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Thursday  
March 21, 2024  
Vol. 12 No. 7

# The Weekly Post

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### FELINE FACT FINDING

## Cat conundrum

Peoria County seeks your views on how to handle feral, stray cats

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

Most feral and stray cats live tough, short lives. Disease and cars claim many.

But even cats taken into shelters face a tough future. In fact, Peoria County Animal Protection Services euthanizes about 60% of the 2,500 cats it takes in each year.

In an effort to better address the community's overpopulation of stray and feral cats, PCAPS is asking Peoria County residents to respond to a survey found online at <https://bit.ly/peoria-tnvr>.

"This survey is part of an ongoing effort by PCAPS to find ways to lower the number of cats

being euthanized each year," said Becky Spencer, PCAPS Director. "We want to know what our residents think about trap, neuter, vaccinate and return as another option for our urban communities."

PCAPS offers low-cost spay and neuter programs, which target cats that are already in the care of an owner. What could be expanded is the practice of trap, neuter, vaccinate and return. This can be used to better target stray and feral cats – whose population continues to grow nationally and locally.

While that is allowed in unincorporated Peoria



In addition to battling various diseases, stray and feral cats take a real toll on wild animals and birds.

County, ordinances in many Peoria County cities and municipalities do not allow for trap, neuter, vaccinate and return programs.

"Depending on what

the feedback turns out to be, we're hoping to take that and make some changes based on what people are looking for," Spencer said.

## Disputed claims

Postal carrier, city administrator spar

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

FARMINGTON – A fairly mundane meeting of the Farmington City Council ended with sparks flying Monday night.

Speaking during public comment at the end of the meeting, Farmington postal carrier Denise Siadek talked about an incident last week with Farmington City Administrator Bettina Bohanan.

"She asked for my removal as the city's postal carrier," Siadek said. "The city administrator doesn't want me helping the residents. She acted unprofessionally."

Siadek, who is also village clerk in Hanna City, said she was advocating for elderly residents in dealing with ongoing problems with garbage pickup by Waste Management.

"We are taking care of

### Election

Due to changes in print deadlines, we will not have results from Tuesday's primary until our March 28 edition.

this internally and it's a personnel matter we can't discuss," Farmington Mayor Kenn Stufflebeam said.

Bohanan did not comment during the meeting, but later disputed Siadek's claims, saying, "I in no way asked that anyone be removed from their job."

Bohanan said Siadek was leaving notes on garbage cans of residents and said she called Farmington Postmaster Monica McCoy asking for that to stop.

"It is not the position of the USPS to put notes on garbage cans," Bohanan said.

Continued on Page 8

## Elmwood zoning board votes against solar plan

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

ELMWOOD – Too large and too little information.

Those were two main reasons the Elmwood Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously on March 13 against a variance that would have cleared the way for Elmwood CUSD 322 to move forward with a solar array on its property.

Concerns were also expressed about fire safety

and training, a decommissioning plan for the array and impacts on neighboring homes.

The school district had been working with Clean Energy Design Group of Metamora on plans for a 46,862-square-foot solar array proposed to be located northeast of the football field and just south of Elmwood Township Cemetery.

Zoning-board members

heard objections to the plan from one resident and from Elmwood Township that focused on the size and location of the array. Board members also voiced concern about a lack of details about the plan.

"It just doesn't seem like we have a lot of information," ZBA Member Ron Cox said.

"There's a lot of info left off that we're used to seeing," ZBA Chairman Val

Ramirez said. Ramirez said the board typically receives detailed site plans that show dimensions, setbacks from other property lines and access lanes.

Those details were not provided, according to Elmwood's Zoning Administrator Amy Davis, whose recommendation to the ZBA was to not pass the variance.

"A lot of the design is  
Continued on Page 2

**The Central Illinois Farmer**

**Cold winter nights just part of being a cattleman**

By JEFF LAMPE

Up until 12 years ago, February through March meant lonely, cold nights for Lester "Lee" Potts. Almost every night during those months, he'd sleep in his cow shed in his pickup, waiting for cows to deliver their calves.

If something went wrong, he was there. If a calf was born, he was still there. Potts spent so many nights in his truck that he finally decided to get an electric heater so he wouldn't have to run the vehicle to keep warm.

Such is the life of a dedicated cattleman like Potts, 66, who has spent his life raising registered Angus cattle in Kane County's Elba Township. Lee partners in the family cow-calf operation with his younger brother Bob Potts, 70, and his son-in-law, Steve Potts, 62.

And though they raise and business in Elmwood or raising families, Potts' life is a daily grind. "I've never known when a sleep was going to kick the bucket," Potts said. "After graduating from Williamsfield High School, Lee went to Western Illinois University for four years and got straight A's that set the bar. The cattle called him back."

That left Lester, 66, to run the farm with his uncle, until Frank died in 2013.

"When it got to be spring, he

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Coming Soon (movies subject to change)  
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April 12<sup>th</sup> - Civil War R

**Upcoming Events**  
March 29<sup>th</sup> - Free Matinee 2:30pm (PG)  
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs  
March 30<sup>th</sup> - Elmwood Kiwanis Free Easter Movie (PG)  
The Secret Life of Pets 1pm

FREE POPCORN WEDNESDAY 7PM ONLY  
Bring Your Own Bowl  
Admission Ticket Required (3 Scoops - No Refills)

# ZONING: School could reapply, appeal ZBA decision

Continued from Page 1  
CEDG's responsibility to provide," School Board Member Dustin Funk said.

More detailed information was provided by Gwen Polich and Cameron Judge-Becker, who

live just east of the proposed solar field at 201 W. Ash St. and spoke against the project

"We object to it," said Polich, who distributed a detailed handout on her objections. "Not to the

school having solar, but to the size and location."

Polich noted that the zoning variance asked the city to approve a solar array that would be "an increase of approximately 3,480% from the limit" for an accessory structure in an R-2 Medium Density Residential District.

"We want a compromise that lets the school have solar but is respectful of anyone else in town," Polich said.

Polich said she and her husband moved into their house two years ago but would not have purchased

the home if a solar array was located next door.

Also speaking against the plan was Connie Davis, Elmwood Township supervisor. She said the township board and Elmwood Township Cemetery Board opposed the plan because of its proximity to trees on the south end of the Elmwood Township Cemetery.

"Our concern is that's going to be right on top of those trees and they are going to have to come down," Connie Davis said.

CEDG had changed an original proposal for the array, moving the proposed field north of an area that was subject to seasonal flooding. Funk said the plan also called for trees to be planted from the northeast corner of the array to its southern end.

Funk said a roof-mounted solar array is not feasible due to thousands of roof penetrations that would be required.

After the vote, which came at the first ZBA meeting since Dec. 8, 2020, Amy Davis noted that the school district could reapply for another project and could appeal the March 13 decision.

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### This Week's Hot Picks

- **Easter Egg Hunts** – Brimfield E-Free Church, 11724 N. Maher Rd., has an Easter egg hunt Saturday, March 23, from 9-11 a.m.
- Farmington's Women of the Moose have an Easter egg hunt Saturday, March 23, at 10 a.m.
- K-9 Koala's all-ages Easter egg hunt is March 30 at 10 a.m. at Jacobs Park in Farmington.
- Elmwood Kiwanis has an Easter egg hunt and free movie March 30. A free showing of "The Secret Life of Pets" is at 1 p.m. at The Palace Theatre. Free small popcorn or soda. The egg hunt is at 3 p.m. at Central Park.

## The Weekly Post Seven-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly Sunny	Showers	Partly Sunny	Showers	Showers	Showers	Partly Sunny
<b>48</b> 34	<b>53</b> 27	<b>47</b> 29	<b>54</b> 40	<b>57</b> 37	<b>44</b> 27	<b>46</b> 27
ESE 9 mph	SSW 12 mph	NE 12 mph	ESE 18 mph	SE 16 mph	WSW 18 mph	WNW 12 mph

### This Week's Events

- **Harvest Home** – Harvest Home fundraiser dinner today, March 21, at Yates City Community Center, 4:30-7 p.m. Open-face roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, Texas toast, dessert and drink. Dine in or carry-out. \$13.
- **Spring Suite** – Elmwood High School fine-arts students present music, art and theater today, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. \$4 adults, \$2 students, free for ages 62 and over.
- **Fish Fry** – Brimfield Area Men's Club has a fish fry Friday, March 22, from 5-7 p.m. at Brimfield American Legion. \$13 for shrimp, \$15 for catfish, \$4 for hot dog.
- **School Musical** – Kickapoo St. Mary's School students will perform Disney's "Beauty and the Beast Jr." Friday, March 22, at noon and 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 23, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and sold at the door.
- **Pancake Breakfast** – The Brimfield Fire Department has a pancake and sausage breakfast on Sunday, March 24, from 7-11 a.m. at its Kickapoo station. Adults \$8, children age 2-8 \$5.

- **Ladies' Night** – Make patchwork pillows at Elmwood's Morrison & Mary Wiley Library, starting at 6:30 p.m. Materials available or bring your own.
- **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.
- **Yoga** – Yoga classes Thursdays, 6 p.m. in Brimfield Library Activity Room. \$4. Classes also on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Princeville's Lillie M. Evans Library.

### Future Events

- **Bingo** – Salem Township Library in Yates City has bingo on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2 p.m., including March 28.
- **Fish Fry** – A fish fry (pollock served) will be held Friday, March 29, at the Kickapoo Sportsman's Club, 4:30-7 p.m. Hot dog meals offered. Carry-out available.
- **Blood Drive** – A Red Cross blood drive will be held March 30 from 7-11 a.m. in the parish hall at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Kickapoo. For ap-

**NEW LIST 513 W ASH, ELMWOOD - FANTASTIC 2BD, 1.5BA ranch, part. fin. basement, huge yard, main level living room & family room, currently on main level, one car attached garage, enclosed back porch/sunroom leading to back yard. Home/property sold AS IS. **\$134,000****

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**All graduates of Elmwood H.S. are invited to attend the Alumni Banquet on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> Elmwood G.S. multi-purpose room Dinner will be served at 6pm**

**Ticket price is \$25 per person and will be sold March 1<sup>st</sup> - March 28<sup>th</sup>**

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# The Weekly Post

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**Quotable** - "All problems become smaller if you don't dodge them, but confront them. Touch a thistle timidly, and it pricks you; grasp it boldly, and its spines crumble."

- William Halsey

Illinois Press Association Member

## GUEST VOICES



## Of breakfast goodbyes, thistles & preparation

Rambling through central Illinois, impressed with the patience oak trees show before unveiling their tender buds.

Eating options in Elmwood will take a hit this spring, as **Cory Jones** announced he will be closing his Uptown Cafe at the end of April. Jones said in a Facebook post that he and his crew will be joining forces with Rookies in Brimfield. Oh no, where will **Scott Doubet** eat now? ... Has there ever been a presidential primary with less buzz? Many of us at work forgot the primary was happening Tuesday, while others noted it seemed fairly pointless given that there are so few contested races and



Jeff LAMPE

the presidential race is basically decided. Very sad. ... Good luck to former Elmwood-Brimfield quarterback **Nick McCormick**, who is taking over as coach of the Canton football program. He's going to need luck at Canton, which went 1-8 last year and hasn't scared many foes since Ryan Pearson went to Princeton.

Much has been made in recent years about whether trees can communicate. I think they can. One plant I am certain has higher intelligence is the thistle. Those damn things can read my mind. They know if there's a preferred plant out in the prairie. Once they figure that out, they grow right alongside the most-favored plant. This creates a dilemma while wielding weed killer. To spray or not to spray? Too often last weekend I had to bid farewell to promising young native flowers while shellacking nearby thistles. This is one more example of why

we tell our kids that life is hard. ... Parting shot: Last week's meeting of the Elmwood Zoning Board of Appeals proved the power of preparation and the accuracy of Ben Franklin's famed quote, "By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail." Homeowners **Cameron Judge-Becker** and **Gwen Polich** distributed a detailed handout on why Elmwood CUSD 322 should not get a zoning variance for a large array of solar panels on school property. Meanwhile, the company picked to install the solar array - Clean Energy Design Group of Metamora - gave little indication that it cared whether the project goes forward. CEDG evidently did not want to spend money to engineer the project until it was approved. Absent that information, the zoning board wisely voted down the variance. Contact Jeff Lampe at (309) 231-6040 or jeff@wklypost.com

*Annual Women of the Moose Mother & Daughter Banquet*

**Saturday, April 7th - 1pm**  
Farmington Moose Lodge

**Reservations**  
Call Karen by March 30th  
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**Celebration of Life**  
**Robbie (Roberto) Marquardt**  
**Saturday, March 30th 5pm-?**



Please join as we celebrate the life of a dear friend, co-worker, and a flamboyant person. Anyone familiar with Robbie knows he was a key part of the everyday operations at the Corner Inn. He truly loved being with his friends and listening to music. He had a huge passion for showing horses with best friend, Marilyn. We would love to honor him by having everyone join us at the Corner Inn. We will have food, karaoke, and drink specials that were his favorite. If you would like to bring a side dish, pictures, or anything of good memories you are more than welcome. We would also like to start a scholarship fund to keep his memory going for kids that also enjoy and have passion for showing horses. Karaoke will be from 7 - 10 pm.

**000 Knox Rd 100 E, Rio IL 61472 PENDING**  
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3 bed 2 bath house located on just under 20 acres. Plenty of room for adding additional bedrooms on main level and in walkout basement. A 36x30 shed and barn is also great for storage. Great hunting and trail systems throughout this property. Multiple pictures of Boone and Crocket whitetails frequently visit this property and adding a food plot would be a great addition! **\$425,000**

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**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**  
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Movie gets out at 2:30pm

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**3PM EASTER EGG HUNT**

\*Easter Bunny will be in the gazebo for pictures after the egg hunt\*

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**GUEST VOICES**

**Petitions circulating in Williamsfield about solar**

To The Editor:

Our Williamsfield Village Board is still looking to put a 20-acre solar-array in our Doubet Benjamin Park.

