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Vol. 12 No. 44

The Weekly Post

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FARMINGTON TO ISSUE BONDS

\$8M bond issue

Farmington planning school enhancements

By **JEFF LAMPE**

For The Weekly Post

FARMINGTON – The Farmington School Board on Monday took another step toward facilitating projects designed to enhance and maintain school facilities.

The board voted to approve a resolution for the sale and issuance of no more than \$8 million in debt certificates for the purpose of improving and repairing district facilities.



Chatterton

Farmington Superintendent Zac Chatterton said the district tax rate would not increase as a result of the bond issuance. Chatterton said the bonds are a continuance of enhancement bonds issued in

2018, for which the district still owes \$2.6 million. Due to an expected 6.6% increase in the district's equalized assessed value of properties, the tax rate does not have to be increased to make larger bond payments.

The actual tax paid by landowners, however, does increase due to the rise in EAV, which last year in the district went up by 6.5%.

Earlier this month, the school district held three open houses to discuss the bond issue and plans for the funds raised. At that time, the proposal called for an estimated \$3 million in maintenance projects and another \$7 million in new construction and renovation work.

That's why the action item on Monday's agenda was for up to \$10 million in bonds. After considerable discussion,



This is an artist's rendition of a proposed renovation to the Farmington Junior High School Research Center. Picture courtesy of DLA Architects, Ltd.

though, President Alex Slack proposed amending the total to \$8 million. The amended resolution passed 5-2, with members Eric Stanley and

Keith Depperman voting no. "I'm not against these projects, but I just think ultimately the taxpayers should get to

Continued on Page 8

E-problems

Electric buses creating issues for Williamsfield

By **NICK VLAHOS**

For The Weekly Post

WILLIAMSFIELD – Electric buses appear to be costing the Williamsfield School District additional money. They also might cause additional headaches.

School Board members learned Monday night that district liability insurance for the next year will increase by almost \$14,000, to \$99,691. Part of the increase is because of general insurance-business trends. But part of it is because of the district's new fleet of electric buses.

Diesel bus value averaged about \$50,000 each, with \$95,000 the most expensive, according to Chad Morse, president of Porter-Hay Insurance of Galva and Galesburg. The value of each electric bus is between \$350,000 and \$380,000. The district vehicle fleet also has grown, from 13 to 18.

"That's a big reason why you've seen a huge increase in the commercial auto premium," Morse said.

In 2021, vehicle coverage accounted for 14% of the district's premium,

Continued on Page 2

Wind-turbine developers seeking Good Neighbor Agreements

Recently a brochure entitled "Four Creeks Wind Bulletin" was mailed to area residents by the developers of the proposed Four Creeks Wind Project in northwest Peoria County. The bulletin included an invitation to participate in a neighbor agreement.

Generally, once an industrial wind-energy developer has secured agreements with landowners for turbine placements, the next step is to contact the residents and owners of adjacent

properties and invite them to participate in the project by signing what's commonly called a Good Neighbor Agreement.

What does a wind-project developer have in mind when offering such an agreement?

Let's say that Fred Jones and his



Ron DIETER

family live in their beautiful rural home next to farmland on which the developer Windjammer wants to build a 640-foot-tall wind turbine.

Existing state and county setback requirements mandate a turbine of that height on the neighbor's land must be no closer to Fred's property line than 1.1 times the turbine height, or 704 feet in this example. And it must be no closer to Fred's house than 2.1 times the turbine height, or 1,344 feet.

Now let's say the Windjammer Project, for a variety of reasons, wants to locate the turbine closer to Fred's lot line than the law allows.

In that case, Windjammer will ask Fred to sign a contract, a Good Neighbor Agreement, which would include a waiver of state setback regulations. For a specified amount of money and/or annual payments, Fred would permit Windjammer to build a turbine closer than 704 feet to his lot line. Usually such

an exemption stipulates that the turbine's blade would not pass over the property line as it spins away.

If Windjammer's contract is like others in the industry, it would also stipulate that Fred will not hold Windjammer liable for any injuries, health problems or damages to himself, his family and his property due to the noise caused by the operation of the turbine blades and generators and the "flicker" caused by the

Continued on Page 13

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ELMWOOD PALACE THEATRE

BILLTOWN: Bond hearing for \$1.1M issue

Continued from Page 1
 Morse told the board. Now it accounts for 32%. Electric-vehicle chargers at various locations on school grounds represent about \$265,000 in coverage.

“The lesson learned is before we buy a bus, we need to come back and review how that affects liability insurance,” Board Member Brian Howard said.

Almost exactly one year ago, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Billtown to herald the fleet of at least seven electric

buses. U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, D-Moline, was among the attendees. Former Williamsfield Superintendent Tim Farquer spearheaded the project.

Lion Electric Co., a Canadian firm, manufactured the buses. A federal grant paid most of the cost, estimated at about \$3 million. Last week, Lion announced it is suspending operations at its Joliet manufacturing plant and temporarily laying off 400 employees.

“I think they’re toast,” Interim Superintendent Rolf Sivertsen said.

“They’ve got one week or two weeks left of cash flow.”

Sivertsen suggested board members plan for an alternative if electric buses break down and can’t be repaired or replaced, although there are no current problems. How the Lion Electric future affects the buses’ proprietary software might be among the issues.

“I think we run them until they’re dead,” Board President Chad Goff said. “The problem is ‘dead’ can be something very minute.”

The federal grant requires the district to keep the electric buses for at least five years, according to Sivertsen. But he alluded to potential policy alterations after President-elect Donald Trump takes office Jan. 20.

