Month. Marlena is the daughter of DeAnna Foust. She has a twin sister, Megan. Marlena has made significant progress in her classes and made high honor roll last semester. Marlena plans to attend Cosmetology school after high school, and has already started practicing for her career. In her spare time, she likes spending time with her friends, and most importantly, her family. Both of her parents are deaf and she is fluent in American Sign Language. Congratulations, Marlena!

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**GUEST VOICES**

**Trenton Cemetery deserves a nod from Masters**

Edgar Lee Masters has got some nerve. I believe that, due to his "Spoon River Anthology," a good many people are under the mistaken impression that the Spoon River Valley exists only in Fulton County, Illinois.

Quite the contrary. The Spoon River also flows through the pastoral lands of Knox County. I can testify to that fact, because my mother's people, and I, were born and raised there.

We have a cemetery on a hill as well — known as Spoon River Hill to the locals, since it overlooks The Mighty Spoon.

It's actually called Trenton Cemetery, after the nearby-but-no-longer-existing settlement of Trenton Corners.

Among the souls who lie sleeping in this serene location are personalities just as colorful as those described by Masters in his 1915 collection of poems.

There are, for instance, my maternal grandma, Ethel Smith Brooks Harmison Daniel. And Grandpa Cleve Brooks. I've written about Grandma and Grandpa Brooks in my first book, "My Guardian Angel and Beating the Reaper with Songs and Stories of Forgottonia."

Grandma was a fierce woman who buried two husbands and chased one off for womanizing. In her 70s. She raised five children during the Great Depression, dug coal out of a hillside to heat her home and delivered her second child at home, with only her 2-year-old as midwife.

Her mother was Swedish, so she had some Viking in her. My mother used to say "She was a redhead," so you can infer her temperament. More to the point, the stories I wrote about Grandma were titled "Grandma Wields Her Axe" and "Grandma Grabs The Shotgun and Men Scatter."

Grandma only had a fifth-grade education, but she had a clear understanding of dramatic visual imagery. And her approach to conflict resolution may have been extreme, but when you're raising five children during the Great Depression

and your husband is a hunter, trapper and bootlegger with a fondness for drink and a sketchy bunch of friends, you have to keep him focused.

There are other fascinating figures in our Knox County cemetery on a hill, including Grandma and Grandpa's youngest child and only boy, my uncle Gale, also a hunter, trapper and fisherman, and World War II hero and POW at the age of 18.

And of course, Trenton is now home to one of the most legendary of Knox County Spoon River figures — an outdoorsman extraordinaire, dean of the deer room, the Catfish King; spinner of yarns; master of the green felt, 52-card deck and smoke-filled room; Billtown baseball hall-of-famer, whose sweet wife is his (and my) Williamsfield classmate: Terry "T-Bone" Farquer.

I hope to have the opportunity to share more of these extraordinary lives with you in a future issue.

*Randy Sollenberger is a self-published author who lives in Macomb but was born and raised around Williamsfield.*



Randy **SOLLENBERGER**



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# BYE: Service needs new EMTs, paramedics

Continued from Page 1

this.”

In The Weekly Post area, the local Kiwanis group spearheaded the “doing something” and the Brimfield, Yates City and Elmwood communities came together to work on starting an ambulance service. After some advertising, organizers collected about \$7,000 in a single Sunday afternoon, the equivalent of about \$51,000 today. That impressive amount of money demonstrated how much people wanted an ambulance service.

Three representatives went to Springfield to meet with the new EMS coordinator and came to an agreement for a new ambulance service. The new entity would be allowed to start in June 1973 with only a 1957 Cadillac that did not meet the law’s requirements and no truly trained EMTs – with the catch that to retain licensure, the service within one year had to have an ambulance that met federal regulations and trained EMTs. Thus, BYE Ambulance Service was born on June 5, 1973. And more than 50 years later, BYE has even expanded its service.

The Cadillac is gone, but it was worth the trade. BYE now has four ambulances, all of which meet federal regulations, and garages in Elmwood and Brimfield. BYE has a cardiac monitor, defibrillator, IV supplies, medications and a Lucas CPR system. The advanced technology allows staffers to provide an emergency room with patient information electronically, including pictures of cardiac rhythms and videos of symptoms.

BYE’s staff consists of 12-15 people who work regular shifts, two of whom must always be on duty. They answer calls daily, drastically reducing the time it takes for citizens to receive life-saving care.

And BYE is not directly funded by the government, though it does contract with rural fire protection districts in the communities it serves, which now also include the eastern portion of Williamsfield (Galesburg covers the western portion). A nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization, BYE also welcomes donations to help upgrade technology and make ends meet.

After 50 years of service, what are the hopes for the next 50 years? “To still be here,” answered Peggy Gibson of Elmwood, president of the



A help-wanted sign is a permanent fixture in front of BYE Ambulance Service's Elmwood garage. Photo by Molly Richeson.

BYE Board of Directors and an attendee at the original BYE planning meeting.

At BYE’s 50th anniversary celebration last June, the combined service of everyone on the roster was 335 years, some having 50 years of experience individually.

“That’s a good thing, but also potentially a bad thing,” said Board Member Doug Cosby. “Right now, we have some really experienced people, and I think they do a heck of a good job. The fear I have is that in five years will they still be working? And if they’re not, where are these people with experience going to come from?”

“We’ve got to get some new blood in there.”

Mike Miller, past president and current board member, agrees.

“We could go from the 20-40 years of experience down to the 1-2 years of experience really quick,” he said.

EMTs and paramedics have been harder to come by across the industry since the COVID pandemic. Basic EMTs are trained to do basic health care: CPR, first aid, bandaging, administering aspirin, etc. Intermediate EMTs and paramedics can handle more specialized care, including use of the defibrillator, different classes of drugs and starting IVs. Paramedics are the most highly trained workers.

The way BYE is licensed, the first ambulance out has to have an EMT-basic and either an EMT-intermediate or a paramedic on board. The second ambulance needs to have an EMT-basic and first responder. If there is no EMT-intermediate or paramedic available, the ambulance cannot respond. If they can’t take a call, which board members say has never happened, mutual aid would be requested from Peoria, Princeville, Galesburg or

Canton.

“We’re looking for EMTs and paramedics,” Gibson said. “We’re advertising and constantly recruiting. When we place ads in media sources for new hires, we don’t get any resumes.”

“We’ve offered scholarships for the seniors in the main communities we serve for EMT-basic training with the promise of a part-time job upon passing their test. We never got an applicant, not one, in two years of trying.”

Gibson’s concern is that there will eventually be no one to pass the torch to and that the community may not immediately notice.

“I don’t think a lot of the local people understand what they have here and that most towns don’t have it,” Miller said.

“And if they did have it, a lot of them are losing it,” adds David Maher, a board member. “I would love to see more people take an interest. Learn more about us. Learn how often we’re busy and learn about the positive impact we have on the community.”

Currently, BYE is in the middle of a “\$50K for 50 Years” fundraising event intended to raise money for upgraded life-saving equipment. Remember, BYE raised the equivalent of that in a Sunday afternoon 50 years ago because people understood the need for an ambulance service.