Years ago, a previous village board sold some parkland in violation of the donor's restricted gift. The next year, the Williamsfield Village Board gave away some parkland. Giving away parkland also was a violation of the conditions of her gift.

Now the attorney for the current board has told the president that more than seven years have passed and, since no one objected, the board can do anything it wants with Doubet-Benjamin Park land.

Verla Scheeler died in 1988. How can she object? Her family relatives of that generation are also dead. But Williamsfield accepted her gift with conditions and now fails to live up to them.

I explained at the March 4 board meeting, which was packed with several people standing and many more people who could not get in, that the Illinois Association of Park Districts says they have no parks in Illinois with large-scalar arrays. A park ranger at Jubilee College State Park told me that no state parks in Illinois have large-scale solar arrays.

Volunteers are going door to door in Williamsfield asking people to



sign a petition to the board opposing a 20-acre large-scale solar array.

The ends does not justify the means.

Please sign the petition telling the Williamsfield Village Board to walk away from the 20-acre solar array proposed for the Doubet-Benjamin Park.

– Rick Smith, Williamsfield

**Please don't hear what I am not saying**

To The Editor:

Recently, my wife and I had the privilege of attending Bible classes while in Mississippi. The leader, Randy Sims, often said, "Don't hear what I am not saying."

A few weeks ago I submitted a letter to The Weekly Post and a reader, Amanda Morse, must have heard what I was not saying.

In one sentence I used the word "often" in which I stated that our culture "often" includes one-parent or

no-parent homes, or homes where basic training is missing. I did not say our culture "always" includes these situations and I did not say that those raised in a single-parent home cannot receive excellent basic training, including religious instruction.

Anyone who is interested in a perfect example of this situation should read the book "Created Equal" by Dr. Ben Carson. Carson and his brother were raised by their single mother who had less than a third-grade education. Because of their mother and her values, Carson and his brother received excellent educations, including religious instruction.

Another thing that I did not say was that because of my upbringing, I am perfect or that everyone should be like me. I know better! I simply was stating my opinion. I respect the opinions of others and hope others respect mine as well.

Am I capable of empathizing with others? I believe anyone who knows me can vouch for me.

– Gene Vaughan, Elmwood

Email letters to [jeff@wklypost.com](mailto:jeff@wklypost.com)

or mail to: The Weekly Post,

PO Box 745, Elmwood, IL 61529.

We reserve the right to edit letters.

**Uncle Gale silently bore the pain of being a POW**

At the end of my last column about Trenton Corners and a cemetery on a hill, I introduced my Uncle Gale Brooks who at age 18 entered World War II and served as a gunner on a bomber over Nazi-occupied Europe.

It was an appropriate assignment. Uncle Gale had followed in the footsteps of his father, my grandpa Cleve Brooks, who was a hunter and trapper. So I imagine Gale's marksmanship was top-notch.



Randy **SOLLENBERGER**

Unfortunately for him and his crewmates, their plane was shot down over enemy territory early in the war and he spent the remainder of the conflict in a POW camp. Uncle Gale and his compatriots bore the hurts of those years internally and in silence. That the hurts re-

mained, and festered, is evidenced by one stark scene.

At one point, a few years before his passing, without a word, Uncle Gale gathered all evidence he had retained of that horrible time, placed it in a pile in his yard and lit a match to it. As if the flames would consume the demons that had tormented him for so many years.

I'm not sure that effort was successful.

Uncle Gale had, much earlier in life, suffered physical wounds at the hands of his well-meaning sisters. When he was just a toddler, my mom and her siblings decided that it would be a good thing for the little tyke to be furnished a sort of carriage ride around the neighborhood.

So they bundled the little guy into a wagon, to which they hitched a goat, in the hopes of providing a pleasant, healthful tour in the summer sun.

The goat, however, unaccustomed to service as a draft animal, was

spooked and bolted, heading pell-mell for the briar patch. You can visualize the consequences for Uncle Gale.

Grandma, responding to the painful wailing of her precious baby boy, come a-runnin' in full, redhead Viking mode, all the while emitting a continuous stream of most-un-Christian epithets directed at the perpetrators of the heinous act.

And you can be sure that retribution fell, swiftly and in full measure, upon the perpetrators.

One more word about Grandma: I mentioned earlier that she had to part ways in her 70s with third husband and serial womanizer Grandpa Daniel. As you can imagine, you didn't trifle with Grandma's affections.

I would have given anything to witness that breakup scene: cutlery, dishware, frying pans just-a'-flyin', I'd wager.

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

*Great time to list your home, inventory is low, give me a call!*

**PENDING**

4827 N Idlewood Court, Peoria  
6619 N. Dog Town Ln., Elmwood

**LOTS AVAILABLE IN**

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**REDUCED on 3 ACRES!!** 33176 N. Coal Hollow Rd., Fairview is a 3 BR, 2 Bath 2 story home secluded on 3 scenic acres and a large 2 car det. garage with an upstairs loft.

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**ELMWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE**

For next year's parents and students

**Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Time slots available:**

**5:30-6:00 pm**

**6:15-6:45 pm**

**7:00-7:30 pm**

**Elmwood Elementary School Gym**

**Children must be five years of age on or before September 1, 2024 in order to register for class.**

We are asking parents to bring the following:

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

**Online registration will be available this April. More information will soon be available.**

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

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

Please visit our school website, [Elmwood322.com](http://Elmwood322.com), to sign up for a time slot for your family's visit. Please sign up by Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

CAUTION

## What You Need to Know - CO2 Updates!

**Public Program:**

- Carbon Capture & Sequestration
- How CO2 Levels Affect You
- CO2 Legislation in Springfield

**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.**  
**at the Smithville Bible Church,**  
**12925 West Smithville Rd.,**  
**Hanna City, IL 61536**

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see us on Facebook/Meta

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By CO<sub>2</sub> Surveyors

AUCTIONS & REAL ESTATE SALES

To help settle some small estates a live public auction will be held at 7642 Grain Bin Road Toulon. Live Public Auction Saturday, March 23 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Items to be sold include: Case 3650 round baler w/ monitor, nice kicker bale wagon on good gear, Hesston 1120 mower conditioner, several hayracks of tools, 4 bottom trip plow, wire milk crates, Reelcraft retractable air hose reel w/ 1/2" hose, Delta belt/disc sander, pneumatic air guns, vehicle snowmobile dollies, Craftsman circular saws, electric foot controls, overhead extension ladder boat lift kit, Tool Shop cordless drill set, drywall lift, roto tiller, lawn mower lift, oak cupboard, lawn chairs, super single maple bed, small anvils, desk chairs, platform scale, wicker baskets, end tables, dressers, recliner, 2 man saw, railroad jack, Hiawatha ladies bike, copper boilers, 3 drawer commode, 400lb butcher block, old toys, glassware, Schwinn men's bike, cast iron pcs, old globe lamps, rocking chair, flat top trunks, Dazey butter churn, parlor table, pressed glass, Boyd's Bears, much more. For pictures and updates please go to auctionzip.com or my facebook page. Newton, Renken and others owners We accept cash, check, or credit card with a 3% convenience fee. We have clean restrooms and a great lunch stand. We will run 2 rings so bring a friend. ORWIG AUCTION & APPRAISAL Joe Orwig, Auctioneer (309)361-0397 7642 Grain Bin Road Toulon, IL 61483

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS BANKUNITED N.A. Plaintiff, -v.- QUINN P. CANTY, VERONICA J. CANTY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 2023 FC 0000169 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 11, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on April 1, 2024, 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 430 SOUTH HILLSDALE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL 61604 Property Index No. 17-12-378-0003 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$80,170.62. 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 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 county venues 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 to file number CR123065. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. Travis P. Barry KELLEY, KRONENBERG, P.A. 20 N CLARK STREET SUITE 1150 Chicago IL, 60602 312-216-8828 E-Mail: tbarry@kellykronenberg.com Attorney File No. CR123065 Attorney ARDC No. 6305429 Case Number: 2023 FC 0000169 TJSC#: 44-383 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2023 FC 0000169 I3239384 Published 3/7, 3/14, 3/21/24

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY PEORIA, ILLINOIS Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. PLAINTIFF Vs. Sergio Medina; et. al. DEFENDANTS No. 2023-FC-0000171 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 01/17/2024, the Sheriff of Peoria County, Illinois will on April 24, 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 18-03-102-004 Improved with Residential COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1802 N Wisconsin Ave Peoria, IL 61603 Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the

ESTATE "TAG" SALE Larry & Beverly Verardo Estate FRIDAY MARCH 22 SATURDAY MARCH 23 9 AM - 3 PM 7620 S TRIVOLI ROAD GLASFORD 3.2 MILES South of PENN RIDGE CEMETARY ON SMITHVILLE RD. ANTIQUE & MODERN FURNITURE: Oak Bakers Cabinet, Antique Oak Gun Cabinet, 2 Library Tables, Oak Rocker w/footstool, 4 Oak Tables, Hi Oak Table 4 Stools, Drop Leaf Table, Chairs, Queen Oak Poster Bed Dresser Chest Night Stand, Antique Full Size Poster Bed, Wicker Day Bed matching Chest of Drawers, 6 White Wicker Pieces: Settee, Rocker, Side Chair, Side Tables, Childs Rocker, 2 Oak Stick hall trees, Lazy Boy Rocker Recliner, Matching Recliner, Pleather Sofa, Colonial Floral Sofa, 2 matching blue side chairs, Coffee Table, Oak TV Video Cabinet, Sewing machines, Modern & Antique Framed Pictures Gun Cabinet, Wood Kitchen Cabinet, Various Wood Chairs, Desk, Camel back trunk, Side by Side Refrigerator/Freezer. Vintage/Collectibles/Glassware: NOBLE Accordion in case like new, Wood Folding Washtub Stand 2 Large Butchering Kettles w/stands, Crocks, Blue stoneware bowl, Nest of Pyrex Bowls, Cast iron toys, JD metal wagons, Footlocker w/GI Joe Figures, Old Fishing Lures, 2 Butter Molds, Hiram Walker Labels, Comic Books, Spoon River Drive Buttons, Adv trays, Vintage Kitchen Utensils, Quilts, Comforters, Dollies, Linens, 2 Trunks, 2 Combo Safes, Blue Sailboat pitcher, 70's Carnival, Ruby & Clear Glass, several Figurines, Lamps, Quilts & Comforters, 2 Outdoor Fountains, general household items, Lamps, Decorations, boxes of clear and blue Canning jars, Coolers, Shelving. TOOLS: Craftsman 6hp Trimmer Mower, Craftsman 7hp Power Washer, JD 1032 Snow thrower, Shaver 3pt PTO 2 Augers, 4' Snow Blade, 500# Electric Winch, Remington Pole Saw, Several hand Power Tools, Power Tools, Cement Tools Power Saws Hitachi, Milwaukee Hand Tools, Long Handle Tools, Hitachi Cut off saw, 5 Chain Saws, Husqvarna gas trimmer, Homelite, Remington Poulan, ZeeDee Diamond Plate Truck Box, Bosch Power Sander & Tool Box, Scaffold, Ball Hitch, RL-25 Rotating Laser, Pro Tile Cutter, Portable Welder, Shop Lights, roll wire, camping stove, heaters, 2 combo safes, house garage and shed full. Terms: Cash Local Check Credit card w/5% fee all items sold as is bring your loading helpers. Marcy Goldring Edenburn Agent for Sellers WEBSITE: www.marcyauction.com GOLDRING EDENBURN Marcy Goldring-Edenburn, Auctioneer Lic. #440.000428 309-251-4528 AUCTIONS - REAL ESTATE - APPRAISALS

Farm Consignment Auction March 30, 2024 @ 9:00 A.M. Tractors, Industrial, Tillage, Planters & Drills, Equipment, Vehicles & Trailers, Mowers Auction Location: 7526 Old State Rt 121- Hopedale, IL 61747 For Auction List, Terms, & Pictures: go to skauctions.net, auctionzip.com and use ID #51582, or gotoauction.com and use ID# 10344 ON LINE BIDDING WITH equipmentfacts.com Auction Conducted by S & K Auctions LLC Auctioneers: Cal Kaufman 309-696-9019 Brent Schmidgall 309-202-8378

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 Mortgagor, 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 14-23-04587. I3239644 Published 3/14, 3/21, 3/28/24

LARGE COLLECTIBLE COIN AUCTION This large selection of highly collectible coins will be sold at the Knoxville American Legion located at 749 Henderson Rd. Knoxville, IL 61448 (off of Interstate 74 right next to Love's), on SUNDAY MARCH 24TH, 2024 AT 12 NOON (Doors open at 10 a.m.) NOTE: This is a brief description of the hundreds of coin lots being offered on auction day. The full catalogs are online at www.folgersauctionservice.com. This Morgan and Peace dollar collection is a must see, as well as the rest of this very nice pristine coin auction. DESCRIPTION: There is something for every coin collector at this auction, including nearly completed set of Morgan and Peace dollars in uncirculated condition. There are several American Eagle uncirculated coins—an Octagon Liberty gold coin—Troy oz. coins—one pound silver coin—proof and mint sets—silver commemorative coins—gaming coins—V and Barber nickels—Mercury dimes—Flying Eagle Indian heads—steel and wheat pennies—Kennedy silver coins, uncirculated cond.—sm. amount of panned Black Hills gold—Ig. variety of lots. See catalog for full details. FOLGER'S AUCTION SERVICE, INC. (JIM AND CATHIE GIBBS) WILLIAMSFIELD, IL Ph. 309-337-2150 and 309-368-6314 Email: folgersauctionservice@gmail.com Terms are cash, check or credit card. All sales are final and due on auction day.