“I think all this clean-energy stuff is going to completely change in about a month,” Sivertsen said. “Whether it is a good thing or a bad thing, I have no opinion on. But they can’t expect us as a school district to sit on these buses that don’t run.”

The board approved the new insurance deal, as well as a 2024 tax levy of

\$4,754,463. Also approved was the audit for the 2024 fiscal year. Russ Rumbold of Gorenz and Associates, Ltd., of Peoria helped board members review the district’s annual financial report.

Before that, the board conducted a public hearing regarding the impending issue of \$1.1 million in working-cash bonds. The hearing attracted no public comment. The bond issue is designed to help remedy district cash-flow problems and to mitigate a projected deficit of at least \$400,000.

Final bond-issue approval is likely next month. Long-term cost-structure changes still are needed, according to Sivertsen. He intends to offer budget-reduction suggestions.

“The district is living beyond its means,” Sivertsen said. “We have to lower our costs. Otherwise we’re going to wind up right back where we started at and have a significant tax increase.”

“I’ll be honest with you, this is the most difficult budget I’ve ever managed in my life. It’s been a real challenge.”

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THE WEEK AHEAD

This Week's Hot Picks

- **Santa Stroll** – Farmington's Santa Stroll is today, Dec. 12, 4-7 p.m. Parade starts at 7 p.m. ending at Reed Park with a tree-lighting ceremony. Horse-drawn carriage rides, shopping specials.
- **Cookie Walk** – Union Church of Brimfield has a cookie walk on Saturday, Dec. 14, 8:30-11 a.m. Cookies \$7, candy \$8.
- **Seed Celebration** – Native prairie seeds will be distributed, swapped and appreciated on Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to noon at Salem Township Library in Yates City. You do not need to have seeds to share in order to participate. Call (309) 231-6040.

This Week's Events

- **Puzzle Night** – Morrison & Mary Wiley Library in Elmwood hosts family puzzle night today, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. Wide range of puzzles available.
- **Christmas Concert** – Guitarist Tom Campbell and pianist Greg Percifield will perform a free concert of holiday music and easy listening classic rock hits for all ages at Brimfield Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m.
- **Santa Breakfast** – Yates City Fire Department has an all-you-can-eat breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 14, 7-11 a.m. at the Yates City Community Center. ... Hanna City Volunteer Fire Department has a breakfast with Santa on Satur-

day, Dec. 14, 7-11 a.m., at the fire station. Pictures with Santa until 10 a.m.

- **Santa Bounce** – Family activities on Sunday, Dec. 15, 1-4 p.m. at Farmington Community Center. Inflatables, Santa visit and more.
- **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

- **Harvest Home** – Harvest Home fundraiser dinner is Dec. 19 at Yates City Community Center, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Country-fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, dessert and drink. \$13.

The Weekly Post Seven-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly Sunny	Cloudy	Showers	Cloudy	Showers	Partly Sunny	Partly Sunny
31 9	17 13	43 34	45 37	49 28	44 28	39 24
WNW 20 mph	NW 5 mph	SE 13 mph	SW 7 mph	SW 12 mph	WSW 9 mph	NNE 8 mph

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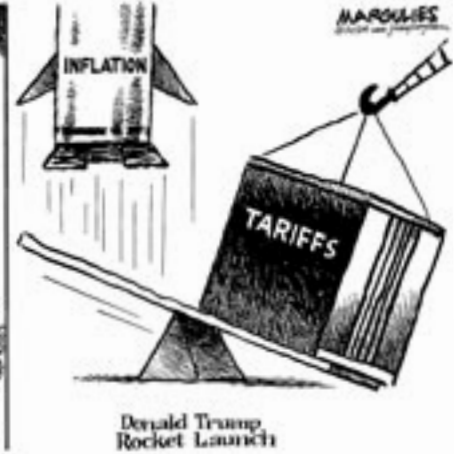
Deadlines - News due Tuesdays by noon. Ads due Mondays by noon.

Quotable - "Christmas is the day that holds all time together."
- Alexander Smith

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SCATTERSHOTS

POLL:
NEARLY 41% OF DEMOCRATS WANT TO HIT THEMSELVES IN THE HEAD WITH THE SAME HAMMER IN 2028.



Get some seeds, attract some critters

Deer were not cooperative Sunday morning as I sat high in a tree overlooking French Creek in scenic Knox County. But the beauty of sitting in nature long enough is that something will usually catch your eye, if you stay awake and attentive and ignore your cell-phone.



Jeff LAMPE

Sure enough, as an otherwise slow morning neared an end, the cackle of a rooster pheasant caught my ears ... then my eyes. There not 50 feet away, a gaudy rooster floated into our prairie following a group of 9-10 hen pheasants.

Breeding season is months away, but those hens sure acted like they were avoiding the loud-beaked rooster. Once they landed, the hens scattered, some sprinting into the prairie, some for a nearby plot of sorghum.

Yes, there are still pheasants in central Illinois – a bird many people tell me they used to see but never do any more. Generally, those same people

offer up coyotes or hawks as causes for the lack of pheasants.

I nod along to be polite. And in truth, raccoons are a huge problem. But predators are not the main reason pheasants have become rare.

This Saturday (Dec. 14) in Yates City, a group of us can help you crack the pheasant code. Just stop by Salem Township Library between 10 a.m. to noon for the second Native Seed Celebration, spend a few minutes chatting and take home some native prairie seeds. That this year's gathering is sponsored in part by the University of Maquon botany department only adds to the excitement.

I'm not sure what other participants will bring to the free event, but my bounty so far includes prairie blazing star, two kinds of milkweed (butterfly and swamp), Indian paintbrush, white aster, bergamot, ironweed, Joe Pye weed and a grab-bag of seeds collected last summer and fall in Illinois and Iowa.