So far, the fundraiser has made it a little over halfway toward the goal of \$50,000. Tax-deductible donations can be made online or mailed to P.O. Box 33, Elmwood, IL 61529.

Mainly, though, BYE officials want the communities they serve to get to know the ambulance service a little better and be aware of its needs, among those local participation.

“Local people and local participation to secure the continuation of BYE is important,” Gibson said. “You’ve heard the saying ‘It takes a village’? It takes four villages, in this case.”



## AUCTIONS & REAL ESTATE SALES

Continued from Page 7  
**PEORIA, ILLINOIS**  
 U.S. Bank Trust National Association, Not in its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For RCF2 Acquisition Trust  
**PLAINTIFF**  
 Vs.  
 Steven F. Allender, et. al.  
**DEFENDANTS**  
 No. 2023-FC-0000193  
**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 12/13/2023, the Sheriff of Peoria County, Illinois will on March 27, 2024 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 18-03-251-003

Improved with Single Family Home COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1518 NE Monroe Street 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).  
 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 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: Cordilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-23-04614.  
 Published 2/15, 2/22, 2/29/24  
 •••  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF PEORIA PEORIA, ILLINOIS**  
 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; Plaintiff,

vs. ERIC RUSINSKI; YORKSHIRE ESTATES CONDOMINIUMS ASSOCIATION; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS AGENCY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,  
 23 FC 130  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., Andrew D. Cassidy, Cassidy & Mueller, 416 Main Street, 323 Commerce Bank Building, Peoria, Illinois 61602, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:  
 P.I.N. 13-14-234-001.  
 Commonly known as 6336 N

FROSTWOOD PKWY., PEORIA, IL 61615.  
 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 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 Mr. Chad Lewis at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 205 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 23-111805 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3238307  
 Published 2/15, 2/22, 2/29/24  
 •••



# Elmwood working on logo, video

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

ELMWOOD – A new official logo and a new video that promotes Elmwood are in the works.

The items are a joint effort between city officials and Discover Peoria, the Peoria Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. The video is to replace one that's about 4 years old, according to Amy Davis, the city economic-development director. The current logo is much older than that.

"It's been around so long that we don't even have it digitally," Davis said following a City Council meeting Feb. 6. "We want to do something a little more modern and we wanted to do a branding guide, so any department using our logo would use it consistently. ... We need something uniform within ourselves."

A logo prototype is expected to be ready when the council meets Feb. 20. A Discover Peoria graphic artist is creating it and a few variations, with input from Davis and others.

The new logo is to feature a lantern, among other items. The lantern is linked to the Phelps Barn, located on a farm south of Elmwood that was established

by William Phelps, the city founder.

Phelps' barn was a stop on the Underground Railroad, through which 19th-century slaves escaped to free states and Canada. A lantern at the barn signaled if it was safe for escapees to enter, Davis said.

A new description for Elmwood – "The Pioneer City" – also is to be part of the logo. The slogan is a reference to "The Pioneers," the Lorado Taft sculpture that stands in the city square.

"The word 'pioneer' has so many positive thoughts with it – moving forward, but also just strength and solidarity," Davis said.

The promotional video is expected to be about one minute long, according to Davis. The city is to feature the video on its website and its social-media accounts. It's also expected to be available at the Dis-

cover Peoria website and shown before movies at The Palace Theater, as is the case with the current video.

Discover Peoria hired contractors to assemble the new video, which might debut in mid-to-late summer, Davis said. The logo and video are among services the city receives for its Discover Peoria membership.

Regarding action items, the council approved a tax-increment-financing grant of \$180 to Elmwood Insurance Services. The grant represents 50% of the cost of a new sign for that business, according to Davis.

The council also authorized dates for the Elmwood Strawberry Festival (June 1) and Fall Festival (Sept. 5-7). The approvals give the Illinois Department of Transportation sufficient notice regarding street closures.



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**Feb 19** Hot Roast Beef 5-7pm  
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**Police reports**

• **DAHINDA** – An Elmwood man avoided injury after his vehicle slid off an icy road south of Dahinda and caught fire.

A Knox County Sheriff's Office deputy was summoned about 1:30 a.m. Jan. 18 to the 1700 block of Knox Highway 17, where he found ablaze a tan 2004 Dodge Dakota pickup truck. The vehicle was off the road, in a snow-filled ditch. The driver, 20-year-old Clayton M. Moechnig, was nearby.

Moechnig said he was driving on Knox Road 1700 East about an hour earlier when he lost control of the truck and it slid into a snowbank. In attempting to extricate the truck, Moechnig revved the engine so much the radiator overheated, according to a sheriff's-office report.

After Moechnig was able to drive the vehicle out of the snow, he lost control of it again, this time on an icy curve. The vehicle caught fire after it slid into the ditch. Knoxville firefighters extinguished the flames.

The vehicle was a total loss. It belonged to Moechnig's girlfriend, a 20-year-old Yates City woman. Moechnig was cited for driving too fast for conditions.

• **ELMWOOD** – A vehicle struck another one parked in downtown Elmwood, according to authorities. The accident was reported in the 100 block of N. Magnolia St., a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated. The owner of a 2022 Chevrolet sedan said she was leaving a baby shower about 2:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at a banquet hall when she noticed damage to her vehicle.

A sheriff's-office deputy noted moderate damage to the Chevy's front and rear driver's-side doors. No suspect information was available, nor was identification regarding the other vehicle.

• **ELMWOOD** – A two-vehicle collision in Elmwood resulted in no injuries.

Jennifer L. Bliss of Elmwood was backing a 2011 Chevrolet Equinox out of a driveway about 8 a.m. Feb. 2 in the 200 block of S. Turtle Creek Drive when her vehicle struck a northbound 2016 Kia Optima, according to an Elmwood Police Department report. Nicole A. Bouchez of Elmwood was the other driver.

Bouchez said she was looking down, not ahead, and did not notice Bliss' vehicle in the road. Bliss had one passenger, a 4-year-old in a car

seat. Vehicle damage was not specified but was listed at more than \$1,500.

• **ELMWOOD** – A Chillicothe man was cited for traffic violations after his damaged vehicle was found abandoned along a road south of Elmwood.

Brandon M. Fogelmark, 24, said he was driving a 2022 Tesla sedan north in the 400 block of Illinois Route 78 about 12:15 a.m. Jan. 15 when he lost control of the vehicle, which landed in a ditch. The vehicle sustained rear passenger-side quarter-panel damage and a broken windshield.

Fogelmark left the scene and could not be located immediately, according to Knox County Sheriff's Office reports. Eventually, Fogelmark reported no injuries. He was accused of driving too fast for conditions and failure to report an accident. Fogelmark is to appear Feb. 28 in Knox County Circuit Court in Galesburg.

• **KICKAPOO** – Neither a Brimfield driver nor her passenger reported injuries from a two-vehicle wreck east of Kickapoo.

Jennie L. Huska was driving an eastbound 2007 Honda Civic about 6:45 p.m. Jan. 24 on U.S. Route 150 at Heinz Lane when it collided with a 2019 Chevrolet Equinox driven by Sydney N. Vandergraft of Marquette Heights, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated.