To help settle my brother's estate a live public auction of real estate and personal property will be held at 19317 North Monica Princeville IL 61559 Real Estate and Personal Property Auction Sunday, April 7th 2024 at 12:00 noon Real Estate Open House: Sunday March 24 at 5 p.m. Real Estate: Offering a 2 story frame home on a double lot in Monica. Home has vinyl siding newer replacement windows, good roof, breaker box, 2 outbuildings, septic field and 1260 square foot of living space. The home has 2 bedrooms, upstairs laundry, eat in kitchen, and large rooms. This home is in need of some attention and would make a great investment property or would be suitable for the first time buyer. If you can't make the open house please contact the auction company for a showing at your convenience. Terms: This home will sell in as is condition with no warranties or guarantees of any kind. A \$2,500 non refundable earnest money deposit will be due at the conclusion of the auction with the balance being due on or around May 7, 2024. Taxes will be pro rated to the date of closing and possession will be given at that time. This home will sell subject to seller approval and all buyers will be expected to do their own due diligence before bidding on this property. Personal Property to sell after the real estate includes: 2002 Ford F 350 Super Duty 4 door 4wd Triton V-10 with Brute tool boxes, flat bed, and recessed gooseneck hitch (truck has a transmission issue so will sell as is), long handle tools, car ramps, John Deere tractor umbrella, pop up tent, seed cleaner, air hose, gas cans, coolers, string trimmers, roto tiller, barn lanterns, Craftsman miter saw, tackle boxes, smokers, bikes, chain binders, tail gate seeder, John Deere mower deck, Wheel Horse C-175 lawn tractor, Case rear mount tiller, kitchen primitives, old toys, 12 gallon shop vac, figurines, glassware, 5 drawer dresser, library table, flat top trunk, cedar chest, old pictures, 4 drawer chest, vanity w/mirror, small kitchen appliances, LP records, board games, hall tree, other items too numerous to mention. For pictures and updates please go to auctionzip.com or my facebook page. We accept cash, check, or credit card with a 3% convenience fee. A lunch stand and restrooms will be provided. We will run just one ring as this isn't a huge auction, come dressed for the weather as everything will be outside. Estate of Robert Renken owner Keith Renken POA ORWIG AUCTION & APPRAISAL Joe Orwig, Auctioneer (309)361-0397 7642 Grain Bin Road Toulon, IL 61483

; S. LINN PERKINS, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR BRADY SLATER, DECEASED; ASHLEIGH SLATER; DANIEL SLATER; COREY SLATER; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants, 23 FC 127 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, April 24, 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. 18-05-469-024. Commonly known as 809 N. Garfield Ave, Peoria, IL 61606. 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. Vincent Chavarria, Esq. at Plaintiff's Attorney, Lender Legal PLLC, 1800 Pembroke Drive, Orlando, Florida 32810. (407) 730-4644. ILS11482-IL IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3240164 Published 3/21, 3/28, 4/4/24

## PUBLIC RECORD

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

### Police reports

• **FARMINGTON** – An East Peoria man was arrested for multiple drug and traffic offenses following a high-speed chase through Farmington. Jonathan C. Kohrig, 41, was driving a 2022 Lexus at about 100 mph about 11:15 p.m. March 5 as it approached the city northbound on Illinois Route 78, according to a Farmington Police Department report.

Officers pursued Kohrig's vehicle, which stopped in the 22100 block of Diamond Point Rd. west of Farmington. Inside the vehicle were numerous drug-related items, the report stated, including a methamphetamine-filled syringe, various pills, glass pipes and bags with white residue.

Farmington police accused Kohrig of four counts of possession of drug paraphernalia, two counts of meth possession and one count each of unlawful possession of less than 5 grams of meth, possession of a controlled substance, speeding between 26 and 35 mph over the posted limit, aggravated fleeing/eluding at least 21 mph over the posted limit, disobeying a stop sign, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and operating a vehicle with expired registration.

Kohrig was evaluated at Graham Hospital in Canton, then transported to the Fulton County Jail in Lewistown. He also was implicated in a domestic dispute in Canton, according to the report.

• **KICKAPOO** – A pregnant Elmwood female was taken to a Peoria hospital following a two-vehicle wreck east of Kickapoo.

Shortly after 11:15 a.m. March 9, Madisyn E. Reardon was driving a 2019 Dodge Journey west on U.S. Route 150 near Gilles Road when it rear-ended a 2017 Ford F-150 pickup truck, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated. Douglas N. Simmons of Washington was the other driver.

Reardon said the pickup truck slowed suddenly and she couldn't stop in time. Simmons said traffic slowed suddenly in front of his vehicle. Of his two male passengers, one complained about minor left-shoulder pain, but all three declined medical treatment. Simmons' vehicle was drivable.

An ambulance transported Reardon, who sustained a bruised right leg, to Carle Health Methodist Hospital. Neither of her two passengers required medical help. Reardon was

cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Reardon's vehicle sustained substantial front-end damage and was towed.

• **ELMORE** – A residential garage west of Elmore caught fire after its owner tried to vacuum something out of the gasoline tank of a vehicle parked there.

Williamsfield Fire Protection District responders were summoned about 2:45 a.m. March 8 to 2330 Knox Road 1660 North. There they found the wood-frame detached garage almost destroyed by flames, Fire Chief Jamie Klein said.

The homeowner had been using a shop vac on his pickup truck, according to Klein. The fire did not spread to the residence. The homeowner sustained minor burns to his hands but did not seek medical treatment.

Damage was estimated at \$24,000, according to Klein, who said the garage and vehicle were total losses. Elba-Salem and Victoria-Copley firefighters assisted.

• **TRIVOLI** – A three-vehicle chain-reaction accident in Trivoli resulted in two people requiring hospital treatment.

The accident happened shortly before 6:45 a.m. March 8 in the 18200 block of Illinois Route 116, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report.

Kaelee S. Courtright of Pekin was driving an eastbound 2014 Ford Fiesta that rear-ended a 2005 Nissan Murano driven by Hannah O. Farris of Peoria. That vehicle then rear-ended a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck Michael J. Ward of Canton was driving.

The Murano and Silverado apparently were stopped for a school bus. Courtright braked to avoid a collision, but her vehicle slid into the Murano, the report stated. She complained about head and chest pain. Farris complained about pain in her head, right ankle and tailbone.

Ambulances transported Courtright and Farris to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. Ward was uninjured and drove away. The other two vehicles were towed.

• **FARMINGTON** – A woman stopped for an apparent traffic violation in Farmington was wanted in Fulton County for drunken driving, according to authorities.

Grace E. Mayall, 22, of Canton was behind the wheel of a 2009 Ford Escape when a Farmington police officer pulled it over about 10:45 a.m. March 6 in the 600 block of E. Fort St. A 2023 expiration sticker was affixed to the vehicle's rear license plate, a

Farmington police report stated.

A check of Mayall's record revealed the outstanding DUI charge. After Mayall paid \$630 in bond and fees, she was released. She was to appear last week in Fulton County Circuit Court in Lewistown. Mayall also was cited for operating a vehicle with expired registration.

• **DAHINDA** – An out-of-control fire burned about 1½ acres of grass south of Dahinda. The fire was reported about 11:45 a.m. Feb. 21 in the 1900 block of Knox Road 1100 North. The landowner said he was burning grass in a ditch when the fire jumped elsewhere, according to a Knox County Sheriff's Office report.

Elba-Salem and Williamsfield firefighters extinguished the flames, but not before about 25 hay bales and 400 feet of fence were burned.

• **FARMINGTON** – Aundre J. Whiteside, 22, of Farmington was arrested shortly before 4 p.m. Feb. 28 in the 100 block of N. Oak St. on a Fulton County warrant for failure to appear in court. Whiteside is accused of reckless discharge of a firearm, according to a Farmington police report. After Whiteside paid \$780 in bond and fees, he was released. He was to appear last week in Fulton County Circuit Court in Lewistown.

• **ELMWOOD** – Brian E. Walker, 58, of Elmwood was arrested shortly before 10 a.m. March 14 and accused of driving under the influence of alcohol, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

• **PRINCEVILLE** – Machele M. Krause, 65, of Princeville was arrested about 3:45 p.m. March 13 and accused of theft control intent between \$500 and \$10,000, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

• **YATES CITY** – Chief Randy Benson reported the following Yates City Police Department activity for February: one arrest, one citation, two open doors, 13 reports, five warnings, five traffic stops and one notice to appear.

• **GALESBURG** – These were among calls to which the Knox County Sheriff's Office responded between March 3-9: disturbance, Oak Run; suspicious vehicle, Yates City; custody dispute, Yates City; two structure fires, Williamsfield; stray dog, Dahinda; burglar alarm, Williamsfield; suspicious incident, Williamsfield.

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## AUCTIONS & REAL ESTATE SALES

*Continued from Page 6*

Knosher, as special representative for Jeffrey Ribak, deceased Defendants.

Case No. 2023-FC-0000098  
3536-38 Northeast Monroe Street,  
Peoria, IL 61604

Judge Bruce P. Fehrenbacher

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on January 3, 2024, Chris Watkins will on April 24, 2024, at the hour of 1:00PM at the Peoria County Sheriff's Office, Peoria County Courthouse, 324 Main Street (Courtroom 203), Peoria, IL 61602, sell to the highest bidder for

cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Commonly known as 3536-38  
Northeast Monroe Street, Peoria, IL  
61604

Parcel Number(s): 14-35-134-003  
The real estate is improved with a  
Multi-Family Residence.

Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The subject property 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. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

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torney, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 22-018382.

Jenna M. Rogers  
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# Princeville closer to home-school vote

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

PRINCEVILLE – The Princeville School Board appears ready to vote next month on a proposal that would allow home-schooled students to participate in district extracurricular activities.

When it met March 12, the board deliberated another in a series of home-school plans. Unchanged from the previous plan was a requirement that high school students take at least five courses on campus, one course more than half-time attendance.

But the in-person requirement for junior-high students was modified, from three courses to one core course. Core courses include English, mathematics, science and social studies.

Junior-Senior High Assistant Principal Jake Lowery said the lesser requirement was designed to give home-schooled students an introduction to on-campus extracurriculars, including athletics.

“If it’s something they want to continue to pursue, they can make that decision once they get into high school,” Lowery said.

Said Board Member Grant DeBord: “I think it’s a creative way to get families in and see what Princeville has to offer.”

But as she did during a board meeting Feb. 13, home-school parent Beth Potter said a five-course high school stipulation might be onerous.

“It would be very difficult,” Potter said. “Everybody does things differ-

ently, but for our family in particular, it’s not uncommon for us to do school at 7 o’clock at night, because we’re working, but the kids are still learning. It just looks different.”

Still, some board members appeared to want a new home-school policy implemented, with modifications authorized as desired. Currently, home-schooled students cannot participate in district extracurriculars.

A decision appears likely April 9. That would culminate a process that began in earnest last September, when Potter raised the issue with the board.

“Since we’ve had so much help getting this information, I think it would be to our advantage to make a decision and get something put in the books that says, ‘This is how we’re going to do it.’ Until we amend it,” Board Secretary Sue Hefler said.

Regarding decisions made last week, the board approved creation of a high school agriculture course in veterinary science, beginning in the 2025-26 academic year. The course would include animal anatomy and physiology and veterinary-office practices, among other topics.

Junior-Senior High Principal Rich Thole suggested the new course might provide a head start for students who are pondering a veterinary career.

“Why not try to figure some of these things out here before you’re sitting down at U of I, where it’s

costing you \$48,000 a year to try to figure out what you want to do?” Thole said. “We’re hoping that this is one of those things that helps our kids make some of those career decisions early on.”

The board also authorized the 2024-25 school calendar. The first day of classes is to be Aug. 14 and the final day is to be May 23, depending on weather. Field trips for the physics and calculus classes (April 26 to St. Louis) and FFA (May 30-June 2 to the Wisconsin Dells) were approved, too.

Following closed session, the board approved hiring Jack Arnett as a junior-senior-high assistant track and field coach, Lindsay Brumley and Kamryn Rahn as daycare aides, Maggie Dwyer as high school freshman volleyball coach, Jessica Haste as a high school art teacher, Jeremy Melick as a high school assistant track coach, Kirsten Miller as a social-emotional counselor and Jacob Painter as a high school custodian. Miller is to be shared with Peoria Heights.

Superintendent Tony Shinall announced the retirement of grade-school teacher Carol Dismang at the end of this academic year. Shinall also announced the resignations of Destiny Edgington as junior-senior-high custodian, Melick as a junior-high assistant track coach, Donald Rich as a high school English teacher and Sue Williams as eighth-grade class sponsor.

# FARMINGTON: Yard-waste pickup did not start

Continued from Page 1

Bohanan said Siadek then came to the Farmington Municipal Building and an argument ensued. Afterward, Bohanan said she again called McCoy and asked for the city building to no longer be on Siadek’s postal route.

Prior to public comment, the council unanimously approved hiring another full-time public-works employee. Part of the motivation for hiring another worker is to help with projects in the Farmington Community Center and municipal building.

The council also voted to approve a bid by H&H Industries, Inc., to replace light bulbs in the gymnasium and community-center building for \$3,650 as part of an Ameren grant. According to Stufflebeam, payback

is expected in 34 months, after which the city is expected to save \$1,290.24 per year on its electric bill.

The council had a lengthy discussion on installing an electronic key-fob entry system for the community center and municipal building. Thompson Electronics Co. of Peoria submitted a bid of \$12,615 for the project – well below a previous bid that topped \$17,000.

But Council Member Jeni Crusen asked for another bid breaking out costs for the two buildings.

“We will bring it back next time and break down just the community center,” Stufflebeam said.

In other business, the council:

- Accepted the resignation of Police Officer Byron Glover, who was hired in December 2022.

- Approved \$47,726.41 that was spent on road repairs in 2022-23 out of the city’s Motor Fuel Tax fund.

- Heard Council Member Alex Gilles note that Waste Management did not start yard-waste pickup on March 9 as the disposal company had previously said it would.

- Approved Police Chief Chris Darsham as ethics advisor for the city, a requirement of Illinois’ SAFE-T Act.