Other participants will no doubt offer other native seeds and maybe even some nuts for you tree growers.

Last year, we billed this as a seed exchange, which was a mistake.

Word was some folks stayed home, since they had no seeds to exchange.

Don't let that happen this Saturday. The event is open to folks who have something to swap, but also to any of you who want merely to sow a few native prairie seeds but don't have any to share.

And you don't need acres for your prairie planting. Even just a small space in your yard can be a great seedbed. Many seeds I collect come from a small, kidney-shaped bed in front of our Elmwood home that is busy all spring and summer with visiting bugs and birds.

No, you probably won't attract pheasants into town. But if you plant natives, you will see butterflies, goldfinches, hummingbirds and quite an array of cool insects.

Really, that's the goal of having this event – to see more native plants growing on an Illinois landscape that has so few prairie plants left. That and the chance to swap a few prairie tales with like-minded folks will make Saturday a success. So join in.

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PUBLIC RECORD

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

Police reports

• **DOUGLAS** – A Lacon man threatened to beat up the Maquon Township road commissioner, authorities stated.

The commissioner, Brandon Gray, was told two men aboard skid steers were logging about 4 p.m. Nov. 18 in the 600 block of Knox Road 1800 East north of Douglas. The log work damaged the road and a ditch, according to a Knox County Sheriff's Office report.

When Gray visited the scene and asked the workers about it, an explosive-filled argument ensued, the report indicated. One of the workers, 36-year-old Jason L. Adams, was arrested and transported to the Knox County Jail in Galesburg. He was accused of threatening a public official.

The workers' boss, who owns a Lacon-based timber firm, said he would take care of ditch and road repairs.

• **LEWISTOWN** – A possible trial for a Farmington woman accused of propositioning a 13-year-old boy has been pushed into 2025 at the earliest.

Kelli J. Miller, 39, appeared Dec. 2 in Fulton County Circuit Court for a pretrial hearing regarding allegations that led to her arrest in August. Her case was continued until Feb. 3. In a court appearance in September, a jury trial was scheduled for this week.

Miller has been on unpaid suspension from her job as a Farmington School District classroom aide. The incident with the boy is alleged to have happened Aug. 17 at Miller's residence.

• **ELMWOOD** – An apparently drunken Elmwood man hit his parents, according to authorities.

An Elmwood police officer was dispatched shortly before 8 p.m. Nov. 29 to a residence in the 400 block of N. Pleasant View St. There the officer found Dalton L. Sander, 19, who was accused of hitting a 67-year-old man and a 70-year-old woman. The man said Sander messed up the room and had been drinking alcohol, the report stated. Sander was accused of domestic battery/bodily harm and transported to the Peoria County Jail.

• **WATAGA** – A Williamsfield-area man was accused of possessing illicit drugs.

A Knox County Sheriff's Office deputy was dispatched about 7 p.m. Nov. 29 to Casey's, 221 N. Depot St. in Wataga, regarding a disturbance. There the deputy found Dallas R. Hulse, 27, who apparently had been arguing with his mother, according to a report.

Hulse also had snorted something and placed something in a trash can in front of the business, according to a witness. The deputy found in the trash can a clear plastic bag that con-

tained methamphetamine. Hulse denied it was his.

The deputy transported Hulse to the Knox County Jail in Galesburg. He was charged with possession of less than 5 grams of meth.

• **WILLIAMSFIELD** – A Brimfield-area man who climbed 40 feet up a Williamsfield grain-bin ladder and was unable to descend on his own was to undergo a mental-health evaluation.

The incident happened about 5:30 p.m. Nov. 24 at Ag-Land FS Inc., 117 E. Oak St. The 45-year-old man had gone for a walk with his 75-year-old mother but decided to extend it, according to a Knox County Sheriff's Office report.

About a half-hour later, the man was spotted on the grain-bin ladder. Local firefighters helped him down. The uninjured man was cited for trespassing and transported to Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria. An Illinois State Police clear-and-present-danger report also was filed against him.

• **WILLIAMSFIELD** – A Dahinda-area man stopped for speeding also had a suspended driver's license.

Chevy A. Hamilton, 21, was driving an eastbound 2018 Chevrolet van at 79 mph in a 55-mph zone about 1:30 p.m. Nov. 23 in the 2100 block of Knox Road 1400 North, according to a Knox County Sheriff's Office report. Hamilton is to appear Jan. 8 in Knox County Circuit Court in Galesburg.

• **FARMINGTON** – Someone stole almost \$100 in gasoline from a Farmington station, according to authorities. The alleged theft was reported shortly before 1 p.m. Nov. 21 from the Marathon gas station at 600 E. Fort St. An employee there said a 20-to-30-year-old man pumped \$98.38 in fuel into a U-Haul truck, then drove away to the east, a Farmington police report stated.

• **WILLIAMSFIELD** – An East Moline man's vehicle caught fire on Interstate 74 south of Williamsfield. Brian K. Coari, 42, was driving an eastbound 2018 Hyundai sport-utility vehicle about 10 a.m. Nov. 17 at mile marker 65 when he noticed smoke emanating from under its hood. Coari pulled to the shoulder, opened the hood and noticed small flames on the exhaust, a Knox County Sheriff's Office report stated.

Coari said he had changed the vehicle oil recently and apparently forgot to replace the oil cap. The flames extinguished on their own, and the vehicle was towed.

• **OAK RUN** – An area man was accused of drunken driving after he fired a gun on his property.

Paul E. Waymoth, 64, was implicated in the incidents that took place about 4:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in the 1700 block of Knox Road 1350 East. A Knox County Sheriff's Office deputy was summoned there regarding a domestic dispute.