Vandergraft said she was driving west on Route 150 and attempting a left turn onto Heinz Lane but didn't see Huska's vehicle approaching. Huska said she saw Vandergraft's vehicle turn in front of her but couldn't stop in time. Her female passenger corroborated. Vandergraft reported no injuries.

The passenger side of Vandergraft's vehicle and the front end of Huska's vehicle sustained significant damage and were towed, according to the report. Brimfield fire-department personnel responded.

• **ELMWOOD** – A police visit to an Elmwood residence regarding a domestic dispute resulted in a woman's arrest on an unrelated charge. Tekayla R. Wilkins-Fender-son, 24, was accused of failure to appear in Peoria County Circuit Court for a traffic violation, according to an Elmwood Police Department report.

Police discovered that warrant and another against Wilkins-Fender-son in Iowa. The Iowa warrant was not valid in Illinois.

Officers were summoned about 8:15 a.m. Feb. 5 to the 200 block of N. Knox St. No other arrests were

made, nor charges filed.

• **PRINCEVILLE** – At 2:30 a.m. Feb. 3, Marcela Weller of Princeville was driving a 2011 BMW X5 south in the 15200 block of N. Princeville-Jubilee Rd. when the vehicle struck a deer that emerged from the west.

Weller was not injured, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report. She was able to drive the vehicle, which sustained a damaged front bumper and passenger-side headlight.

• **WILLIAMSFIELD** – At 5:30 p.m. Feb. 3, Lindsey M. Mackie, 33, of Galva was driving a northbound 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe in the 1800 block of Knox Highway 28 north of Williamsfield when the vehicle struck a deer that emerged from the west. Mackie was uninjured, a Knox County Sheriff's Office report stated. She was able to drive the vehicle, which sustained damage to its driver's-side fender and bumper.

• **OAK RUN** – About 10:15 p.m. Jan. 23, Samantha J. Sharp, 40, of Dahinda was driving a 2024 Buick Encore east in the 1300 block of U.S. Route 150 south of Oak Run when the vehicle struck a deer that emerged from the south. Sharp was uninjured, according to a Knox County Sheriff's Office report. She was able to drive the vehicle, which sustained front driver's-side damage near the headlight and wheel.

• **OAK RUN** – Shortly before 5:30 p.m. Jan. 1, Gary G. Goudie, 76, of Knoxville was driving a 1999 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck west in the 1300 block of U.S. Route 150 south of Oak Run when the vehicle struck a deer. A Knox County Sheriff's Office report did not specify if Goudie was injured. The vehicle sustained damage to its grille, headlights, hood and cooling system and was towed. The impact killed the deer.

• **ELMWOOD** – Chief Aaron Bean reported the following Elmwood Police Department activity for January: one arrest, 13 stops, 15 warnings, eight reports and one ordinance violation.

• **WILLIAMSFIELD** – Chief James Robertson reported the following Williamsfield Police Department activity for January: one speeding citation, one disobeyed-stop-sign citation, one other citation and nine warnings.

• **GALESBURG** – These were among calls to which the Knox County Sheriff's Office responded between Jan. 28-Feb. 3: damage, Happy Hollow; suspicious incident, Oak Run; disturbance, Yates City.

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# Railroad crossing hearing delayed

By **NICK VLAHOS**  
For The Weekly Post

**LAURA** – Wheels are turning slowly regarding the possible permanent closure of a railroad crossing east of Laura.

An Illinois Commerce Commission evidentiary hearing in response to a BNSF Railway request to eliminate the Whittaker Road crossing probably won't happen until March at the earliest. Progress was delayed initially while the ICC sought input from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

That input was expected during a status hearing Feb. 7. But the IDOT engineer who usually handles such cases recused himself from this one, according to Jennifer Kuntz, assistant chief counsel for that state agency. It will take a different engineer a few weeks to get up to speed regarding the BNSF request.

"He knows very little," Kuntz said during the status hearing, which was conducted electronically. "I know the engineer not normally works with the ICC, so it's going to be different for him."

Kuntz did not specify why the original engineer

withdrew. IDOT was suggested to join the hearing process because a state highway, Illinois Route 78, is among the detours BNSF has proposed. Route 78 runs north-south through Laura and is about a mile west of the crossing.

Another status hearing was scheduled for March 6. It's possible an evidentiary hearing will be scheduled then regarding a request BNSF made last July. At least five status hearings have been held or

scheduled since then. In a petition BNSF filed with the ICC, the railroad cited safety concerns and lack of use as reasons to close the Whittaker Road crossing. Local officials oppose closure because oversized farm equipment uses the crossing and proposed detours are unsafe, among other reasons.

As of last week, no public comments regarding the BNSF proposal had been filed on the ICC website. The docket number is T23-0077.



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## Crop Risk Management Meeting

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**Brimfield Library Activity Room**  
**Starts at 9:00 AM and concludes with lunch**

**Message Ben at**  
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**Peter Schram - Strategic Farm Planning and Beck's Hybrids**  
"Hindsight Marketing, So what's my plan"

**Dave Krog - Salin 247**  
"The 45Z Clean Fuel Production Credit program and low carbon intensity opportunities for farmers"

**Ben Herrmann - Herrmann Integrated Agronomy**  
"Understanding your own risk exposure relative to the counties you farm in"



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# Billtown, ROWVA exploring e-learning plan

By **JEFF LAMPE**  
For The Weekly Post

**WILLIAMSFIELD** – Use of snow days this year and how to handle any more moving forward was one of several topics of conversation Monday at a lengthy meeting of the Williamsfield School Board.

Williamsfield has already used all scheduled emergency days are a result of inclement weather.

If any more time off is required, the school will request Act of God days from the Illinois State Board of Education to guarantee May 31 as the last day of school.

But moving forward, Superintendent Tim Farquer said Billtown and sports co-op partner ROWVA are exploring the development of an e-learning plan to use in place of the Act of God days.

board discussed several items in preparation for an upcoming March 9 self-evaluation with the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Among the discussion topics was the district's health course offerings and curriculum. Farquer said students this year are "up to speed" on demonstrating competency in health. He also said staff member Jeff Hannam will have the necessary endorsement to teach health classes next school year. At present, Farquer is the only staff member who can teach health classes.

"Our whole goal is to be able to tell folks we will not go past May and won't have classes in June so people can plan vacation accordingly," Farquer said.

He said the proposed e-learning plan would be implemented only if emergency days are used.

The board also entered executive session to set dates for contract negotiations with the Williamsfield Education

Association. Farquer said talks are expected to start in March.

Farquer reported the district's fleet of electric buses is running smoothly after having completed 500 routes with just four technical disruptions, three of which were the result of a learning curve in driving the new buses. In one case, a bus had a problem with a loose wire connection and in another case, traveling down a rough, pothole-infested road triggered a crash sensor that had to be reset.

After three months, Farquer said the district is well on its way to an estimated savings of \$6,500 per route versus purchasing diesel fuel.