- Approved a \$100 donation to the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police charity golf outing.

- Heard from Herb Stufflebeam that work is progressing on new gates for Oak Ridge Cemetery. A group of 18 Farmington students and instructor Kent Ulm fabricated the gates and are invited to the April 15 council meeting for recognition.

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# Farmington honors IESA wrestling champ

By **BOB GRIMSON**

For The Weekly Post

FARMINGTON – District 265's prowess in wrestling was noted at the School Board's March 11 meeting.

Among the athletes honored was seventh-grader Isaac Showalter, a repeat Class 1A state wrestling champion at 80 pounds and high school senior Keygan Jennings, who placed sixth in Class 1A at 132 pounds.

Showalter won four matches at IESA state in early March, with the finale a 9-2 decision against Uryah Wright of Morrison in the title match.

Showalter was Class 1A champion at 70 pounds in 2023.

Also called out for honors was the high school's Key Club. The group took 21 honors at a recent regional event, including Heaven-Leigh

Scalf, distinguished president; Alexis Miller, distinguished secretary; Kaitlyn Eichorn, distinguished editor; and distinguished members Ashlyn Slayton, senior; Amber Asbury, junior; Jayla Lekies, sophomore; and Amelia Webel, freshman. Herb Stufflebeam and Tim Ulm, representing Oak Creek Cemetery, told board members about recent improvements at the cemetery by 18 members of the high school's fabrication class.

In other action, the board:

- Approved a slightly revised 2024-25 student handbook.
- Learned an automated system for contacting substitute teachers is being rolled out, hopefully by the end of the school year. The Frontline Education system is used by several other area school districts. The move was prompted by the recent retirement of the district's longtime coordinator for substitutes.

- Recognized junior high students of the month: sixth-graders Audrey Kellogg and Lane Shelby; seventh-

graders Madelynn Vorgia and Conner Berry; and eighth-graders Lynea Ulm and Kolben Haroldson.

- Recognized high school students of the month Jason Kennelly, senior; Maylee Huffman, junior; Kirk Melton, sophomore; and Presley Evans, freshman.

- Recognized staff recipients of the Orange Frog, Brad Whitcomb and Stacy Conlee.

- Named Kaitlyn Murphy dean of students/family-engagement coordinator and Victoria Puff music teacher at the high school and Victoria Nimitz as junior-high guidance counselor for the 2024-25 school year.

- Accepted resignations from Kristina Tull at the high school and Mark Gleason and Pamela Langston in the transportation department.

- Learned about the planned retirements of Ann Goggil and Nicole Harrmann in the next fiscal year.



Showalter

# Yates City catching up on audits of village

By **MOLLY RICHESON**

For The Weekly Post

YATES CITY – The Yates City Village Board is catching up on audits after finding itself in hot water with the state.

Currently, the village is two years behind on audits and, because of the delay, the bill for auditing is going to be higher than usual.

Catching up on the 2022 and 2023 audits will cost approximately \$15,000 each. And since the village's previous auditing firm, Myers & Myers CPAs, Ltd., of Beardstown, did not factor in equipment depreciation in the audit performed in 2021, the village will have to pay another \$8,000 to correct that audit, according to Treasurer Joy Mahr.

Moving forward, audits will now

cost \$15,000 a year, since the village calculates profits and losses on an accrual basis, as the state prefers, and not a cash basis. Included in that cost going forward is a mandatory special audit on a new account required by a grant received by the village.

Jim Ralston, president of the Elba-Salem Park District, attended the meeting to request a donation from the village to help cover the costs of renovations at Harvest Home Park. Negotiations are in progress with BNSF Railway to purchase a piece of property to add to the park district, and an application for a land acquisition federal grant was submitted. Only \$3,750 was received from the grant, much less than anticipated.

The concession stand has been gutted and renovations costing a little

over \$18,000 are underway, making the park district concerned it may run low on cash.

"It's not just for the park district. The town will benefit just as much as we will," Ralston said. "We bring a lot of people to Yates City with baseball and other activities."

Village President Ken Vallas agreed that the park looks a lot better due to all of the work.

Village Attorney Jeff Gaster asked for time to review a potential donation due to the intricacies of one taxing body donating to another taxing body, and the discussion was tabled. The board is not opposed to allocating funds but wants to be sure it is done legally.

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**LME Library seeking families to join garden**

PRINCEVILLE – Last year, the Lillie M. Evans Library received a \$20,000 Libraries Transforming Communities Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant to start an accessible community garden.

Funds were used to add an accessible sidewalk into the west garden and to start a community vegetable garden.

This year the library is looking for community members (families, individuals, service groups) to plant and maintain a space in the library's garden. The garden includes six raised beds and two towers as well as 10 5-gallon containers and 20 3-gallon containers.

Participants can apply online at <http://bit.ly/GYO2024> or at the library. Commitments run from March to October.

In addition, to regular garden meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the first Thursdays of every month, LME Library has several upcoming garden programs.

• Today, March 21 – A presenter from University of Illinois Extension will discuss Seed Starting Made Simple at 10 a.m.

• April 22 – To celebrate Earth Day, the library is having a Make & Take Seed Tape Craft for all ages from 5-7 p.m.

• April 23 – Master Gardener Patricia Melaik will present a program at 10 a.m. on starting a herb garden and cooking and preserving culinary herbs.

Information on these and other events is online at [lmelibrary.org](http://lmelibrary.org) and through the library's social media. Or contact the LME Library at (309) 385-4540.

**Air National Guard career showcase April 9**

PEORIA – The 182nd Airlift Wing Recruiting team is scheduled to hold a career showcase for high school students at the Peoria Air National Guard base, 2416 S. Falcon Blvd., on April 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will showcase the Air National Guard and what it has to offer recruits, highlighting the different jobs and opportunities available to Illinois youth.

The career showcase is open to any high school students interested in



Members of the Brimfield Area Men's Club recently donated \$5,000 to B.Y.E. Ambulance service. The men's club is a volunteer, non-for-profit organization that meets the last Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Brimfield American Legion. The organization is open to anyone in the greater Brimfield area who is interested in helping their local community and the surrounding area. The group organizes Brimfield's Old Settlers festival, donates to youth baseball, FFA, local food pantries and other causes and provides a local scholarship. The men's club has its last fundraiser fish fry Friday, March 22, from 6-7 p.m. at the Brimfield American Legion.



Bank of Yates City President and CEO Wayne Wrage presents a check for \$2,500 to Peggy Gibson, president of B.Y.E. Ambulance Service.

learning about the local military service. There will be opportunities to meet members of the 182nd, experience what the day-to-day operations around the airlift wing are like, learn about college-tuition assistance programs, learn about the potential for new enlistment bonuses of up to \$50,000 for certain jobs fields and an interactive career fair in the hangar.

**Illinois hunters harvest 370 bobcats in 2023-24**

SPRINGFIELD – The 2023-24 Illinois bobcat season concluded Feb. 15 with 370 bobcats harvested by hunters and trappers.

A total of 214 (55%) of bobcats were taken by hunting, while trapping accounted for 156 (40%) of the harvest. Nineteen (5%) were salvaged by permit holders from circumstances such as roadkill.

Hunters and trappers in Jo Daviess County reported 19 bobcats – the most for any county this year.

Overall in Illinois, there were 7,000 bobcat lottery applicants in 2023 and 1,000 permits issued for the season.

The bobcat harvest from the 2022-2023 season was 367, with 16 salvaged.

**Et cetera**

• BRIMFIELD – Brimfield High School was named a silver-level winner of a food safety excellency award by the Peoria City/County Health Department at its March meeting. Silver-level winner can have no more than one Priority Foundation violation in a year.

• GALESBURG – The Galesburg Community Chorus welcomes the Anima Treble and Concert Choruses as well as the Lombard Middle School Choirs for a concert on April 12 at 7 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 364 E. Water St. Tickets are available at the door or online at [galesburgcommunitychorus.org](http://galesburgcommunitychorus.org).

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
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## Cold winter nights just part of being a cattleman

By **JEFF LAMPE**

For Central Illinois Farmer

Up until 12 years ago, February through March meant lonely, cold nights for Lester “Les” Potts Jr. Almost every night during those months, he slept by the cow shed in his pickup, waiting for cows to deliver their calves.

If something went wrong, he was there. If deliveries went well, he was still there. Potts spent so many nights in his truck that he finally rigged an electric heater so he wouldn’t have to run the vehicle to keep warm.

Such is the life of a diehard cattleman like Potts, 80, who has spent his life raising registered Angus cattle in Knox County’s Elba Township. Les partners in the family cow-calf operation with his younger brother Bob Potts, 79, an Elmwood attorney who feeds heifers and calves every morning at his farm near Dahinda before heading to the Whitney & Potts Ltd. office in Elmwood.

As for the name of their Lynnbrook Farms operation, credit for that goes to their late mother, Hazel, who suggested her boys combine their middle names, Lynn and Brooks.

“My middle name is first,” Bob says with a wry smile.

And though they once “fought like the devil as kids,” according to Les, both brothers say their farming partnership has gone smoothly.

It undoubtedly helps that both brothers love being around cattle.

“Seeing the baby calves on a green pasture with their mothers, running around on a hillside, is exhilarating,” Bob explains. “And there’s a sense of pride in producing good ones. It’s just a way of life.”

That’s been true for members of the Potts clan since 1858, when Henry and Julia Potts came to Knox County from Minnesota.



With young calves bellowing in the background, the Lynnbrook Farms crew (above) poses in Knox County. From left to right are David Lynn, Ethan Krans, Easton Beard, Lester “Les” Potts Jr. and his wife, Diane Potts. Other pictures on the page, clockwise from the top at right, show Lester “Pappy” Potts Sr.; Pappy feeding calves with his sons, Les and Bob; a young Bob showing a steer; a less-young Bob showing at a 4-H alumni event in 2022, and Pappy (left) at the reins with Skeet Blank (right).

Their home, now gone, was on a property where the Lynnbrook Farms herd roams.

After first renting land, Henry Potts purchased 58.7 acres in Section 5 of Elba Township for \$800 in 1859. He then bought another 80 acres in Section 8 of Elba Township in 1871 for \$800.

Two of Henry and Julia’s eight children, Walter and Frank, helped run the farm, while other siblings were involved in banking and business in Elmwood or raising families.

Unfortunately, Walter died in 1920 at age 53 from complications after falling off a horse-drawn cultivator. That left Lester Sr., 12, to run the farm with his uncle, until Frank died in 1933.

Once he was on his own, Lester Sr. (better known as “Pappy”) started a herd of Angus in 1935 after buying a few cows in Mercer County. The operation grew steadily, with the first Angus registered in 1938. But cattle were not the sole focus on the farm, which at one point also included 300 ewes.



“Sheep got to be more of a nuisance,” Les says. “Because you never knew when a sheep was going to kick the bucket.”

After graduating from Williamsfield High School, Les went to Western Illinois University for part of a year and got straight A’s. But not for long. The cattle called him back.

“When it got to be spring, he said ‘I’ve got to go home,’” wife Diane recalls.

Les has served as farm manager over the years since and has steadily added to his role, handling much of the vet work and breeding. Les implemented an artificial-insemination program in 1964. “We used to have to pay a guy, but I figured why do that if I



can breed them,” he says.

Bob is more proficient at showing cattle, noting that Lynnbrook Farms has had two reserve grand champion bulls at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. The farm has also produced hundreds of other ribbon-winning cows, calves and bulls – many



showed by Potts children or grandchildren, whose pictures with cattle fill walls.

The Lynnbrook Farms breeding program got a big boost with the 1960 purchase of a special bull named WWF 51.

“He changed the whole pic-  
*Continued on CIF 2*”

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# CATTLE: Top bull changed it all

Continued from CIF 1  
ture,” Les says.

In 1962, WWF 51 went on to become grand champion bull at the National Angus Show in Tulsa, Okla., and at the Eastern National Show in Maryland. The following year, he won his class as a 2-year old at the National Western Stock Show.

Bob says their new bull fit perfectly into the changing mold of what Angus judges and buyers wanted at that time.

“Before him we had shorter, dumpier cattle,” Les says.

“He was longer,” Bob adds.

And his bloodline was very desirable, which is one reason Lynnbrook Farms once had the second-largest breeding herd of Angus cattle in Illinois.

Today the brothers’ herd of 200 cows has been passed by several in terms of size. But Les estimates they sell 70 bulls per year, with happy customers hailing from at least 20 states – from California to New York and many places in between. Lynnbrook also sells locker beef, mostly to John Powers at Elmwood Locker.

At the farm, cattle graze on about 100 acres of fertilized pasture and are fed



Easton Beard moves a calf at Lynnbrook Farms while the mother cow keeps a close watch on the proceedings.

corn silage and round bales of alfalfa grass hay. Les has fed gluten out of ethanol plants and even spent grain from son Matt’s Destihl Restaurant & Brew Works in Normal, but says “There’s too much water in it.”

Les also praises hired hands who have helped over the years, saving special kudos for David Lynn, who has been with Lynnbrook Farms since 1979, and Ethan Krans, who is in his 14th year.

Lynn introduced cameras to the operation, streaming images to cellphones so workers know if a cow or calf is having problems. This also allows Les to enjoy his “semi-retirement” by sleeping at home, instead of in a chilly truck.

Les and Diane – who spent 38 years teaching in Yates City and handles bookkeeping for Lynnbrook Farms – have two sons. Bob and wife Gayla have one son and three daughters. While the children were involved with the cattle business, none has run the operation – instead finding success in business, farming and raising families.

“We stuck around too long,” Bob jokes.

Moving forward, Bob’s grandson Easton Beard is a sixth generation of the Potts clan to be actively involved.

“I’m a lifer,” Easton says.

“All he wants to do is mess with the cattle,” Les says, a desire he certainly understands.



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# Probiotics spreading to farm

By **NICK VLAHOS**

For Central Illinois Farmer

**DAHINDA** – Grant Strom’s family farm never will be confused with a golf course or a residential back yard.

But Strom believes an organic plant probiotic first developed for fairways and other green grass can help grow corn and soybeans more efficiently, too.