Waymoth retrieved a shotgun from

a safe in a barn next to his residence and fired one round into the ground, according to a report. Accounts differ as to what precipitated that. Waymoth then placed that gun and others into the trunk of his vehicle and drove from one building to another on the property.

Waymoth was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, aggravated discharge of a firearm and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Waymoth was transported to the Knox County Jail in Galesburg.

• **YATES CITY** – A telephone scam bilked a Yates City man out of about \$300. The scam was reported to the Knox County Sheriff's Office about 2:15 a.m. Nov. 14. According to a report, the 40-year-old victim was receiving text messages from random phone numbers. The messages stated the FBI had a warrant for the man's arrest.

Payment in Apple products or gift cards was requested to invalidate the warrants. The victim was told to block the phone numbers and not to send any more money.

• **VICTORIA** – Shortly after 5:15 p.m. Nov. 22, Christine S. Brown, 61, of Williamsfield was driving an eastbound 2018 Chevrolet Traverse in the 1500 block of Illinois Route 167 west of Victoria when the vehicle struck a deer. Brown was uninjured, a Knox County Sheriff's Office report stated. The vehicle sustained front-right damage but was drivable.

• **EDWARDS** – Dani L. Jones, 32, of Edwards was arrested shortly before 10:30 a.m. Dec. 2 and accused of driving under the influence of alcohol, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

• **FARMINGTON** – Chief Chris Darsham reported the following Farmington Police Department activity for November: 3,370 building checks, 277 business checks, 230 total calls, 26 ordinance violations, 23 traffic stops, 16 reports, 12 assists to other police departments, seven miscellaneous, five arrests, five crimes against people, three crashes handled and one property crime.

• **ELMWOOD** – Chief Aaron Bean reported the following Elmwood Police Department activity for November: one arrest, one stop, three warnings and 10 reports.

• **GALESBURG** – These were among calls to which the Knox County Sheriff's Office responded between Nov. 17-23: verbal domestic dispute, Williamsfield; theft, Yates City; theft, Williamsfield; vehicle fire, Dahinda; burglary, Williamsfield; telephone harassment, Williamsfield; driving complaint, Elmwood; theft, Dahinda; telephone harassment, Farmington; physical domestic dispute, Williamsfield; custody dispute, Farmington.



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Maquon murder trial likely in February

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

GALESBURG – A jury trial is likely in February for a woman implicated in the apparent murder of the former Maquon police chief.

Meanwhile, another woman accused of murdering former Chief Richard Young has pleaded not guilty.

Both women – Karen Doubet and Marcy Oglesby – appeared Tuesday morning in Knox County Circuit Court. Oglesby, 52, was arrested in October 2022 after Young’s decomposing body was found in a box inside a Maquon storage locker. Doubet, 78, was arrested about two months ago.

Doubet made her not-guilty plea in front of Judge Andrew Doyle about 10 minutes before Oglesby’s case was heard. Each court appearance lasted only a few minutes. Under court order, the women are not to contact each other. Doubet sat outside the second-story courtroom as Oglesby sat inside.

Wearing a maroon pull-over emblazoned with a drawing of a cat and the words “Fluff You You Fluffin’ Fluff,” Oglesby did not address the court. She is scheduled for a status hearing Jan. 14, a motions hearing Jan. 30 and a pretrial hearing Feb. 3, all at 9 a.m.

Oglesby’s trial probably will begin Feb. 17, her co-counsel, public defender Christopher Kanthak, said following the hearing Tuesday. Public defender David Hansen also is representing Oglesby.

In court, Knox County State’s Attorney Ashley Worby said her office has begun to ask expert witnesses to block time for the hearings and the trial.

“This case has some age on it ... but we’re looking to wrap it up in February,” Doyle said.

Charges against Doubet and Oglesby are similar. Among them are first-degree murder, aggravated battery and concealment of a homicidal death. In addition, Oglesby is accused of gun and forgery crimes.

Doubet is to appear again in court at 9 a.m. March 10. Public defender Christopher Coburn was beside Doubet in the courtroom, which she entered while walking with a cane. All she said in court was “OK,” in response to

Doyle.

“It would be a good idea to talk with your attorney sometime in February so you’re both on the same page at that point,” the judge said.

Doubet and Oglesby are accused of using eye drops to poison Young between June and October 2021. The medication apparently was placed in Young’s food and drink. The 71-year-old Young died toward the end of 2021, according to prosecutors. He resided with Doubet and Oglesby in Maquon.

The women are accused of hiding Young’s remains in the storage unit for about a year, until neighbors complained about an odor. Neither suspect is in police custody.

In March 2023, Doyle

dismissed the murder and aggravated-battery charges against Oglesby, because of speedy-trial concerns. But a state appellate court reinstated the charges, and early this year the Illinois Supreme Court declined to intervene.

Oglesby also is to appear Jan. 29 for a plea hearing in Fulton County Circuit Court in Lewistown regarding a separate case. She is accused of passing bad checks.

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Entry Deadline: December 16th, 2024 by 4:00pm
 Contest is open to all businesses and residents within the Elmwood City Limits.

Cash Prizes sponsored by Farmers State Bank will be awarded for 1st (\$300), 2nd (\$200) and 3rd (\$100) place winners!

Judges will be driving by December 16th, 2024 by 6pm so make sure your lights are on!

To enter: send your Name, Address and Phone number to:

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Winners will be announced 12/17 9am

ELMWOOD

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2025

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FARMINGTON: Board must pare down projects

Continued from Page 1 say yes or no," Stanley said.