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## Supreme Court asked to review Illinois gun law

By **PETER HANCOCK**  
Capitol News Illinois

**SPRINGFIELD** – In a long-expected move, national gun-rights organizations are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Illinois' ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.

In separate petitions filed Monday, the Colorado-based National Association for Gun Rights and the Nevada-based Firearms Policy Coalition asked the nation's high court to reverse a decision of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. That court ruled 2-1 in November not to issue a temporary injunction against the law.

Another petition seeking to overturn an assault weapons ban in Maryland was filed Feb. 9. The court has not announced if it will hear any of the appeals.

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Total Acres.....	38.62
FSA Tillable Acres.....	38.21
PI.....	130.6

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# WIND: Turbine blades create issues

*Continued from Page 1*  
new construction to a halt. Funny how when the federal dollars dried up, construction stopped dead in its tracks, but I digress.

Thanks to the generosity of President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, your tax dollars are putting new wind in developers' sails. It has taken a couple of years for the industry to figure out how to navigate the complex regulations in the act to make the most of the new tax credits. Now they've got the wind at their back and projects that were on hold are on the launching pad.

While developers enjoy the windfall, some folks in the shadow of proposed wind farms are no big fans of the big fans. They feel an ill wind blowing and worry about their property values. A study published in "The Energy Policy Journal" may ease their minds. It found that the value of properties located within a one-mile radius of a proposed wind farm dropped an average of 11% compared to properties 3-5 miles farther away.

But not to worry. That difference in values disappears a few years after the wind project is up and running, researchers say. Some might quibble with that, asking themselves if a home with a wind turbine a mile away would be worth

more if the turbine wasn't there.

Environmentalists have their own concerns about wind farms. They worry about the effect of wind turbines on wildlife, especially birds. According to Germany's Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, wind farms knock more than 100,000 birds out of the sky each year. That sounds like a lot, but Germany has more than 28,000 turbines spinning in the breeze.

Although property values and wildlife safety are a big concern, the biggest headwind facing the industry is recycling. Most parts of a wind turbine are recyclable. The tower is steel and the components behind the blades – copper, electronics and gearing – are all recyclable. The problem is the blades.

Turbine blades are made of a blend of fiberglass and resins. It would be great if worn-out blades could be recycled into new ones, but

with these materials it's not chemically possible. Instead, some recyclers grind up the worn-out blades and incorporate them into cement, an expensive process. Currently, the least expensive way to dispose of used blades is to haul them to a landfill for burial or to burn them.

Landfill operators are reluctant to accept turbine blades because they take up an enormous amount of landfill volume. To save space, a landfill operator in the state of Wyoming cuts them into thirds and inserts the sections inside each other before burying them.

Soon, blades made of special epoxies and fiberglass will be available that can be recycled and used to make new blades. Such technology will come just in time. A great number of turbines in the U.S. are reaching the end of their useful life. Researchers tell us we'll have over 700,000 tons of blades to deal with over the next 20 years.

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**Answers on Page 14** **Super Crossword** **FOURTH-ESTATE FANTASY**

**ACROSS**  
1 Not quite first-rate  
7 "Patience — virtue"  
10 Car tankful  
13 Colie of TV  
19 Cattle farm of the West  
20 Trumpet blast  
22 Singer and actor Frankie  
23 When it's 12:00 p.m.  
24 Element #3  
25 Japanese city that hosted the 1998 Olympics  
26 Start of a riddle  
29 Japanese buckwheat noodle  
30 Dr. Seuss' Sam —  
31 Amas, —  
32 "Addams Family" cousin  
35 Riddle, part 2  
43 Faint smell  
45 Foldout bed  
46 Co-workers of MDs  
47 Stalactite site  
48 Florence's river  
49 Total amount  
51 "Scram!"

**DOWN**  
1 Bird's crop  
2 Trellis strip  
3 "Nepole" star  
4 Glasgow natives  
5 Grandstander  
6 Chimpanzee variety  
7 "— have to wait"  
8 Got married

**ACROSS**  
52 Minecraft and StarCraft, e.g.  
55 Riddle, part 3  
60 Brief promos  
61 Troops' place  
62 Pop's Celine  
63 See 58-Down  
66 Bullfighter  
67 Riddle, part 4  
70 Put a new front on, as a building  
72 Unbroken  
73 Recognized  
75 With  
59-Down, brand of frozen potatoes  
76 Famously feisty fish  
77 Riddle, part 5  
81 Oval shape  
84 Dejected  
85 "Who am — judge?"  
86 Secret writing  
87 Postal pieces  
88 Detectives like TV's Magnum, for short  
89 Karachi's nation; Abbr.  
91 Very long time periods  
92 End of the riddle  
99 Disloyal type

**DOWN**  
9 Lure for insect extermination  
10 The earth as a goddess  
11 Cut — (dance)  
12 Pago Pago  
13 "Meteor" actor Martin  
14 1972 Billy Wilder comedy film  
15 Long, involved story  
16 Shut loudly  
17 Actress Skye of "Stranded"  
18 Grammy winner Brian  
21 "— the break!"  
27 Former Egypt-Syr. alliance  
28 Texer's "Holy smokes!"  
32 "Let me!"  
33 Base-loaded situation  
34 Lightweight kitchen utensils  
36 Peak  
37 Chicago daily, in brief  
38 Global; Abbr.  
39 Mark for life  
40 Easter meat  
41 Adam's mate

**DOWN**  
42 — Moines  
44 Bob of choreography  
49 Tahitian skirts  
50 Package delivery co.  
51 Carpentry material for some cabinets  
52 Chi follower  
53 Spicy Spanish pork sausage  
54 Taxonomic subdivisions  
56 Become lively  
57 Cheer yell  
58 With  
63-Across, for the time being  
59 See  
63 Oven used to bake naan  
64 Spiny ant eater  
65 Most unkind  
67 Conservation org. with a panda logo  
68 Pooch's yap  
69 Big blue body  
71 Game of many silks  
74 Wide shoe spec  
76 Mining shaft

**DOWN**  
77 Higher ground?  
78 "You wish!"  
79 Conde —  
80 User-edited website  
81 Rescue squad VSP  
82 "— -d-dah!"  
83 False story  
88 Projecting curves on saddles  
89 By the day  
90 Huffington of HuffPost  
91 So to speak  
93 Wise-acting  
94 Thick-skinned critter  
95 Day, in Chile  
96 Study guys  
97 Abbr. on a bad check  
98 End a vacation  
103 Mother-of-pearl  
104 Surfing need  
105 Cake finisher  
106 Holy Week's time  
107 Eldest of the Brady boys  
108 Helper; Abbr.  
109 For fear that  
110 Half a train track  
111 — gin fizz  
112 Camp shelter  
113 Yank's rival

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

## GRIN & BEAR IT

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆  
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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**FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 14**

**CryptoQuote**

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

G BT HFX PGEXEH TBO BIGUX,  
KWJ G VOWP WOX HFGOY, BON  
HFBH GE HFBH G VOWP  
OWHFGOY,  
— EWMJBHXE

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**Trivia test**  
by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: Which popular Netflix series features groups of teens nicknamed "Kooks" and "Pogues"?
- HISTORY: When did Facebook launch?
- MUSIC: Which pop music singer had hits with songs like "Changes" and "Let's Dance"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What country possesses the Isle of Wight?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of peacocks called?
- AD SLOGANS: Which company's advertising slogan is "the ultimate driving machine"?
- LANGUAGE: What is the Latin phrase often shortened to "i.e."?
- MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the maze that confined the Minotaur?
- MOVIES: Which movie has the tagline, "Mischief. Mayhem. Soap."?
- LITERATURE: Shakespeare is believed to have written approximately how many plays?