Strom uses and sells Holganix Bio 800-Plus. The product contains about 800 different species of soil microbes, fungi and bacteria. The agriculture product of Pennsylvania-based Holganix might sound like a science experiment gone awry, but according to Strom, those microscopic elements serve a big purpose.

“The point of it is to have a more balanced soil,” Strom said. “When you have good biological activity, you’re able to utilize more nutrients in the soil and reduce the amount of synthetic fertilizer you have to apply.”

An Elmwood resident,

Strom first started using the Holganix probiotic about four years ago. His family grows alfalfa, corn, beans and wheat on about 5,000 acres in Knox and Peoria counties. The main Strom spread is located between Dahinda and Williamsfield.

“At that time, Holganix was growing and they were looking for farmer-dealers throughout the Midwest who were not only interested in using the product but in trying to sell it,” Strom said.

Strom didn’t do much selling the first few years, which he considered a testing period. The probiotic works best when the soil temperature is 50 degrees or warmer. It can be used before planting in the spring and after harvest in the autumn, to boost the breakdown of crop residue.

“You want to really be breaking that stalk down in the fall, when it’s still warm,” Strom said. “It helps release the fertilizer from the stalk. Fungi is a major player in stalk and residue digestion.”

Eventually, the probiotic received a passing grade. Strom estimated about 40 central Illinois farms will use it this season. Most of those are within 20 miles

of the main Strom farm, which was host earlier this month to a conference where benefits of biologicals were part of the discourse.

Because it’s a living product, the Holganix probiotic must remain refrigerated until about four to six weeks before it’s applied, according to Strom.

Retail price is about \$20 an acre. Strom figures it pays for itself by saving money in other areas of his operation, including fertilizer use.

The probiotic is designed to help increase yields and reduce tillage, which also reduces carbon output. Strom believes carbon emissions will become an important topic in agriculture, particularly in relation to government policy.

“The biologicals industry is probably one of the fastest-growing spaces in the row-crop industry,” Strom said. “I’ve tried a lot of different products. This is one I feel is such a broad-spectrum product that can benefit farms in a lot of ways. It’s been a real opportunity for our farm.”



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# Drones more common over farm fields

By MOLLY RICHESON

For Central Illinois Farmer

Drones zipping back and forth over agricultural fields are becoming more and more common as farmers opt to apply treatments from the sky in a new way.

And the market is only going to keep growing, according to Chad Gripp of Wyonet, whose SweetWater Technologies drone-application business is seeking to spray 1 million acres.

Gripp bought his first drone in January 2022 after learning the helicopter service he normally hired was going to be unable to spray 2,000 acres a client needed treated with fungicide.

Gripp said he was impressed with the size and power of the machine.

"I told the salesman the drone looked like it could pick me up and fly me across the street. He said it could," Gripp recalled.

So he ordered another drone. And another. Things grew so quickly that Gripp create SweetWater Technologies, a company with 20 interns and a fleet of 12 drones with plans to double by next year.



New drones can hold up to 22 gallons.

Gripp said the drone-application business is a good complement to his Gripp Custom Farming, Corp., a full retail ag business that sells fertilizer and chemicals and does soil testing.

Similar growth is happening elsewhere. According to Fortune Business Insights, the global market for drone use in agriculture is expected to grow from \$4.98 billion in 2023 to \$18.22 billion by 2030.

"This industry is not going anywhere," Gripp said. "We are planning to start franchising."

No wonder other drone companies are popping up across the Midwest.

"The industry has exploded in the United States," said Mark Black, co-owner of KT Precision Ag in South Roxana. "I'm proud to say we're in the initial group of founders of drone spraying in the U.S. The best part about it is that it is a constantly evolving industry."

Most spraying in Illinois is done from June 15 to Aug. 15 and is focused on fungicide.

While airplanes and helicopters can get more acres done in a day, they can also drift off target when applying. As compared to a

drone, there is also more potential to miss a target or to turn too early or too late.

Drones are gridded to a specific field, so they are never off target.

"We're spraying 99-100% of the field in an aerial application where planes and helicopters, if they get into some technical terrain with highlines and hills, maybe their coverage is only 80-85%," Gripp said.

So while hiring a drone company is not cheaper than a plane or helicopter service, there is a savings because the product is applied to more of the field.

And because they fly over the tops of fields, unlike ground-based spray rigs, drones avoid crop trampling that can cost a farmer anywhere from 2-6% of total yield.

Wind can be a limiting condition, but in most other weather the drone can still fly, even if the ground is wet.

The biggest commercial field-spraying drone on the market today holds 18 gallons of liquid. But capacities keep increasing. Next week a new drone will be on the market that can hold 22 gallons.

Liquid fertilizers should

be avoided due to their corrosive properties, and dry materials must be mixed prior to filling the spray tank, since no drones have agitators in their tanks. While in flight, agitation is irrelevant because your flight and spray time is only about 6-8 minutes, giving materials no time to settle.

All commercial drones have terrain radar and obstacle avoidance, so slopes in the terrain should be no challenge.

"Battery management is key," Black said. "The primary drones on the market that utilize single batteries can be charged in about 12 minutes. Your larger drones now have better battery capabilities so that you can be back in the air without any downtime with at least three batteries."

To be an aerial applicator and fly a drone under the Federal Aviation Administration's Small UAS Rule (Part 107), one must obtain a remote pilot certification. To fly a drone that is over 55 pounds and to apply pesticides, one needs an FAA 107 pilot's license and various other certifications for Illinois and for spraying pesticides.

Additionally, a pilot and spotter is required for each drone.

Drones themselves are auto-piloted. You can pre-install a mission into the drone and input how high you want it to fly, how much you want it to spray and how far you want it to go. The drone will automatically create a spray pattern in a grid and will return home once the field is completed, the battery is low, or the liquid is depleted.

To create a commercial drone business requires about \$150,000 upfront, Black said.

Jeff Lampe contributed to this story.

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# USDA survey shows troubling trend of older farmers, fewer farms

Like much of the news anymore, the initial numbers from the 2022 Census of Agriculture were accurately reported, quickly downplayed – or even worse, ignored – by

most Big Ag groups and then just pushed aside by the rush of the next day's news.

That's a mistake, because the numbers released Feb. 13 by the U.S. Department

of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service show the rapid maturity and coming old age of U.S. agriculture.

And these numbers, like old soldiers, won't just fade away. They're real and consequential.

For example, according to NASS, the number of U.S. farms plunged by 142,000, or 7%, from 2017 to 2022. That is the largest drop in farm numbers over the last four ag census periods and the lowest total number of U.S. farms since 1850, back when the U.S. was a nation of just

31 states and four territories.

Equally shocking is the confounding fact that this slide happened at the same time Congress and the USDA were shoveling billions into programs to support farmers and ranchers.

According to a Feb. 20 report titled "Unsustainable: the State of the Farm Safety Net," published by the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, the federal government distributed \$142 billion through farm safety-net programs from 2017 to 2022.

The biggest bite over those five years was ad hoc spending, money not budgeted in any Farm Bill; it totaled \$67 billion.

Next came federal crop insurance, the principal revenue-supporting device in U.S. ag policy; it cost \$46 billion.

And pulling into third was commodity programs at \$29 billion.

How do you send \$142 billion in taxpayer dollars to farmers in five years and still end up with the fewest number of American farms in 172 years? The Census offers clues.

According to it, the only farm-size category that increased in numbers was farms operating 5,000

acres or more. These biggies controlled 42% of all farmland in 2022. Additionally, 6% of farms with \$1 million-plus in annual sales owned

32% of U.S. farmland and generated 75% of all ag sales nationwide.

That ever-bigger bigness was matched by an ever-graying grayness. According to the Census, the average age of U.S. farmers jumped from 57.5 in 2017 to 58.1 in 2022.

More to the point, in 2017 one out of four U.S. farmers was 65 years old or older; in 2022, it was one out of three, or an increase of 12% in the ratio.

In the meantime, the number of farmers aged 35 to 65 dropped 9%.

In fairness, the number of farmers with less than 10 years' experience – a group USDA calls "beginning farmers" – grew 11%, a pleasant surprise except for the rude fact that these "beginners" were an average 47.1 years old.

After reviewing the hard numbers, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack sug-

gested that they prove the Biden Administration is on the right track in its call for a different model of agriculture that lends a big hand to small- and medium-sized farmers while continuing to support big farmers, too.

But there's nothing different in that different model. In fact, the proposed – and still not done – 2023 Farm Bill contains no plan to cap program payments to the biggest of the bigs and offers no favoritism to the farms in the middle, smaller-sized farms that survive mostly through substantial off-farm income.

The facts are that our relentless drive to wring profit out of our nation's soil, water and rural communities has built a highly productive, very fragile, top-down food structure that leans heavily on federal subsidies, environmental degradation and the slow liquidation of rural America.

That system isn't sustainable – and neither are we – without change.

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The Farm and Food File is published weekly throughout the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, supporting documents, and contact information are posted at [farmandfoodfile.com](http://farmandfoodfile.com).



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# Is A.I. the new weatherman?

By RHIANNON BRANCH  
FarmWeek

Thanks to platforms like ChatGPT, farmers have access to artificial intelligence at their fingertips. While there are advantages to this new technology, it could pay to tap into a more reliable source when it comes to factors that influence important management decisions.

Take the weather, for example. It plays a role in numerous aspects of the farm, including planting dates, pest management and even marketing plans. Illinois State Climatologist Trent Ford told FarmWeek while AI is helping scientists become more efficient in analyzing climate data, it isn't as simple as a farmer asking ChatGPT when to plant.

"You can do that. It'll give you an answer. And it thinks the answer is right," Ford said. "But it probably won't be."

University of Illinois Extension recently hosted workshops in Marion, Sangamon and Winnebago counties to educate participants about online climate tools and provide hands-on instruction for agricultural related uses.

Duane Friend, University of Illinois climate specialist, told FarmWeek many

in the ag industry are unaware of available tools.

"I think a lot of times when they hear the phrase 'climate tools,' they think we're talking about tools that will tell them what's going on 10 years from now," he said. "All of these things we're talking about can be done within this growing season."

The workshop took a deep dive into easily accessible and free online tools like drought and freeze risk maps from Purdue University and soil temperature maps and growing degree day calculators from the Illinois State Water Survey.

"These tools are better refined than ChatGPT is," Ford said. "We have climate scientists who have experience working with data who are cultivating these tools, who are making it so that it's pulling in the best information.

Whereas right now our AI tools just grab everything off the internet and anything that looks relevant based on the algorithm is thrown in. So there's a lot of quality control that's needed."

During the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois' annual convention, Senior Science Fellow for Nutrient Ag Solutions Eric Snodgrass echoed that

growers need to be savvy consumers of artificial intelligence.

"Putting this kind of power into the hands of people that don't know how to use it may allow them to draw conclusions based upon its output that are just not founded in real science or real understanding," he told FarmWeek.

Snodgrass urges growers not to abandon institutional knowledge.

"If you are already working with someone who historically has done a great job helping you market a crop, continue to lean heavily on those people," he said. "Then ask them if they are using ChatGPT and AI to enhance their abilities and does it make sense what they're doing?"

Nonetheless, Snodgrass and Ford both expressed excitement about how AI is revolutionizing weather-prediction techniques by processing data faster.

Ford expects to see expansion of AI-supported weather forecasting in the next decade. For now, he recommends producers confide in proven maps, calculators and other tools backed by trusted sources.

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association.*



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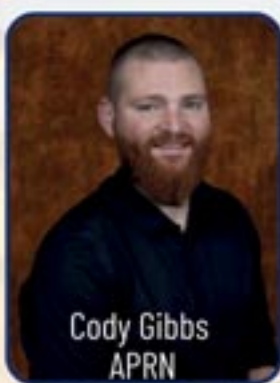
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# Farmers bracing for end of boom

For Central Illinois Farmer

After the three most profitable years in history, Illinois corn and soybean farmers are bracing for a slowdown. Prices have tanked. Demand from China and other importers has yet to catch up. And storage bins are full of last year's unsold corn.

"Farmers know that there are more bad years than there are really good years," agriculture economist Steve Irwin of the University of Illinois told The Center Square.

Put the downturn in context, he said.

"2024 to 2025 right now is looking like there will be some substantial losses, but we are coming off of a very high-profit period," Irwin said.

Reserves built up over the past three years give farmers a substantial cushion, he said.

On the supply side, large South American crops will hit markets in the next few months. Here in the U.S., the acreage base for spring-planted grain crops is expected to remain large by historical standards, adding to the supply.

"Income outlook is negative for the immediate future, but things can change very fast depending on the weather," Irwin said.

A significant hot dry summer could send grain prices shooting right back up, he said.

• **Shipping easier** – A drought that plagued the Mississippi River basin since 2022 and resulted in shipment delays and higher transportation costs is officially over, according to an article by Tammie Sloup of FarmWeek.

Low-water conditions began in the region in September 2022. The Army Corps of Engineers maintained 9-foot navigation, working with other industries to identify problem spots on the river.

But low water reduced the ability for barges to effectively navigate, driving up farmers' transportation costs as they sought storage and marketing options.

• **Cons** – Jennifer Tirey, executive director of the Illinois Pork Producers Association, said finding a fix

for California's Proposition 12 should be a top priority for farmers nationally.

Prop 12 prohibits sales in California of pork from livestock whose confinement does not meet certain minimum space rules. Most Illinois farmers won't comply with Prop 12, according to Tirey.

Tirey is meeting with members of Illinois' congressional delegation to ask for support for a federal solution in the next Farm Bill. The association is worried that, with Prop 12 being upheld by the Supreme Court, every state will set regulations.

• **Et cetera** – The Marquis Industrial Complex in Hennepin is moving forward with a soybean crush plant along the Illinois River. The plant is expected to crush 80 million bushels of soybeans per year and draw soybeans from within a 75-mile radius of the complex.