Depperman said several times that he thought the board should lower the tax burden on people. That appeared to resonate with other members in voting for the amended \$8 million total.

Ultimately, board members said benefits outweigh the increased expense for taxpayers. Board Member Dustin Blunier said the increase on his tax bill would be \$80 per year.

"When I look at the long-term value of these projects, I think \$80 is worth it," Blunier said. "I don't think that's a big ask."

Chatterton said maintenance items include several projects to be done in the short term: \$1.3 to \$1.5 million to replace flat roofs; \$900,000 for new lights for football, baseball and softball fields; and \$100,000 to \$200,000 for track resurfacing.

Other possible maintenance projects over the next five years are replacing a chiller for \$450,000 and up to \$200,000 to replace a boiler.

A list of eight enhancement items were also presented to community members during the open



This is an artist's rendition of a proposed renovation to the Farmington Senior High School cafeteria. Picture courtesy of DLA Architects, Ltd.

houses and a pecking order among those projects is emerging, Chatterton said.

He said there was no community support expressed for updating four entryway canopies to the senior high, junior high, elementary school and administrative offices. Cutting those would save \$1.06 million.

"That doesn't benefit the kids and the price seems exorbitant," Chatterton said.

Beyond that, Chatterton said the board will be tasked with selecting among bids for the following projects:

- Cafeteria and commons renovations for the elementary and junior and

senior high schools, \$2.19 million.

- A junior high research center and outdoor learning center, \$1.07 million.

- Renovations to Gym C and Gym D, \$290,919.

- A center for alternative-learning students currently being sent to Peoria or Canton, \$816,365.

- Band and chorus renovations, \$259,583.

- Construction of a softball and baseball hitting facility with room for a golf simulator, \$1.26 million.

- An indoor play and recreation area for elementary students, \$206,274.

Those projects total \$6.1 million, meaning the board must pare at least \$1.1 million in the months and

years to come.

"We have a long run-way," Chatterton said. "The whole span would take us three years if we were to do all of these."

Chatterton said seeking staff input is a next step in the process.

Based on feedback from open houses and board responses Monday, there is strong support for the cafeteria renovations, the junior high research center and the alternative-learning center.

One ongoing subject not discussed Monday is providing a football field for the Farmington JFL program. Chatterton said he is working with other public entities and still plans to take care of them.

In other business, the board approved a 2024 tax levy of \$8,418,326 with a rate of 4.585. Chatterton said the rate is among the lowest of 20 districts in Peoria County.

The board also approved the 2024-25 course catalog and hiring Allaysia Vaultonburg as a long-term Spanish and business substitute teacher, Chesney Koenig as a student facilitator for the rest of the 2024-25 school year and Mindie Sollenberger as a cafe worker. Resignations were accepted from Lily Mendez as girls track coach and Marcus Nelms as a bus driver.

Honored as junior high students of the month were sixth graders Lucy Wilson and Devion Taylor, seventh graders Onna McDermet and Brayden Melz and eighth graders Ashlyn Brewer and Charles Evans.

Honored as high school students of the month were senior Abbie Ackers, junior Brayden Nickle, sophomore Lucinda Depperman and freshman Haven McMaster.

Orange Frog honorees were Chrisi Garlish, registrar and grant coordinator, and nurse Kristin Vallas.

Also honored were members of the 12-1 semifinalist football team and junior high state cross country meet qualifier Addison Martin.

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BRIEFS

Elmwood board passes non-resident waiver

ELMWOOD – The Elmwood School Board on Dec. 5 passed a five-year tuition waiver for children of full-time staff members who live outside of the school district.

Superintendent Joel Schmieg said there was no discussion of the waiver during the special meeting.

Schmieg will send the waiver application to the state and expects a decision sometime in April.

Illinois American Water granted rate increase

The Illinois Commerce Commission has granted Illinois American Water an increase in water and sewer rates but reduced the company's request by approximately 30% for an overall increase of \$110 million.

The ICC decision also approves a 9.84% return on equity for the company, a reduction from the utility's requested 10.75% ROE.

Illinois American Water provides water and sewer service to approximately 383,000 customers in 148 communities across Illinois, includ-

ing Farmington.

Illinois American said the rate change customers will experience starting Jan. 1 will vary among its operating districts. Monthly water-service bill for the typical residential customer using 3,500 gallons per month with a 5/8-inch meter will increase approximately \$16 and the typical residential wastewater bill will increase approximately \$8.50 per month.

Customers will receive information about the new rates on their Illinois American Water bill. Information is also available on the company's website at amwater.com/ilaw, under the tab "Customer Service & Billing, Your Water and Wastewater Rates."

Starting July 1, Illinois American Water will also expand its existing low-income discount program to provide a 10% to 80% monthly bill credit for customers whose incomes are up to 300% of the federal poverty level. Eligible customers will be able to sign up directly through Illinois American Water.

Customers struggling to pay their water bills are encouraged to see if they are eligible for the existing low-

income discount program and customer assistance programs.

Illinois American said in a press release that the increase is driven primarily by \$557 million in capital investments in 2024 and 2025. The company said the increase will support continued investment in infrastructure, including the replacement, lining and installation of approximately 44 miles of aging water and wastewater pipelines. Other projects include upgrading water and wastewater treatment plants to meet regulatory compliance and ongoing replacement of lead-service lines.

"Based on the Commission's recent cases and evidence across the country, it seems clear that significant investment is needed to bring our water systems up to current health and safety standards," said ICC Commissioner Stacey Paradis. "While this comes with an immediate short-term cost, the Commission came to this decision with great consideration, not only for what is reasonable and prudent, but for how best to move Illinois forward."