Answers  
1. "Outer Banks."  
2. 2004.  
3. David Bowie.  
4. England.  
5. An ostentation or a pride.  
6. BMW.  
7. Id est (that is).  
8. The Labyrinth.  
9. "Fight Club."  
10. 37.

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**TOP 10 MOVIES**

- Argyle (PG-13)
- The Chosen: S4.E1 NR
- The Beekeeper (R)
- Wonka (PG)
- Migration (PG)
- Mean Girls (PG-13)
- Anyone But You (R)
- American Fiction (R)
- Poor Things (R)
- Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG-13)

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**Helen Laurson**

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**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

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

**CryptoQuote**  
answer

WAITING FOR NEW PUZZLE ANSWER

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answer

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

**OBITUARIES**

**Jon M. Burgess**  
PRINCEVILLE – Jon Michael “Mike” Burgess, 80, of Princeville, passed away at home Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024. He was born on Feb. 16, 1943, in Princeville to Paul M. and Marcia S. (Steinman) Burgess.

Surviving are one sister, Nancy (Burgess) Guingrich of Peoria Heights; one brother, Paul R. “Dick” (Ellie) Burgess of Florida; one sister-in-law, Evie Schlehber of Peoria; and several nieces and nephews, Paula Terwilliger (Kevin) of Concord, Calif.; Christy DeBord (Bill “Willy”) of Princeville, Ill.; Amy Densberger (Randy) of Aurora, Ill.; Brenda Colyer of Sterrett, Ala.; Luanne Cundiff (Craig) of St. Charles, Mo.; Richard M. Guingrich (Jessica) of Peoria; Shaun Guingrich (Wendy) and Adam Guingrich, all of Peoria; Larissa Guingrich and Brendan Guingrich, both of Peoria Heights. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother-in-law, Dr. Richard D. Guingrich.

Mike served in the United States Air Force. He was previously employed at Princeville Canning Company; drove for Monica Elevator; operated a café in Monica, Ill.; was road commissioner for Princeville Township; and was currently employed by the Petersons, working at their horse stable in Brimfield. Mike



**Burgess**

enjoyed fishing in Minnesota and sailing the Pacific Ocean; he loved his dogs over the years and being outside in his garden. He enjoyed cooking and he loved when the Schwann’s truck showed up with apple pie and ice cream; he enjoyed a wide range of music (including country and opera) and he himself played clarinet as a young man. Mike enjoyed Lionel trains and his old TV and radio shows were a favorite pastime. Mike loved the John Deere company, especially their tractors. Mike was seldom at a loss for words and always let folks know where he stood. Mike was always willing to help a neighbor in need. He had many dear friends and a loving family. He will be missed by all.

A graveside service was to be at 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, at Princeville Township Cemetery. Rev. David Pyell was to officiate. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Princeville is assisting the family with arrangements. Memorial contributions can be made to the charity of the donors’ choice.

Condolences for Mike’s family may be left on his tribute wall at [www.haskellfuneral.com](http://www.haskellfuneral.com).

**Michael W. Crouch**  
ELMWOOD – Michael W. Crouch, 87, of Elmwood, passed away at 6:10 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, at Country Comfort in Elmwood. He was born April 29, 1936, in Peoria, to Wilbur and Juanita (Hahn) Crouch. He married Patricia Doubet on Oct. 8, 1955, in Princeville. She survives.

He is also survived by six children, Dennis (Joy) Crouch of Eureka, Cathy (Dave) Shipley of Yates City, Ronald (Kim) Crouch of Brimfield, Connie (Randy) Dollar of Chewlah, Wash., Cheryl (Curtis) Wright of Eureka and Brenda (Dave) Evans of Normal; 18 grandchildren; and 31 great-grandchildren.

Michael is preceded in death by his parents; and one sister, Joan Orr.

Michael was a lifetime sheep shearer. He won many contests/accolades, including National Sheep Shearing Contest winner in 1974, second place in 1982, the Indiana Sheep Shearing Contest four times and Sheep Shearer of the Year three years in a row. Michael managed the Illinois Sheep Shearing Contest for many years. He sheared all over the United States and in Canada.

Michael was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan, loved to travel and enjoyed playing cards with family and friends. Michael served in the Navy Reserves for six years. He was a member of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Elmwood.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A private burial of ashes will be held at St. Mary’s Cemetery in rural Elmwood. A Celebration of Life will be held at noon on Friday, March 1, 2024, at the fellowship hall at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church.



**Crouch**

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OBITUARIES

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to B.Y.E. Ambulance and the American Cancer Society.

To leave online condolences, visit www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com Oaks-Hines Funeral Home and Crematory in Elmwood is in charge of arrangements.

Sandra S. Eberle

ELMWOOD – Sandra S. Eberle, 77, of Elmwood, passed away at 2:55 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. Sandra was born July 7, 1946, in Peoria, to Harlan and Ruth (Tolly) Eberle.

Sandra is survived by her good friend of 55 years, Fannie Moore; one sister-in-law, Rosemary Eberle; and many nieces and nephews, Cindy (Dave) Dewalt, Mike (Debbie) Eberle, Shelly (Randy) Egli, Lori (Pat) Sheldon, Lynn (John) Pieper and Jeffery Eberle.



Eberle

Sandra was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Harlan Eberle and Jack (Doris) Eberle.

Sandra graduated from Chillicothe High School and worked at ALCOA in Princeville for 55 years. She also enjoyed traveling to Florida for over 20 years where she met many wonderful friends.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A burial of her ashes will be held at Elmwood Township Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to any animal shelter of the donor's choice.

To leave online condolences, visit www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com Oaks-Hines Funeral Home and Crematory in Elmwood is in charge of arrangements.

Donald K. Hogue

ELMWOOD – Donald K. Hogue, 46, of Elmwood, passed away at

10:04 p.m., on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He was born Oct. 25, 1977, in Galesburg, to Gary and Susan (Cowden) Hogue. They preceded him in death.

He is survived by one brother, Cameron Hogue of Creve Coeur; one sister, Brandy (Eric) Herring of Elmwood; three nephews he adored, Gage Hogue, Jarett Roberts and CJ Land; and his grandmother, June Northrup of Elmwood.



Hogue

Cremation rites have been accorded. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

To leave online condolences, visit www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com.

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

Michael D. Welch

EDWARDS – Michael Dean Welch, 66, of Edwards, Ill., passed at OSF Richard Owens Hospice Home in Peoria on Feb. 7, 2024, surrounded by his family.