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# Horticultural tributes to an artist and empress

By **RON DIETER**

For The Weekly Post

The annual barrage of garden-seed and plant catalogs comes sprinkled with varieties labeled “New For This Year.” Often there’s nothing really new about them, other than a barely bigger blossom or a slightly more compact habit.

Over the years, my better half and I have visited a number of trial gardens, ornamental horticulture’s version of those corn and soybean trial plots you drive by in summertime, each variety labeled with its brand and number. We’d visit the impatiens section, for example, to see several rows of “new” red impatiens, each from a different company. Very often the differences were either undetectable or non-existent from varieties that have been around for ages.

Perusing this year’s catalogs, however, I found two new varieties that pique my interest to the point that I’ll be looking for them when I make my yearly plant pilgrimage to area greenhouses and nurseries.

You surely recognize the words “starry, starry night,” from the lyrics of Don McLean’s hit song, “Vincent,” his tribute to Vincent Van Gogh. Well, ‘Starry Starry Night’ is also the cultivar name of a new perennial hibiscus introduced by Walters Gardens in Zeeland, Mich.

You might be wondering with me what connection there could possibly be between a hibiscus and Van Gogh’s “The Starry Night” painting. I’m guessing the large pink hibiscus flowers contrasting with the near-black foliage reminded the folks at Walters of a starry night. It’s a stretch, considering Van Gogh’s painting is yellow stars in a sky of



A new hosta variety called ‘Emperor’s New Clothes’ has caught the eye of writer Ron Dieter. Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens, Inc.

blue. The plant’s name would be better with just one “starry,” in my opinion. Whatever.

Nonetheless, if the broad maple-like leaves are as “incredibly dark, near-black” as the catalog says, the plant is worth a try. ‘Starry Starry Night,’ like all perennial hibiscus, is slow to start in the spring, sometimes not venturing above the soil until late May. Once up, it quickly grows into a shrub 3-4 feet wide and tall. The pale pink 8-inch flowers appear in abundance in mid-to-late summer, each with a very dark pink center and radiating dark pink veins. A home in full sun is a must for abundant flowers and darkest foliage.

The other new plant that tripped my trigger is a hosta. I know what you’re thinking, if you’re a gardener. Like the world needs another hosta. We have more than 7,000 registered varieties already. That’s true, but once in a great while a standout appears on the scene.

Back in the early 2000s, a chance seedling of Hosta ‘Big John’ appeared. The little seedling grew into the largest hosta ever grown, 4 to 5

feet tall and 6 to 8 feet wide with plain green leaves sometimes 2 feet wide. A monster as hostas go.

The growers patented the plant in 2010 and named it ‘Empress Wu’ to honor the only female emperor in the history of China.

Fast forward to 2018. Hans Hansen, a plant breeder at Walters Gardens, discovered a mutation growing in a plot of ‘Empress Wu.’ The unique plant was a real curiosity. No huge plain green leaves or giant stature like ‘Empress Wu.’ Instead, the plant matures to what you’d call a normal-sized hosta, roughly 40 inches wide and 20 inches tall, but with a unique coloration in the leaves.

The 9-inch-by-5-inch leaves start out white to yellow-green with a unique variegation of dark green spots and streaks. As the season progresses the leaves turn a minty green with larger, more intense dark green specks and streaks. Difficult to describe. A picture saves me a thousand words.

I don’t know if Hansen named the plant himself or if someone deep in the marketing department at Walters conjured it. Whoever did it deserves a raise. Its name is Hosta ‘Emperor’s New Clothes.’

If you’re intrigued by either of these new introductions, I’ve got good news and bad news. While Hibiscus ‘Starry Starry Nights’ should be findable this spring, most vendors are already sold out of the new hosta. You’ll have to wait until next year.

Just a thought: shouldn’t it be ‘Empress’ New Clothes?'

# Spring into composting by reviving your pile

By **JENNA BRAASCH**

U of I Extension

URBANA – If you haven’t touched your compost bin or pile all winter, don’t worry, you are not alone. It could be filled with kitchen scraps to the top or left untouched since the fall.

Getting a compost pile going again after the long, cold winter can be intimidating, but it is possible with a little bit of time and careful management. For a successful compost pile, assess a starting point, turn the pile, manage inputs and repeat for a hot pile in no time.

As soon as the outdoors allows for a workday in the garden, check to see how the compost pile or bin is doing. Be sure to see if there have been any unintended additions over the winter, such as large branches or trash. It is also important to check if any parts of the bin are broken; maybe the wood is cracked, or the plastic is broken. Following the inspection, decide if repairs are

needed before going ahead.

Now that the bin is structurally sound, see if any part of it is still active or if it froze through. Active compost piles produce heat. Look for some finished compost at the bottom or middle of the pile or steam coming off the pile. If the pile has either of these things, the pile is likely still cooking.

The next step is to turn the compost pile. This will take some muscle. Use a pitchfork to mix the materials and incorporate air into the pile. Composting is a recipe; the beneficial organisms that do the work need the right combination of air, water, carbon and nitrogen. The goal is to provide the perfect home for these organisms to do their work, so compost is created at the end of the process. After the winter thaw, compost piles are likely to be wet and soggy rather than dry. If a pile is wet, don’t add water and just turn it. If a pile is dry, adding water will add moisture.

Next up is adding more brown and green material to the pile. In general, add about three parts carbon material to one part nitrogen by volume. This means that for every bucket of greens added, add three buckets of brown material. Carbon sources include dry leaves, straw, pine needles and sawdust. Nitrogen sources include fruit and vegetable kitchen scraps, grass clippings and plant trimmings.

Always continue to monitor the pile. Water it when dry and turn it at least once a week. Follow these steps to get a compost pile working again in no time.

Download Extension’s Winter Composting infosheet for more tips at [go.illinois.edu/WinterComposting](http://go.illinois.edu/WinterComposting).

Learn more about composting at [extension.illinois.edu/composting](http://extension.illinois.edu/composting).

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**Pages From The Past** Compiled by Jeff Lampe

**5 Years Ago**

- The Princeville School Board approved issuing up to \$2 million in general obligation bonds to improve buildings and facilities at the school.
- Isaac Glenzinski was named 2019 Lincoln Senior Award winner for Princeville High School.

**10 Years Ago**

- New Brimfield-Elmwood softball Coach Kurt Juerjens was building his team around the dominant hitting and pitching of Morgan Florey, a junior transfer from Farmington.

- Brimfield junior guard Carson Cuevas earned second-team all-state recognition from The Associated Press in Class 1A boys basketball after averaging 19.5 points and 4.6 steals for the 31-2 Indians.

- The Elmwood School Board hired School Consultants, Inc. for \$3,000 to help find a successor to Superintendent Roger Alvey, who announced that after seven years in Elmwood he was resigning to become superintendent at Illini Bluffs.

- Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois announced it would be building a high-voltage transmission line from a substation on the east edge of Kickapoo Township to a substation north of Galesburg.

- The Elmwood High School scholastic bowl team advanced to the state finals in Peoria for the first time. Team members are Gabe Inskeep, Taylor Armbruster, Matthew Bledsoe, Iam Armbruster, Dara Tan-

nock, Molly Halverson, Arissa Huffcutt, Chris Koll and Emily Young.

**20 Years Ago**

- The Farmington City Council heard that all documents were approved for the sale of Harris Grade School and Chapman Junior High School to the city. Also, the city was working with the Canton Family YMCA on a lease of the junior high building for recreational purposes.

**30 Years Ago**

- The fast action of Mrs. Rick Wessels saved the lives of several thoroughbred horses, including a pregnant mare, dogs and cats. She got the animals out of a barn that was destroyed in a fire at the Wessels' home on U.S. Route 150 near Dahinda.

**50 Years Ago**

- Loretta Perryman won the middle-school spelling bee in Williamsfield. Beth Ann Baird was runner-up.

- Doug Baughman's yellow roadster was judged the best-looking car in the Princeville Cub Webelos Pack's Pinewood Derby. Derby winners were: Group A - Tony Reed, Group B - Paul Cokel and Group C - Doug Sutherland.

**60 Years Ago**

- The Williamsfield Bombers boys basketball team lost to Peoria Woodruff at Robertson Memorial Field House, 65-45, in the first round of the sectional. Thus ended the most successful season of Wil-

liamsfield basketball up to that point.

- Fires kept Farmington's volunteer firemen busy and took the life of one volunteer, who suffered a heart attack during a weekend grass fire. Another fire in Middlegrove nearly destroyed a home there.

- Twenty-nine local men have signed up as charter members of the new Farmington Toastmasters Club.

**65 Years Ago**

- Elmwood musician Lyle Keever had his record released to some juke-box dealers, radio stations and music stores by Lincoln Records. Songs written by Keever are "A Fool Doesn't Know" and "Come Back to Me."

**85 Years Ago**

- Several homes in Elmwood were quarantined as a precaution against smallpox.

**95 Years Ago**

- Paving equipment showed up in Princeville so contractor Herman Reischke could start paving Akron Avenue.

- Constable Russell Fuller of Elmwood had a long but successful chase for George Ackerson, alias Miller, capturing his man at Marietta about 3 a.m. last week.

**100 Years Ago**

- One of the heaviest snows of the year fell on March 12.

**110 Years Ago**

- Davis Grain Co. in Laura purchased three elevators and a lumber yard at LaRose.

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# No decision yet on Laura railroad x-ing

By NICK VLAHOS  
For The Weekly Post

**LAURA** – The status of a Laura-area railroad crossing proposed for closure is unchanged.

Questions about the degree of Illinois Department of Transportation involvement regarding the fate of the Whittaker Road crossing dominated a brief Illinois Commerce Commission hearing March 6.

IDOT attorney Jennifer Kuntz suggested her organization need only state that an alternate route complies with administrative code.

Regarding state highways, that would be Illinois Route 78. The Route 78 crossing is about two miles west of the Whittaker Road crossing, which BNSF Railway wants to close.

But Patrick Meyer, an engineer for Millbrook Township, disputed whether that crossing is sufficient to accommodate mobile farm equipment. The BNSF tracks cross Route 78 on a bridge with 13 feet, 9 inches of clearance under it.

“I think two of the main issues are site distance and width of the underpass that goes underneath the railroad,” Meyer said

during the online hearing. “(That) would propagate those larger vehicles to go even farther to a crossing.”

Township officials oppose the Whittaker Road crossing closing, in part because additional oversized farm equipment on local roads might create a hazard for other motorists in the area.

BNSF officials claim the unguarded crossing is unsafe and is used infrequently – by only about 10 vehicles per day.

Progress toward an ICC decision has been delayed while IDOT officials get up to speed. No decision appears imminent.

Information gathering on both sides is to continue at least until a hearing scheduled for April 17. Presentation of evidence might ensue.

The ICC is accepting public input regarding the proposed closure. Comments can be left online at [www.icc.illinois.gov/docket/T2023-0077/public-comments](http://www.icc.illinois.gov/docket/T2023-0077/public-comments).

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## Answers on Page 22 Super Crossword PHONY-BALONEY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wearing nightclothes, for short
  - 6 Mearns' look
  - 11 In addition
  - 15 Eyed hair
  - 19 Steel, e.g.
  - 20 Ancient Greek region
  - 21 Empty spaces
  - 22 World's fair
  - 23 Illegal detention
  - 25 Columbus is its capital
  - 26 British actor Guinness
  - 27 "Mind your — business!"
  - 28 High, round collar not folding over on itself
  - 31 Without any variety
  - 35 Boston
  - 36 NBAer, for short
  - 37 Paint job made to look like marble, wood, etc.
  - 41 New Nintendo console of 2012
  - 43 Big antlered beast
  - 47 Opposite of dep., in an airport
  - 48 Thin porridge
  - 50 Saw against the main grain, as wood
  - 52 Bit of money seized by a Secret Service agent
  - 58 Ecol. monitor
  - 59 MIDDAYS
  - 60 Tiny arachnid
  - 61 J. — Hoover
  - 64 Like overdue birthday wishes
  - 67 Bill & Ted went on one in a 1991 film
  - 70 Worms
  - 71 Bible book after Prov.
  - 74 Q-V linkup
  - 75 "Spider-Man" director Sam Raimi
  - 76 Wedlock not based on love
  - 79 Cheer up
  - 81 Burros, e.g.
  - 82 — occasion (never)
  - 83 Paris' river
  - 84 Toronto-to-Montreal dir.
  - 85 Prada or Fendi replica, maybe
  - 91 "Beloved" novelist Toni Morrison
  - 94 Buc, Bronco or Niner
  - 95 Beauty of film
  - 97 Cindy Brady player Susan Flannery
  - 98 Former jets to the U.K.
  - 101 Bit of non-needed body art
  - 105 Sour plum
  - 107 Stage star Hagen
  - 109 Title for Kate Middleton
  - 110 Component of a coated glass-bead bracelet, perhaps
  - 117 Even score
  - 118 Forum attire
  - 119 In the past
  - 120 Apt cry of disbelief for this puzzle
  - 125 Coagulate
  - 126 Rebuke from Caesar
  - 127 Like a dweeb
  - 128 About, before a date
  - 129 At this place
  - 130 Lather (up)
  - 131 Gather up
  - 132 Hoodwinked
  - 5 Whole lotta
  - 6 Knightly title
  - 7 Bulblike base of a stem
  - 8 — cat (two-base game)
  - 9 Neighbor of Minn. and Ill.
  - 10 Jewish potato pancake
  - 11 Relative of a guinea pig
  - 12 Lion portrayed Bert
  - 13 Feature of Betty Boop's hair
  - 14 "— Mio"
  - 15 Crude sheds
  - 16 Car shaft
  - 17 Project detail, for short
  - 18 Sell at a pawnshop
  - 24 Opponent
  - 29 "I taut I — a pudly taut!"
  - 30 Shade trees
  - 31 Flip — coin
  - 32 DEA worker
  - 33 Irish money
  - 34 Bring about
  - 38 Some flawed garments: Abbr.
  - 39 Add-on to the end of a wd.
  - 40 Bit of a bray
  - 42 Most polar
  - 44 Sea nymph
  - 45 Sovereign
  - 46 Letter two before iota
  - 49 VIP vehicle
  - 51 Margarine
  - 53 Deprives of weapons
  - 54 "Sorry, too busy"
  - 55 Bodily digit
  - 56 Big striped cat, in French
  - 57 A/C output glys.
  - 62 Landscape painter Asher Brown —
  - 63 Like low-quality eggs
  - 64 City
  - 65 Alcohol in liquor
  - 66 Landforms or landladies
  - 67 Empty
  - 68 Having protruding hearing organs
  - 69 Yang go-with
  - 72 Sings gently
  - 73 U.S. pres., militarily
  - 77 Inquires
  - 78 "Continue"
  - 80 Architect
  - 83 Chaya
  - 84 Boody rock genre
  - 86 Investigate pryingly
  - 87 Very loudly, in music
  - 88 Miami loc.
  - 89 Stud money
  - 90 Old Storms and Trackers
  - 92 Paraphrase
  - 93 On Sunset Blvd., e.g.
  - 96 Two, in Chile
  - 99 Maintenance job on a car
  - 100 Indy sponsor
  - 102 Ballet outfit
  - 103 Something very easy
  - 104 Vegas casino
  - 106 Some Siouan speakers
  - 108 MetLife rival
  - 110 Concern for a dermatologist
  - 111 Concern for a dermatologist
  - 112 Horror film lab assistant
  - 113 Twice tetra-
  - 114 "Past" cousin
  - 115 — axis
  - 116 Some old Fords
  - 121 The "S" of GPS: Abbr.
  - 122 Hosp. zones
  - 123 Ideal serve
  - 124 Young fella



### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



DAD SAYS I SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID OF THAT BULLY WHO'S BUGGING US AT SCHOOL.