Thank You Kim
 Why does Kim invest so much time into this work? She emphasizes that it's not about the recognition, stating, "If I can walk down the street and know I played a little part in making the town look nice," that makes it all worthwhile. If you happen to see Kim and Bob watering or caring for the plants, don't hesitate to stop and say hello. They are always welcoming volunteers who wish to learn from Kim's expertise in plant care, and she might even share some secrets from her little green book!

Community Notes:
 Last Day for Leaf Pick UP
 Friday, December 20th

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Bell & Field Concert

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6-8pm
Saturday, Dec 14th

Brimfield Public Library Free Concert for All Ages

Non-alcoholic beverages welcome

OBITUARIES

Donna M. Carlson

DUNLAP – Donna Marie Carlson, 77, of Dunlap, passed away at 5:59 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024, at home, surrounded by her loving family. Born on Nov. 14, 1946, in Peoria, she was the daughter of the late John H. and Lucille R. (McLaughlin) Swanson. On Aug. 3, 1963, she married Stanley K. Carlson in Dunlap. He preceded her in death on Aug. 1, 2016.



Carlson

Survivors include two children, Eric (Bayaraa) Carlson of Chillocothe and Marnie (Larry) Youngblood of Peoria; two grandchildren, Bubka and Christina Carlson; and a brother, William Swanson of Campbell River, British Columbia.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Jack, Donald and Alan Swanson; and two sisters, Geraldine Pahel and Lucille DeMarce.

Donna was a homemaker who enjoyed baking, making stained glass, painting, gardening and spending time with her family, friends and her dogs, Big Guy and Sparky. She was an active member at Prospect United Methodist Church.

A funeral service will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, at Prospect United Methodist Church – Dunlap, at 11 a.m. Visitation will

take place at the church one hour prior, from 10 a.m. until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Prospect United Methodist Church, OSF Hospice or the Dunlap Fire Protection District. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Princeville is assisting with arrangements.

To leave condolences for Donna's family, please visit www.haskellfuneral.com.

Raymond E. Graves

ELMWOOD – Raymond E. "Pete" Graves, 80, of Elmwood, Ill., passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, at his residence.

Pete was born Nov. 19, 1944, in Gibson City, Ill., to Ernest and Ida (Maher) Graves.



Graves

Raymond is survived by two children, Nathan (Heather Rice) Graves of Elmwood and Erica (Eric) Slinger of Denver; one brother, Edward (the late Mary Beth) Graves; one sister, Jalee Scott; three grandchildren, Dominic, Agnes and Veronica Slinger; one nephew, Eric; two nieces, Shannon and Emily; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

Raymond is preceded in death by his parents; one son, Aaron Graves; and one brother-in-law, Richard Scott.

Raymond graduated from Elmwood High School in 1962. He then went on to earn his bachelor of science degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in 1969.

He then served in the Army and was stationed in Germany. Raymond also joined the Peace Corps, where he volunteered in India. For over 50 years, he owned and operated Graves Milling Company in Yates City.

Raymond was a board member of the Bank of Yates City, past member of Illinois Grain and Feed, past member of the Yates City School Board and a member of Maple Lane Country Club. He was also a current member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Elmwood.

Raymond enjoyed golfing, reading and spending time with his grandchildren. His friends will remember him as a humble, soft-spoken, kind man.

A funeral Mass was Dec. 7, 2024, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Elmwood. Burial followed in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in rural Elmwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Aaron Graves Scholarship Memorial Fund.

Shirley A. Stabler

WYOMING – Shirley Ann Stabler, 72, of Wyoming, Ill., passed away on Dec. 9, 2024, at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, Ill. Shirley was born Dec. 4, 1952, in Elgin, Ill., to

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DIETER: Attorney advice invaluable

Continued from Page 1
passing over Fred's house at certain times of the day and year.

Nor would Fred hold Windjammer liable for any loss of satellite, TV, internet or GPS reception.

Fred's neighbor Sam also owns a home close to the project but no turbines will be located closer to Sam's property than the law allows. However, Windjammer may still want to have a Good Neighbor Agreement with Sam because he might later claim to be suffering health issues caused by the constant sound or flicker.

A Good Neighbor Agreement with Sam would eliminate most any lawsuit and liability problem for Windjammer.

Not all property owners near a wind project development will be offered a Good Neighbor Agreement, only those most likely to be affected by the turbines' proximity. Many agreements also contain a confidentiality clause to prevent homeowners like Fred and Sam from disclosing the terms, such as the annual payments.

Good Neighbor Agreements have become increasingly important to wind project developers in recent years as the public's perception of the problems associated with giant wind turbines becomes more widespread. The confidentiality

clauses in wind-farm agreements and leases are important to stave off opposition to wind-farm construction.

Even so, opposition to wind-turbine projects is gaining steam in the U.S. as well as in Europe and Australia. Many counties in the U.S. are severely restricting or outright banning wind-project development, citing the threat to citizens' health, wildlife migration and habitat, property values and environmental mishaps, such as fire and the release of toxic materials.

Some homeowners refuse to sign an agreement because they do not want to give up their right to hold a developer accountable for any future problems.

Residents and landowners wanting more information on this important issue should do an internet search for "good neighbor agreements wind."

Also, Roger A. McEowen, a professor of agriculture law, offers an informative list of items to consider before signing a wind-turbine lease. Just google "Legal Issues For Landowners Washburn Law."

Of course the advice of an attorney with special experience in industrial wind-project leases is invaluable when making decisions that will last for decades.