He was born to Gary and Phyllis (Balagna) Welch on Aug. 23, 1957, in Peoria, Ill. He grew up in Hanna City and graduated from Farmington High School, Class of 1975. He graduated from Western Illinois University in 1979 with a BA in business.



Welch

Mike began a 44-year career at CILCO/Ameren in May 1979, retiring in May 2023.

Mike married Lynette (Long) Welch on Aug. 8, 1981. Together they have four children, Jillian Welch, Sa-

mantha (Kyle) Stover, Joseph (Brittany) Welch and Michael (Kristen) Welch. He was the proud grandfather of nine grandchildren, Alex, Oliver, Mason, Garrett, Mia, Grace, Meadow, Gwendolyn and Marley. Mike is also survived by his mother and sisters, Susan (Vern) Newell and Stacey (Carol) Welch Anderson.

Mike was a proud member of: Farmington Moose Lodge 1571, Peoria Rotary North, Home Builders Assoc., Maple Lane Country Club and the Hanna City Sportsman's Club. Mike enjoyed spending time with friends and family, hunting at the Bennett Farm, riding motorcycles, "collecting his mail" at Jimmy's and yelling at his Cubs and Bears.

The family would like to extend their extreme gratitude to the ALS Foundation, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center Emergency Department and Medical ICU, and the Richard Owens Hospice Home.

A private graveside service will take place at Smithville Cemetery. Please join the family for Mike's Celebration of Life on Friday, Feb. 16, beginning at noon at the Hanna City Sportsman's Club.

Donations may be made to Team Gleason P.O. Box 24493, New Orleans, LA 70184, or the Hanna City Sportsman's Club Scholarship in memory of Mike Welch.

John Wheeler

ELMWOOD – John Wheeler, 87, of Elmwood, passed away Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, at Sunset Manor in Canton. He was born on April 13, 1936, to Charles and Goldie (Raymond) Wheeler. John married Eleanor (Hall) on Sept. 20, 1959.

He is survived by three children, Ron (Robin) Wheeler of Elmwood, Angie (Jeff) Davis of Yates City and Melinda (Doug) Smith of Trivoli; three brothers, Chuck, Lawrence and Richard; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Cremation rites will be accorded.

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Pastor Doug Seeley
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(309) 678-2208
Sun. School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. Worship: 10:40 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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 p.m.
Sun. Mass: 10:30 a.m. (10 a.m. in the summer)
Daily Mass: Tues.-Fri. 8 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
"Preaching Christ Crucified"
"Liturgical & Reverential"
204 W. Clay St. Brimfield
(309) 446-3233
Sun. Divine Service: 11:30 a.m.

Brimfield E-Free Church
Pastor Donald Blasing
11724 Maher Road
Brimfield IL 61517
(309) 446-3571
brimfieldefree.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
AWANA: Wed. 6:15 p.m. ages 3-12

Brimfield United Methodist Church
Reverend James Pernel Sr.
135 S. Galena St. Brimfield
(662) 394-5880
Sun. Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sun. School: 8:30 a.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA
By Wilson Casey
1. Is the book of Valentin (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 1 John 3:18, "Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in ..." Hope, Abundance, Touch, Truth
3. In Proverbs 10:12, "Hatred stirreth up stripes, but love covereth all ..." Sins, Beginnings, Creation, Enemies
4. Which Old Testament book reads like a love story? Ruth, Daniel, Habakkuk, Song

Union Church at Brimfield
United Church of Christ
Pastor Stephen Barch
105 W. Clay Street Brimfield
(309) 446-3811
brimfieldunionchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
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 Zoila Marty
1739 Victoria St. P.O. Box 14
Dahinda IL 61428
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School during worship service
Church: (309) 639-2768
Pastor's Office: (309) 639-2389
Email: williamsfielddahindaumc@yahoo.com

DOUGLAS
Douglas United Methodist Church
Pastor Kristine McMillan
484 3rd St.

of Solomon
5. Where does one find the phrase "God is love"? Genesis, Nehemiah, Hebrews, 1 John
6. From Hebrews 13:4, what is honorable in all? Love, Trust, Marriage, Worship
ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Truth, 3) Sins, 4) Song of Solomon, 5) 1 John (4:8, 16), 6) Marriage.
More Trivia? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com. (c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Yates City IL 61572
(NOTE: Church is in Douglas)
Sunday Worship: 8 a.m.
(Maquon worship: 11 a.m.)
Facebook Live is 11 a.m. at Maquon UM Church page

EDWARDS
Bethany Baptist Church
7422 N. Heinz Ln. Edwards
(309) 692-1755
bethanycentral.org
Sun. Worship: 9 & 10:30 a.m.
In person and livestream (Coffee pastries 8:30-10:30 am)
Wed: 6:15 pm AWANA & youth group
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Father James Pankiewicz
9910 W. Knox St. Edwards
(309) 691-2030
stmmaryskickapoo.org
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Sat. Mass: 4 p.m.
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ELMWOOD
Crossroads Assembly of God
Pastor Don Nuttall
615 E. Ash St. Elmwood
(309) 742-6409
crossroadselmwood.org

Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Sun. Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Elmwood Baptist Church
Pastor Bill Cole
701 W. Dearborn St. Elmwood
(309) 742-7631 642-3278
Sun. Worship: 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Elmwood
Reverend Marla B. Bauler
201 W. Evergreen Elmwood
(309) 742-2631
firstpresbyterianofelmwood.org
Sun. Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sun. School: 9:30 a.m.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Father James Pankiewicz
802 W. Main St. Elmwood
(309) 742-4921
Sat. Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Sun. Mass: 9 a.m.
Tues. Mass: 8 a.m.
Tues. Confession: After mass.

United Methodist Church of Elmwood
Pastor James Pernel Sr.
821 W. Main St. Elmwood
(309) 742-7221
elmwoodumc.org
Sat. Worship: 5 p.m.
Sun. Worship: 10 a.m.
Youth Sun. School: 9 a.m.
Adult Sun. School: 8 a.m.

FARMINGTON
Farmington Bible Church
Pastor Tony Severine
497 N. Elmwood Rd.
Farmington
(309) 245-9870
Sunday School: 9:30
Worship Service: 10:30

Farmington Methodist Church
Pastor Rick Atchley
187 W. Fulton St.
Farmington
(309) 245-4310
farmingtonmethodist61531@gmail.com
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington
Pastor Cindy Bean
83 N. Cone Street Farmington
(309) 245-2914
firstpresfarmington.com
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Live on Facebook also
Fellowship: 11:30 a.m.

New Hope Fellowship Assembly of God
Pastor Tom Wright
1102 N. Illinois Route 78
Farmington
(309) 231-8076
Sun. Worship: 10 a.m.
Wed. Worship: 7 p.m.

PRINCEVILLE
Princeville United Methodist Church
Pastor David Pyell
420 E. Woertz Princeville
(309) 385-4487
princevilleumc@mediacombb.net
Sun. Worship: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church
Father Corey Krengiel
119 Saint Mary St. Princeville
(309) 385-2578
Sat. Confession: 3-3:45 p.m.
Sat. Mass: 4 p.m.