MY MOM THINKS I DON'T NEED TO BE AFRAID OF THE DARK.

TODAY'S THE DAY WE SHOW THEM ALL HOW BRAVE WE ARE AND BECOME FEARLESS.

HEY, HOW HIGH UP DO YOU THINK WE ARE?

### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



I DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD FEAR.

BIG DEAL. YOU DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF MOST WORDS.

### Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



WE REVISED HAPPY HOUR. DUE TO INFLATION, WE RAISED ALL THE PRICES AND IT ONLY LAST THIRTY MINUTES.

### GRIM & BEAT IT



"I don't think this is the right time to ask him for a campaign contribution."

### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

- LITERATURE: What is the name of the kingdom in "The Princess Bride"?
  - GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In British royalty, what is King Charles' family name?
  - TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom features Sheldon's catchphrase "Bazinga!"?
  - U.S. STATES: Which U.S. state is home to the Awatovi Ruins, a national historic landmark?
  - HISTORY: According to a WWII government slogan, what sinks ships?
  - GEOGRAPHY: What is the name of the small principality that lies between Spain and France?
  - ANATOMY: Which part of the brain controls hunger?
  - LANGUAGE: The Latin word 'caput' refers to what part of the human anatomy?
  - SCIENCE: Which color has the longest wavelength in the visible spectrum?
  - FOOD & DRINK: What is the primary alcohol used in margaritas?
- Answers
- Florin.
  - Mountbatten-Windsor.
  - "The Big Bang Theory."
  - Arizona.
  - Loose lips.
  - Andorra.
  - Hypothalamus.
  - The head.
  - Red.
  - Tequila.
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### TOP 10 MOVIES

- Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG)
  - Dune: Part Two (PG-13)
  - Imaginary (PG-13)
  - Cabrini (PG-13)
  - Bob Marley: One Love (PG-13)
  - Ordinary Angels (PG)
  - Madame Web (PG-13)
  - Migration (PG)
  - Yolo (PG-13)
  - The Chosen: S4.E7 (NR)
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### FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 22

### 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.

XS NPPIN OWXQSZPNN SW CP  
KAWSPB XY WQP XNQ'S  
VWXQV SW CP KAWSECZP ...  
XS'N CPSSPT SW CP  
KAWSECZP SGEQ GWOPNS.  
— SWI NSWOOETB

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Please remove all flowers and decorations from gravesites before Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

You may resume placing flowers on graves on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

*Thank You*

A special thank you from the family of Wayne Galpin Sr. for cards, flowers & memorials at the time of Wayne's passing.

Special thanks to Rux Funeral Home in Williamsfield for the arrangements.

**GOT SPIDERS**

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**OBITUARIES**

**Charles F. Dungan Jr.**  
BRIMFIELD – Charles F. “Fred” Dungan Jr., 88, of Brimfield, passed away at 7:35 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria.  
Born on March 24, 1935, in Brimfield, he was the son of the late Charles and Elva (Marks) Dungan. On Oct. 7, 1956, he married Mary E. Wagner in Brimfield. She preceded him in death on Feb. 3, 2020.



Dungan

Survivors include two sons, Charles (Tina) Dungan III and Joseph Dungan; three granddaughters, Rachel (Chase) Fahrner, Elizabeth (Matt) Kulik and Tabetha Dungan; and five great-grandchildren.  
Fred proudly served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged. He went on to work as an area manager for Unisys. He then worked for the University of Illinois-Springfield until he retired.  
He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Brimfield.  
A private graveside service will take place at Brimfield Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to palliative care at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

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

**Donna J. Hanson**

MONICA – Donna Jean Hanson, 95, of Peoria, formerly of Monica, passed away at 12:28 a.m. Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Carle Health Proctor Hospital in Peoria. Born on Sept. 26, 1928, in Knox County, Ill., she was the daughter of the late Dwight and Vivian (Nelson) Boyer. On Feb. 14, 1948, she married Wilfred E. Hanson at United Methodist Church in Cambridge, Ill. He preceded her in death on June 29, 2021.



Hanson

She is survived by her son, Steve (Miriam) Hanson of Edelstein; two daughters, Deborah (Robert) Duckworth of Princeville and Lori (James) Cochran of Monica; seven grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was

also preceded in death by a brother, Donald Boyer; and two sisters, Audrey Wagner and Marilyn Hatch.  
Donna worked as a bond underwriter for Auto-Owners Insurance for 17 years until her retirement in 1986. She kept busy and worked hard around the home, maintaining a large garden, canning and assisting her husband with odd jobs.  
Donna was a helpful and caring neighbor, assisting those around her in need. She was a very involved member of the Monica United Methodist Church and enjoyed her time in their former happy hour club. She would also help with any church activity she could, like teaching Sunday School and working dinners and rummage sales.

Above all else, Donna loved her family. She enjoyed when her children and grandchildren stopped by for visits and looked forward to the next time they would spend together. Her funeral service was March 18, 2024, at Haskell Funeral and Cremation Service in Princeville. Burial was to follow at Princeville Cemetery.  
Memorial contributions may be made to Pathway Ministries (the former Peoria Rescue Ministries) or Apostolic Christian Skylines in Peoria.

Condolences for Donna's family may be left on her tribute wall at [www.haskellfuneral.com](http://www.haskellfuneral.com).

**Walter J. Grebner**

GLASFORD – Walter J. Grebner, 93, of Glasford, passed away Friday, March 15, 2024, at the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.  
Born July 7, 1930, in Metamora, Ill., to Frederick Jacob and Josephine Mary (Theobald) Grebner, he married Norma Jean Jarrett on Nov. 26, 1955, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Peoria. She preceded him in death on June 23, 2012 in Peoria.



Grebner

Also preceding him in death were his parents; brothers Herman, Harley and Marion Grebner; siste, Mary Lou Chism; and son-in-law Jayson Essex.  
Surviving are his children, Candy (Bill) Fralick of Farmington, Cindy (Bob) Miller of Glasford, Walter Jay Grebner of Dryden, Mich., and Cheryl (Rick) Berry of Glasford; and grandchildren, Jade Essex of Farmington, Shelby Berry of Peoria and

Reid Berry (Mackenzie Brunet) of Lone Tree, Colo.  
Walter was a U.S. Air Force veteran and a member of the Bartonville American Legion Post 979.  
He was a lifetime member of the Peoria RBA, Illinois RBA and the American Rabbit Breeders Associations. He loved to show and judge rabbits and judged them from 1975 until his retirement in 2014.  
Walter dedicated 35 years of service as an assembler at Caterpillar, Inc., retiring in 1989.  
He enjoyed traveling with Norma, showing and judging rabbits and watching his grandchildren's activities. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan.

He was also a member of St. Matthew Catholic Church in Farmington where Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. today, March 21, 2024. Burial will be at Swan Lake Memory Gardens in Peoria, with U.S. Air Force honors.  
Visitation was to be 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at Davison-Fulton Bartonville Chapel with recitation of the rosary at 6:30 p.m. Additional visitation will be 9-9:45 a.m. Thursday prior to Mass at the church.

Memorials are suggested to the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.  
Condolences and memories may be shared through Davison-Fulton-BartonvilleChapel.com.

**Alberta R. Meehan**

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Alberta Rosalie (Bertie) Meehan, 91, passed away on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, in San Jose, Calif.  
She was born July 9, 1932, in Elmwood, Ill., to Albert and Rachel Broadfield. Her family moved to Yates City, where she graduated high school in 1950.  
After high school she went to airline school in Nebraska. On Nov. 1, 1953, she married Richard Dale “Dick” Meehan.



Meehan

In 1958 they moved to California, where they raised two daughters. Bertie was very active in the Methodist Church, serving on many committees and taking care of the church kitchen for all types of functions. She loved cooking and baking, especially her gingerbread cookies and maple nut chiffon cake.

**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

I	N	P	J	S		S	C	O	W	L		A	L	S	O		L	A	S	H			
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H	E	R	E		S	O	A	P		A	M	A	S	S		H	O	S	E	D			

**CryptoQuote**

answer  
It seems pointless to be quoted if one isn't going to be quotable ... it's better to be quotable than honest.  
— Tom Stoppard

**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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

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# OBITUARIES

She loved her family and was over the moon when her great-grandchildren came along. Bertie enjoyed working in the garden, especially if her great-grandchildren helped. She was always helping others with a place to stay, warm meal, shoulder to lean on or just a hug.

Bertie is survived by her daughter Susan (Edward) Lincoln and daughter Donna Meehan; granddaughters Amanda (Justin) Perkins and Allison (Benjamin) Brown; and great-grandchildren Madison and Elias Perkins and Mason and McKinley Brown. She is also survived by her sister Marylyn and many nieces and nephews.

She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandma, great-grandma and friend who will be missed by all who knew her.

There will be a graveside service on June 15 at Elmwood Township Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

### Lorraine E. Turner

PEORIA – Lorraine Evelyn Turner, 68, of Peoria, passed away at her residence on March 1, 2024.

She was born Oct. 13, 1955, in Peoria to Glen S. and Florence (Mummert) Turner.

Lorraine is survived by her aunt, Mary Mummert, and cousins Linda Woodard, Martha Reismeyer, Jim Mummert and Bethany Sutton, as well as many other cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Lorraine attended and graduated from Limestone High School. She pursued further studies by taking courses at Illinois Central College.

Her devotion to her Christian faith was a cornerstone of her life, and she found joy in her congregation at Grace Presbyterian Church. Lorraine's love for her church extended beyond attendance; she actively participated in various church activities, finding particular joy in singing with the church choir.

Aside from her dedication to her faith community, Lorraine had a deep love for music. She found immense joy in singing, and her passion for music was evident to all who knew her. Whether she was humming hymns or harmonizing in the choir, her love for music was infectious and uplifting.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Davison-Fulton Woodland Chapel has been entrusted with arrangements.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at Davison-Fulton Woodland Chapel, Peoria. Pastor John Hopwood will officiate.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.davison-fulton.com](http://www.davison-fulton.com).

### Joan E. Davis

WILLIAMSFIELD – Joan E. Davis, 85, of Williamsfield, died Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at her home.

She was born Feb. 1, 1939, in Peo-

ria, the daughter of Orrin and Leto (Tucker) Coe. Survivors include her four children, Mike (Heather) Davis of Indiana, Jill Davis of Williamsfield, Mitch (Lori) Davis of Abingdon and Jan (Jon) Neville of Minier, Ill.; brother Lowell (Marilyn) Coe of Brimfield; sister Barbara (William "Gipp") LaBrush of Peoria; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A graveside service was held on March 18 at Williamsfield Cemetery.

### Edward Hayes

ELMWOOD – Edward "Eddy" Hayes, 10, of Elmwood, passed away Saturday, March 9, 2024, peacefully at his home. He was born Feb. 1, 2014, in Peoria, to Alissia Hayes. She survives.

Edward is also survived by his stepfather, Douglas Williamson; sister JaeLynn Hayes; grandparents, Monica and Timothy Hayes and Robert and Pamela Williamson, all of Elmwood; one aunt and three uncles, Heather and Kristofer Kaufman of Arizona, Patrick Hayes of Arizona and Samuel Williamson of Elmwood; and many other loving family.

Eddy won many battles and overcame many obstacles but will no longer be confined by the worldly constraints of muscular dystrophy.

A celebration of life will be held on March 24, 2024, from 2-5 p.m. at the Uptown Café in Elmwood.

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

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# AREA CHURCHES

**BRIMFIELD Baptist Church of Brimfield**  
Pastor Doug Seeley  
321 S. Jefferson St. Brimfield (309) 678-2208  
Sun. School: 9:30 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 Pernell 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

- Is the book of 2 Thessalonians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- From Titus 1, Paul wrote that unto the pure all things are...? Gold, Righteous, Worthy, Pure
- What archangel is mentioned by name in the book of Jude? Gabriel, Silas, Michael, Melchizedek
- In 1 Kings 21, who forbid Naboth to give his vineyard to Ahab? The Lord, Jezebel, Absalom, Balaam
- Jared was the father of Enoch and lived how many years? 110, 450, 600, 962
- In Psalm 103:5, what bird's youth is renewable? Dove, Eagle, Raven, Swallow

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Pure, 3) Michael (Jude 1:9), 4) The Lord, 5) 962, 6) Eagle(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

**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.

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  
Sat. Confession: 3-3:45 p.m.  
Sat. Mass: 4 p.m.  
Sun. Masses: 7 & 11:00 a.m.  
Daily Masses (Mon. Wed. Thurs. Fri.): 8 a.m.