LEGAL ADS - Call (309) 741-9790

Continued from page 12
CALENDAR

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 January 8, 2025, at the hour 9:00 a.m., Miller, Hall & Triggs, LLC, 416 Main Street, Suite 1125, Peoria, IL 61602, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT SEVEN (7) AND THE WEST HALF OF LOT SIX (6) IN NORTH-OLM, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH,

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The real estate is: 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: At sale, the bidder must have 10%

down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Lender Legal PLLC, 1800 Pembroke Drive, Suite 250, Orlando, Florida 32810. 407-730-4644. LLS10722-JM IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13256416

Published 12/5, 12/12, 12/19/24

Answers on Page 14

Super Crossword

TEEPEES

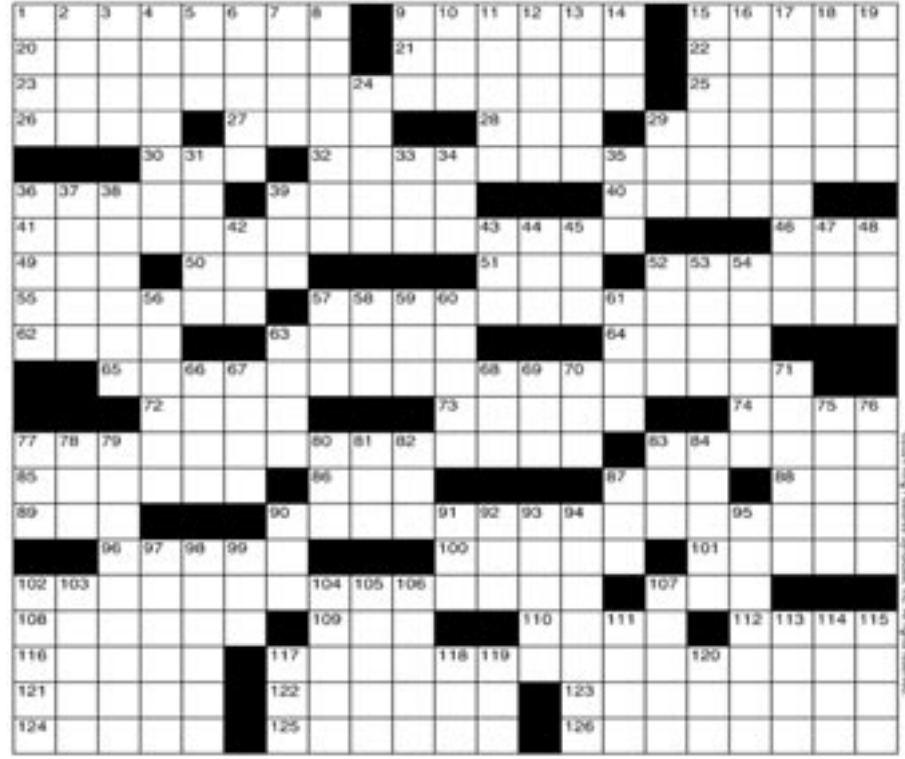
ACROSS
1 The United States' landmass, with "the"
9 Rafter's challenge
15 Shul scroll
20 Another similar thing
21 Barack and Michelle
22 Give the slip
23 Like babies who throw tantrums when you try to put diapers on them?
25 News outlets
26 RBI or ERA
27 Film lead-in to "Cop"
28 Photo —
29 More nimble
30 Trellis climber
32 Having a sore mouth from working long hours at a kissing booth?
36 Joint a sock often covers them?
39 Chipped in, in poker
40 Beckett title character
41 Intense fire used as an energy source?

46 Pie — mode
49 Abbr. on a road map
50 With
51 Colon part
52 Communist
53 Egyptian god of the dead
57 Declaration while pointing at a group of workers on strike?
62 Scent sensor
63 George at Gettysburg
64 Airy melody
65 Statement when you're nearly ready to complete a collage?
72 The "A" of "A-Rod"
73 Depart
74 Air out
77 Mesmerizing horse movement?
83 Limb-bending muscle
85 Is theatrical
86 Pod item
87 Color grade
88 Actress
89 Tangle of hair

90 Inherent hanging-down position?
96 Sea/World whale, once
100 Fake identity
101 Fuels (up)
102 "It won't hurt a little?"
107 Body of eau
108 Kind of acid in vinegar
109 Debt note
110 Architect
112 "Slung" food
116 St. — (Caribbean getaway)
117 Hassle of tracking down a missing retirement payment?
121 Vintage song
122 Stress
123 Spiritual self
124 Foundations
125 Peanut butter cup brand
126 Bread browning

6 Indian dish
7 Height: Prefix
8 The whole —
9 King, in Caen
10 Belly muscles
11 Jean — (perfume brand)
12 Windows ad catchphrase
13 Language of Copenhagen, to locals
14 New jet in '68
15 Worked as an office sub
16 Carry too far
17 Howard Stern's area
18 "Bye, Brigitte"
19 Bodily pump
24 Conductor
29 "Every seat sold" abbr.
31 "La Traviata" composer
33 Spy novelist
34 Shareable PC file
35 Vainglory
36 Chef's te-on
37 "Untrue"
38 Maryland congressman — Mfume
39 Even a bit of
42 Taxing gp.
43 Mag bigwigs