Sun. Confession: 8-8:45 a.m.
Sun. Mass: 9 a.m.
Tues. Thurs. Sat. daily Mass: 8 a.m.

TRIVOLI
Brunswick Community Church
4027 S. Stone School Rd Trivoli
Pastor Terry England
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
(309) 403-4626

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 a.m.
Sun. Mass: 8 am (8:30 a.m. in the summer)

Williamsfield United Methodist Church
Pastor Zoila Marty
430 N. Chicago Ave.
Williamsfield
(309) 639-2389
Sun. School: during worship
Hospitality (coffee & finger foods): 10:30 a.m.
Sun. Worship: 11 a.m.

YATES CITY
Faith United Presbyterian Church
Reverend Marla B. Bauler
107 W. Bishop St. Yates City
(309) 358-1170
Worship: 9 a.m.
Sun. School: 10:15 a.m.
Thurs. Choir: 7 p.m.









# Elmwood boys seem to be peaking as postseason approaches

By **NICK VLAHOS**

For The Weekly Post

Like last season, Elmwood boys basketball might be peaking at the right time.

Elmwood went to 4-0 in the Prairieland Conference North Division by winning Feb. 9 at North Fulton, 46-32. That gave the Trojans (14-12) four victories in a row and put them in position to win the league title. The final game of their conference and regular seasons was Tuesday night at Peoria Heights.

Against North Fulton, Bo Windish had 15 points in a game that also counted in the ICAC, where Elmwood is 3-3. It represented the 200th victory for Elmwood Coach Josh Fugitt, who is in his 10th season.

On Feb. 7, Layne Durst had 18 points and Sirius Nims and Windish each scored 12 to lead Elmwood to a 50-43 Prairieland North/ICAC home-finale victory over Brimfield. The game vs. Elmwood's northern neighbor might have been Durst's best of the season, Fugitt suggested.

On offense, Durst had four 3-pointers and did all his scoring before the fourth quarter. On defense, the senior held Brimfield scoring leader Drew Kieser to his average, 17 points, but helped prevent him from heating.

"He's such a threat from deep ... but I thought Layne did a nice job on him throughout the game," Fugitt said. "(Durst) shot the ball well. He was aggressive.

He found other guys when he was double-teamed on drives. He's an easy kid to root for, to see a senior go out and play like that on Senior Night."

Elmwood is seeded sixth in its Class 1A Abingdon sub-sectional and was assigned to the Brimfield Regional. The Trojans open defense of their 2023 regional title at 6 p.m. Feb. 19 with a home game against No. 12 Low-point-Washburn.

Regional semifinals and the title game are Feb. 21 and 23, respectively, at Brimfield.

"It feels like last year did — where there were moments in January and early February where we didn't feel like a very good team, but the last three or four weeks of the season, we played our best," Fugitt said. "We need a little bit more progress here, but I like our chances coming up."

**Princeville** — The top seed in the same Abingdon sub-sectional as Elmwood is Princeville (24-5). Like Elmwood, Princeville will play in the Brimfield Regional. But with losses in three of four games, Princeville hit its first rough patch of the season.

Despite 21 points Feb. 10 from Tayshaun Kieser, Princeville lost 66-55 at Minonk Fieldcrest. Parker Melick had 12 points for the Princes, who trailed 26-20 at halftime.

The game against the top seed in a Class 2A Clifton sub-sectional was a late addition to the

Princeville schedule after a game last month against Roanoke-Benson was wiped out because of a winter storm.

One night earlier, Princeville defeated Annawan 64-46 in a Lincoln Trail game behind 25 points from Tucker Sennett, who had seven 3-pointers. Joey Bosch and Jake Williams each scored 10 in a game that left Princeville 8-1 in the league.

"We shot the ball really well, and our defense was really good," Princeville Coach Tait Sennett stated. "I'm not sure if Annawan was ready for our intensity."

A second consecutive Princeville loss at Class 2A Aledo Mercer County came Feb. 6, 58-57 in overtime. Princeville led by four late in OT, but Mercer County scored the rest to remain undefeated in nine LTC games. Williams' last-second shot bounced on the rim twice but didn't go in.

Kieser had 17 points to lead Princeville, and Zach Stalter scored 13. Mercer County also beat Princeville in the title game of the LTC tournament.

Princeville was to play Tuesday night at Wethersfield and tonight (Feb. 15) at home against Stark County to end the regular season. Regional play begins at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 at home against 15th-seeded R-B.

**Brimfield** — Connor Doe and Brady Johnson each had 14 points Feb. 9 as host Brimfield

defeated Peoria Heights 50-45. Heights led by a point at intermission, but Doe and Johnson each scored six in the third quarter to help give the Indians (12-14, 2-4 ICAC, 3-1 Prairieland North) the lead. Kieser had 12 points.

"Our defense was big when we needed it to be," Brimfield Coach Scott Carlson stated. "We rebounded well throughout, but especially in the fourth."

Kieser was the only Brimfield double-digit scorer against Elmwood. Johnson had nine points, Doe eight.

Brimfield was scheduled to play twice this week to end the regular season — Tuesday at Farmington and Wednesday at home against Peoria Christian.

The Indians are seeded ninth in their Abingdon sub-sectional and travel to No. 8 Varna Midland to begin regional play at 7 p.m. Monday.

**ROWVA-Williamsfield** — Illini Bluffs beat visiting ROWVA-Williamsfield 61-31 in an ICAC game Feb. 10. Riley Danner had 16 points to lead the Cougars (14-15, 3-4).

Danner had 24 points Feb. 9, including 17 in the second half to help R-W break free of West Central in a 71-54 victory. Lewis Sams scored 15. The victory made R-W 3-6 in the LTC.

Sams' free throw with 1.7 seconds left gave R-W a 68-67 victory Feb. 6 over Galva. Danner had 26 points.

R-W was to play Tuesday at United, then tonight at Ridgewood to end the regular season.

The Cougars are seeded seventh in their Abingdon sub-sectional and are host to a regional at Williamsfield. Postseason play begins at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 at home against 10th-seeded Ridgewood.

**Farmington** — Injury and illness hindered Farmington (13-13) in two losses last week.

The Farmers couldn't quite complete a comeback from a 12-point halftime deficit in a 60-59 home loss Feb. 9 to Peoria Christian. Keauntrey Barnes had 17 points to lead a six-player rotation for Farmington, which also had 14 points from Jack Grone-wold and 12 from Russell Poor.

On Feb. 6, Farmington couldn't overcome 33 points from Illini Bluffs senior Hank Alvey in a 62-37 defeat. Alvey scored 14 in the first period.

"Hank was a ton," Farmington Coach Marty Lozier stated. "He was just really good in and out."

Barnes scored 13 to lead Farmington, which lost sophomore Boston Smith because of a stress fracture. He might be able to play in the postseason, according to Lozier.

Farmington received the eighth seed in its Class 2A Canton sub-sectional. The Farmers host a regional they open at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 against ninth-seeded Canton.

Another home game, Tuesday night against Brimfield, was the last of the regular season.