**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 Pernell 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.







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**March 25** Tenderloins 5-7pm  
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**ALL-SPORTS ROUNDUP**

**Local players earn LTC basketball honors**

By **NICK VLAHOS**

For The Weekly Post

Lincoln Trail Conference honorees for the 2023-24 boys basketball season included a total of 11 players from Galva, Princeville, ROWVA-Williamsfield and Stark County.

Princeville had two first-team picks, Tayshaun Kieser and Tucker Sennett. They were the top two scorers, respectively, this season for the Princes (28-6), who advanced to the Class 1A Brimfield Regional final. Both averaged almost 11 points per game.

Sennett was the only junior on the 10-player first team. Other area first-teamers were Riley Danner (16.6 ppg, 13.7 rebounds) from R-W and Luke Rewerts (13.8 ppg) from Stark County.

The rest of the LTC first team consisted of Lucas Collison and Colby Cox, both of league-champ Mercer County; Carter Redfern of Abingdon-Avon; Landon Sauer of Kewanee Wethersfield; Will Shreeves of Knoxville; and Garrett Vincent of Ridgewood.

Second-teamers included Princeville senior Parker Melick and two players from Galva, senior Braxton Rylander and



The top-seeded Williamsfield eighth-grade volleyball team won the Brimfield 8-2A regional title on March 5, topping Stark County, 15-25, 25-22, 26-24. Williamsfield (16-4) then lost to Peoria Christian in the March 11 sectional at Brimfield Grade School, 25-20, 25-22. Peoria Christian went on to place third overall. Williamsfield players pictured above are, Front row (left to right): Avery Manning, Brianna Lytle, Sophie Pohlman, Ava Strom, Alexia Huante, Lillian Huls, Bella Dennis, Paige Lydic and Caralee Manning. Back row (l to r): Lylah Shaffer, Olivia Stone, Eliza Tucker, Kennedy Miller, Sophia Courtright, Brezlynn Skiles, Hazel Walters, Annalyn Lee and Adrienne Rogers.

sophomore Blake Stahl.

Another Princeville player, senior Josh Hunt, earned third-team honors. So did R-W senior Lewis Sams and two Stark County seniors, Matthew Bowser and Will Rumbold.

• **LTC girls** – Princeville seniors Brianna Brodie and Paisley Schock were among 10 first-team all-Lincoln Trail selections.

Others were Kennady Anderson of Wethersfield, Shelby Bowman and Harlee Hains of West Central, Kaylee Celus and Bella VanOpdorp of Annawan, Molly Hofmann of Mercer County and Kennedy Quinn and Hai-

ley Redding of Abingdon-Avon.

The 10-girl second team included Galva senior Ava Strom and Stark County senior Payten Hillier.

ROWVA-Williamsfield senior Avery Rigg was among seven special-mention honorees.

• **All State** – Brimfield junior Ava Heinz earned third-team Class 1A all-state-girls status from the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association. The IBCA selected 15 third-teamers.

Among 29 special-mention selections were Brodie and Elmwood senior Mae Herman. Others included Anderson and

Redding.

Bowman and Lily Luczkowiak of second-place 1A finisher Illini Bluffs were on the 10-player first team. The 10-player second team included Celus and Quinn.

The only 1A area boy the IBCA honored was Danner, who was among 27 special-mention picks.

A pair of ICAC players, Hank Alvey of Illini Bluffs and Malachi Persinger of Peoria Christian, was on the 10-player first team.

Farmington senior Keantrey Barnes was one of 16 special-mention selections in Class 2A.

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Peoria County Farm Bureau

# SOFTBALL: Less experience back for Farmington

*Continued from Page 28*

Princes return six starters from a team that finished 10-23 overall and 7-13 in the LTC.

All-staters Mekeya Chila (.437, 10 HRs) and Kinley McGinn (.479, 10 HRs) are expected to lead the Princeville offense. Also back are shortstop Greta Dwyer and sophomore pitcher Leah Vaughn, who struck out 50 batters in 50 innings last season.

"We have a very good mix of upperclassmen, with four returning seniors and two juniors with a mix of freshmen and sophomores to round out the roster," Princeville Coach Brian Holt stated. "The freshmen that played last year will contribute to the team quite a lot."

Princeville rebounded from a season-opening loss March 12 against Henry to win two ensuing games. Cihla had seven RBI and two

homers March 15 as Princeville defeated Eureka 15-8. Dwyer was 3-for-5 with one RBI.

Two days earlier, Claire Dearing stole home plate in the bottom of the eighth inning to give Princeville a 4-3 victory over Bureau Valley.

Against Henry, Princeville lost 7-6 on a walk-off single in the eighth.

The Lady Princes are to play today (March 21) at home against Dunlap.

### Farmington

On the other side of the experience spectrum is Farmington, which graduated five starters from a 12-13 team. Current seniors Kenna Mahr and Shayleigh Thompson are out this season because of injuries.

Returning starters are senior second baseman Maidlyn Hanlin, sophomore shortstop Ella Johnson, senior center fielder Izzy Nordwahl

(.368 batting average) and junior pitcher Lydia Overcash.

Three-year starter Emily Vallianatos, who batted .380 in 2023, missed basketball season because of a knee injury but might be ready for softball, according to Farmers Coach Jeni Fauser.

"We will have some growing pains adjusting to varsity pitching, I am sure," Fauser stated. "The girls put a lot of work in the winter to be prepared."

Fauser has high expectations for utility player Ava Essex, a sophomore. Speediness in the outfield and on the bases from Nordwahl, Sophie Anderson, Joelle Herbst and Kiley Vallas also should help.

Farmington is to open its season today against Monmouth United, then is to play again Friday at Eureka.

# BASEBALL: Princeville goes 2-3 in busy first week

*Continued from Page 28*  
home run, a Carter Lambin double and a single from Jacob Evans.

In the nightcap, the Farmers led 2-1 after three, but the hosts put together 12 scores in the next four innings. Lane Wheelwright and Bronson Atchley each went deep for Farmington in the effort, while Henry Easley notched a double. Wheelwright picked up six strikeouts from the mound.

Farmington lost to Limestone last Friday, 7-2. The Farmers had seven singles, two from Lambin. Landon Crawford and Lambin each pitched three innings. Crawford fanned six and Lambin whiffed five.

Farmington also lost at Chillicothe IVC on March 13, 13-2.

Farmington is at Monmouth United today (March 21).

**Princeville** – The Princes (2-3) had a busy first week. A trip to Jacksonville last weekend resulted in three close games.

Princeville beat White Hall North Greene on Saturday, 6-4, scoring two in the fifth and two in the sixth to overcome a 4-2 deficit. Noah Geiger pitched four innings, yielding five hits, no walks and striking out six. Taylor Hess fanned two in relief.

Key runs were driven in by Matt Bowers and Hess with two each, while Logan Olshawsky and Hunter Johnson each knocked one in.

PHS got too far behind in a Saturday loss to New Berlin-Franklin-Waverly, 10-6. Six errors were part of the problem. Princeville managed 11 hits. Johnson had two triples and four RBI, Parker Dickinson was 2-for-3 with a double and Olshawsky also went 2-for-3 with a double.

Princeville lost Friday night against Mendon Unity, 5-3. Dickinson threw 4.2 innings, fanning 10 and yielding one hit.

PHS got a 3-0 shutout March 13 vs. Bureau Val-

ley. Pitchers Olshawsky, Carter Peterson and Bowers put together a line of just two hits and six strikeouts. Collin Lowery was 2-for-3 and drove in all three runs.

Princeville began the season March 12 with a 9-2 win at Eureka. Olshawsky and Lowery each had 2-for-3 outings.

The Princes are home on Saturday vs. Henry.

**ROWVA-Williamsfield** – R-W (1-2) fell 24-10 in the opener of a twinbill at Canton last Saturday after committing six errors. R-W used five hits to generate its runs. Preston Schroeder went 2-for-4

and drove in two runs.

The Cougars came up just short 7-4 in the second game. Lewis Sams threw 2.1 innings, giving up three earned runs with three strikeouts. Luke Nelson doubled and had one RBI. Kole Miller connected for two hits.

R-W opened 2024 with a 5-1 victory March 12 at Bureau Valley. Jaxson Strom was solid on the hill in five innings, striking out eight.

A bases-clearing double from Brody Lytle sparked the offense. Cade Farquer also doubled.

The Cougars are at Knoxville on Saturday.

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# Weekly Post Sports

Thursday, March 21, 2024

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## Softball starters return

R-W, B-E and Princeville field experienced teams

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

For ROWVA-Williamsfield softball Coach Beau Burnett, the 2024 season should look awfully familiar.

The Cougars (1-1) return seven starters from a 19-15 Class 1A regional semifinalist. Such an experienced lineup has Burnett thinking good thoughts as the new season begins.

"They like to play hard and have fun," he stated about this team.

"They are fun to be around, and they strive to be the best players on the field and student-athletes in the classroom."

R-W seniors Ava Landon and Avery Rigg and sophomore Ella Rigg each hit over .400 last season and combined for 130 hits and 70 RBI. Landon, a pitcher, struck out 154 batters and had an earned-run average of 2.80.

Other returning starters are senior Izzy Nelson, juniors Emma West and Layla Woertz and sophomore Riley Smith. They'll need to be sharp against some tough ICAC competition from Brimfield-Elmwood and 2023 1A state runner-up Illini Bluffs, among others.

Lincoln Trail contenders include Biggsville West Central and Ridge-wood.

The new R-W season began with a

bang March 13, a seven-run third inning in a 13-1 victory over Low-point-Washburn. West's three-run homer was the big blow.

R-W also led early in a game March 16 against Canton but lost 15-6. Nelson and Ella Rigg had RBI doubles to put R-W ahead 4-1, but a five-run fourth gave Canton a lasting lead.

The Cougars were scheduled to play Wednesday against Peoria Manual.

### Brimfield-Elmwood

Another team with plenty of experienced players is Brimfield-Elmwood (1-1). They might have a point to prove, considering how last season ended.

In 2023, B-E was 19-3 and won 17 games in a row before a 1A regional-semifinal loss to Chillicothe IVC. In 2024, B-E Coach Kurt Juerjens returns eight varsity regulars, although one of them – junior pitcher Brooke Sumner – missed all of last season because of injury.

Returnees include two other pitchers, Sawyer Drury (1.56 ERA) and Schyer Meinders (1.98 ERA), and some big bats – Kierra Johnson (.536 batting average, nine home runs, 32 RBI), Kylee Vaughn (.500, 14 doubles) and CJ Troxell (.389, six HRs).

"We have a lot of depth, creating



Brimfield-Elmwood's Kierra Johnson returns after hitting .536 with nine home runs and 32 RBI in 23 games. Photo by Monte Kenney.

competition for spots," Juerjens stated. "We expect a good year."

B-E scored twice in the eighth inning March 12 to beat Knoxville 4-2 in the season opener. Troxell homered and Sumner struck out 10.

Shelby Finchum's fifth-inning grand slam March 15 broke a tie in favor of Olympia, which beat B-E 5-1. Johnson's first-inning homer represented the only B-E run. It also was the Indians' only hit.

B-E was scheduled to play Tuesday against Peoria Notre Dame and Wednesday at Putnam County.

### Princeville

Experience also is the prevailing theme at Princeville (2-1). The Lady

*Continued on Page 27*

## Perfect start

But weather turns nasty for boys teams

By PHIL JOHNSON

For The Weekly Post

The first week of the season for high school baseball was a weather dream for area coaches. No rain-outs. No freeze-outs. Coaches were able to get some good looks at their players' and team performances.

Reality returned quickly as on Monday, all scheduled games for Weekly Post area teams were called off due to weather. Such is the roller coaster of spring baseball.

**Brimfield-Elmwood** – The Indians (3-0) won 17-6 at Kewanee on March 13 by way of 11 runs scored in their half of the seventh inning.

"I am pleased with the start of our season. We do need to work on being more focused for the entire game. We start out fast, then relax in the middle innings, which causes some stress," Brimfield Coach Kevin Kreiter said.

Kyle Binder, Kaden Schatsiek and Drew Kieser each drove in three runs in

the onslaught. Landon Binder, Brody Kenney, Cam Blodgett and Cleve Bizosky each added one RBI.

Brady Johnson pitched 4.1 innings with eight strikeouts, one walk, three earned runs and five hits. Kenney and Bizosky relieved to secure the win.

The Indians topped Midland 4-1 at home March 12. Blodgett pitched 2.2 innings, yielding one earned run. Sean Crowe relieved for four innings, striking out six. Kyle Binder and Schatsiek each knocked a double in the win.

B-E next travels to North Fulton on Saturday.

**Farmington** – The Farmers (0-4) fell 15-1 and 13-2 at home in the midst of tough non-conference competition vs. East Peoria last Saturday.

In the first game it was nine runs yielded in the second inning and five errors for the game that did in Farmington. Bright spots were a Ben Marvel

*Continued on Page 27*

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## Accessible Community Garden

The LME Library is looking for local community members (families, individuals, service groups) to plant and maintain a space in our garden this year. We have a variety of containers available. Participants can apply online at [bit.ly/GYO2024](https://bit.ly/GYO2024) or at the library. Commitments run Mar. - Oct. 2024.

### Upcoming Garden Programs

- Monthly garden meetings -  
1st Thursday of the month at 5:30p
- March 21 @ 10a Seed Starting
- April 22 @ 3p-5p Make & Take Seed Tape
- April 23 @ 10a Herb Gardening