## GIRLS: Elmwood falls in semis to Wethersfield

Continued from Page 20

got caught up in the moment and lost focus on what we need to do and that kind of hurt us a bit," Coach Gregg Meyers said.

Elmwood led 12-8 after one quarter, was down just 18-17 at halftime and was within 38-36 with 1:29 left before Wethersfield's Kennady Anderson went 4-for-4 on free throws to close out the win. Andrea Glenn led Elmwood with 12 points, Chloe Howerton scored nine on 3-pointers, Tinley Lemmerman tallied seven and senior Lauren Rushing scored six.

"I told the seniors, 'Do you realize, in the last three seasons you guys have had 75 wins?'" Meyers said. "You're averaging 25 wins a season. That's pretty awesome."

In the other Princeville quarterfinal, Abingdon-Avon (23-7) upset No. 1 seed and No. 8 ranked West Central, 57-37.

In its postseason opener on Saturday, Elmwood beat Stark County at home, 54-18. Glenn and Howerton had 15 points apiece.

Elmwood ended the regular season with a 47-32 win over Knoxville at home on Feb. 8.

**Princeville** — Despite 31 points and 15-for-19 shooting from the field by Brianna Brodie, the Lady



Brimfield senior Ava Heinz, center, topped 1,000 points for her basketball career on Feb. 6 in Havana. Holding signs for Heinz after the game are fellow seniors Ava Simpson (left) and CJ Troxell (right).

Princes (18-13) lost a regional quarterfinal game last Saturday at Abingdon, 62-49.

"We were right there with them at the end before they shot free throws," Coach John Gross said.

"I thought we had a chance to win a regional this year. But the (Lincoln Trail Conference) is really tough this year."

Sahara Streitmatter added seven points and Kinley McGinn tallied five for Princeville.

Freshman Kennedy Quinn led Abingdon-Avon with 20 points and Hailey Redding added 19.

Prior to the quarterfinal loss, Princeville had won two straight to end the regular season, topping Stark County 54-41 on Feb. 7 and Chillicothe IVC 50-35 on Feb. 8.

Brodie and Paisley Schock had 18 apiece against IVC and Streitmatter added 10.

Brodie scored 23, Schock had 13 and Streitmatter tallied nine in the win over Stark County.

**ROWVA-Williamsfield** — R-W (7-21) lost at Ridgewood last Saturday, 49-17, in the quarterfinals of the Annawan Regional.

That was the second loss

to Ridgewood in three days, as R-W also dropped a 55-45 decision at home on Feb. 7.

Lizzie Johnston led in scoring with 8.3 points per game but played only seven games due to a knee injury. Sophomore Riley Smith tallied 7 ppg.

"Our younger players, composed of six sophomores (five of whom started various games and played significant minutes this year), improved immensely over the course of the year," Coach Michael Weitekamp said.

**Farmington** — The Lady Farmers (4-27) fell at Kewanee last Saturday, 59-39, in the quarterfinals of the Class 2A Chillicothe IVC Regional.

Prior to that, Farmington lost a pair of tough games to close out the regular season: 57-11 on Feb. 7 at Illini Bluffs and 65-31 on Feb. 8 at Kewanee Wethersfield.

Madilyn Hanlin was top scorer on the season, averaging 9 ppg, just ahead of Mariah Hayden (8.7 ppg) and Abbie Ackers (8 ppg).

"We are only graduating two girls that were key contributors, with three starters coming back and several sophomores that contributed," Coach Brad Whitcomb said.

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# Weekly Post Sports

Thursday, February 15, 2024

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## DOUBLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Elmwood wins two pom titles

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

SPRINGFIELD – Preparation paid off for the Elmwood pom team Saturday at the Illinois Drill Team Association’s 45th state finals – with one exception.

After delivering a nearly flawless rendition of its Evil Queens routine in the Class A pom division, Coach Emily Roberts steered her team for what might come.

“I said to them, ‘You are the state champions, but be prepared to not win,’” Roberts recalled, since no Elmwood team had ever won in pom.

Instead, the Lady Trojans did claim that elusive state title and followed with a third straight state championship in open-pom competition.

“We’ve had some really phenomenal teams that have not gotten there (to a pom title),” Roberts said. “So it’s really ex-



Elmwood’s pom team won two titles Saturday at the IDTA State Finals in Springfield. Pictured are, Front row (left to right) – Allie Svymbersky, Abby Colgan, Madisyn Lambert, Kennedy Gillum and Lauren Feller. Back row (l to r) – Esther Shirven, Maci Marincic, Claire Colgan, Isabelle Davis, Kaylin Williams and Kaylee LaFollett.

citing they could do this.”

Elmwood’s nemesis in pom has traditionally been Quincy Notre Dame, which fields a much larger squad that Roberts said can help “hide a lot of flaws.” But QND was third due to a penalty, Roberts said, and Pittsfield placed second.

Roberts laments the loss of five seniors: Abby Colgan,

Kennedy Gillum, Lauren Feller, Madisyn Lambert and Allie Svymbersky. But moving forward, she hopes to recruit new members to join six returnees.

“This was a group of girls who worked really hard and I’m so proud of them,” Roberts said. “They were already incredibly athletic, but they took it to another level this year.”

### Brimfield in title game

Girls face regional rematch with Annawan

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

ANNAWAN – Survive and advance. That’s all that matters this time of year for girls basketball teams, as Josh McKown was quick to remind his Brimfield team Monday night.

After a first half that saw the Lady Indians shoot 2-for-20 from the floor and trail Monmouth United by 10 points in a Class 1A regional semifinal, Brimfield (20-11) rallied for a 38-36 victory.

“United threw in a couple 3s and banked one in, but we just stayed with it,” McKown said. “This sub-sectional is just ridiculous. Just so many solid teams. That’s no No. 8 seed we just played.”

Ava Heinz scored 14 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead Brimfield, which also got 10 points from Olivia Kappes and six points, 10 rebounds and three steals from CJ Troxell.

The win ended a four-game losing streak for the Lady Indians and earned the No. 3 seed a title-game rematch tonight, Feb. 15, with Annawan, a No. 2 seed that is also ranked No. 3 in the state. Annawan topped Brimfield last year in the re-

gional final, 51-39, and won this season on Dec. 2, 60-41.

“The pressure is off us,” McKown said. “They are the third-ranked team in the state, they are on their home floor. I told the girls, ‘You’ve got nothing to lose. Just go out and give it your all.’”

In its Feb. 6 regular-season finale, Brimfield lost at Havana, 43-41. That was one of four road losses vs. teams with 19 or more wins to close the season.

Ava Simpson had 10 points and 11 rebounds and Heinz grabbed 10 rebounds and scored nine points to surpass 1,000 points for her career.

Elmwood – The Lady Trojans (22-8) battled to the end Monday vs. Kewanee Wethersfield but came up short in a 42-36 semifinal loss at the Class 1A Princeville Regional.

With three of its top seven players on the bench in street clothes, Elmwood fielded a much different lineup than the one that had beaten Wethersfield (26-4) 50-30 on Nov. 25.

“They kind of hurt us on the boards. That’s a good team. They’re athletic, they’re strong, they’re quick and we kind of

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