44 See
45 High degree
47 Falsification
48 Cockout post
52 BBQ rod
53 Mosaic piece
54 On the go
56 Withdraw
57 — Aviv
58 Del meat
59 Footstap
60 Model S car
61 Otherwise
63 Long skirt
66 Balm plant
67 Meshes
68 A fifth of fifty
69 D.C. donor
70 Abbr. on a road map
71 Dallasites or Houstonians
75 — word (single-occasion coinage)
76 Plate holders
77 Skirt edge
78 Diva Sumac
79 Broken bits of ceramic material
80 Tax doc. pro
81 House animal
82 Novelist
83 Festivity
84 Pigeon perch
87 Males
90 Raps — (Easter Island)
91 Solar beam
92 Frazier foe
93 Sheet fabric
94 Website visit unit
95 Pilot Amelia
97 Actress
100 Daniel of "Gone With the Wind"
98 Comes up
99 Nero's 2,100
102 Bigwig
103 Florida city
104 "Uncle" crier, perhaps
105 Explorer — de León
106 Stratagems
107 Disney film of 2016
111 Nevada city
113 Highest point
114 — Pei
115 Mama birds
117 Golf average
118 Ending for opal
119 Extra NBA periods
120 — Plains



Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



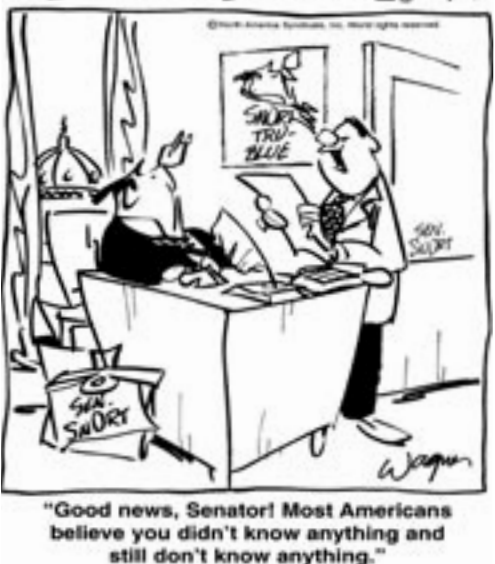
by Jeff Pickering

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN THE BEARD IT



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 14

CryptoQuote

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

OKECX HED XPVRFNHENI
SJD AKXS LKODEYFN YKEBD
HMHPNHZND SK JFAHVPSI.
— IDJFCH ZDER

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- LITERATURE: Which Victor Hugo novel was made into an animated Disney movie?
 - MUSIC: In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," what was the gift on the eighth day?
 - GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Kalahari Desert located?
 - HISTORY: Who was the first African-American justice on the U.S. Supreme Court?
 - BIOLOGY: What is the process called in which a nonreproductive cell divides in two?
 - MOVIES: In the movie "Elf," what is the name of Santa's sleigh?
 - ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the largest mammal on Earth?
 - U.S. STATES: Where did the first organized celebration of Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) take place in the U.S.?
 - ASTRONOMY: Which planet is the smallest in our solar system?
 - TELEVISION: Which 1980s-1990s TV family sitcom had a holiday episode titled "A Very Tanner Christmas"?
- Answers
- "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."
 - Eight maids a-milking.
 - Southern Africa.
 - Thurgood Marshall.
 - Mitosis.
 - The Kringle 3000.
 - The blue whale.
 - Mobile, Alabama.
 - Mercury.
 - "Full House."
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TOP 10 MOVIES

- Moana 2 (PG)
 - Wicked (PG)
 - Gladiator II (R)
 - Red One (PG-13)
 - The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (PG)
 - Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin. (PG-13)
 - Venom: The Last Dance (PG-13)
 - Heretic (R)
 - The Wild Robot (PG)
 - A Real Pain (R)
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR Brimfield CUSD #309

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Brimfield CUSD #309 Peoria County, Illinois for 2024 will be held on December 18, 2024 at 323 Clinton Street, Brimfield High School Library, IL 61517 at 7:00 PM.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Superintendent Chad Jones at chad.jones@brimfield309.com.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$5,536,513.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$ 6,052,347. This represents a 9.32% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt services and public building commission leases for 2023 were \$1,407,290.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are \$1,437,800.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$6,943,803.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$ 7,490,147. This represents a 7.87% increase over the previous year.

Published 12/12/24

GIRLS: Brimfield posts program's 1,000th win

Continued from Page 16
Monday, Streitmatter scored 17 points, Schock tallied nine and grabbed five rebounds and Sennett added seven.

Princeville was to be home vs. Knoxville on Wednesday and then is off until a Dec. 18 game at Lewistown.

• **Brimfield** – The Lady Indians (6-2) beat Mercer County on Monday, 57-44, to record the 1,000th win in program history.

Ava Heinz had a big hand in the success, scoring 30 points to go with 14 rebounds, five assists and four blocked shots.

Maddie Rust added nine points and four assists while Josie Wiewel scored six points.

Prior to that, Brimfield handed regional nemesis Annawan a 48-37 defeat at home on Saturday. Heinz put up 24 points and grabbed eight rebounds against the team that has ended Brimfield's season the past two years in regional title games.

Layni Linthicum added seven points, eight assists

and three steals for Brimfield, which led 25-11 at halftime and then held on despite 22 points by Bella VanOpdorp. Rust added six points and five assists in the win and Katie Doe scored five points.

Brimfield is home vs. Midwest Central-Delavan today (Dec. 12) and on Saturday against Deer Creek-Mackinaw.

• **Elmwood** – A rash of injuries has slowed the Lady Trojans (5-3), who dropped three of their last four games.

Elmwood lost Monday at home vs. Havana, 44-33, despite 22 points from Brooke Allen. Starting point guard Tinley Lemmerman did not play in the game that saw Havana outscore Elmwood 10-4 in the fourth quarter.

Prior to that, the Trojans were without Lemmerman and top reserves Mackenzie Caulkins and Raelynn McClain in a 37-26 loss to Ridgewood on Dec. 4.

The three were back for a 44-40 win over ROWVA-Williamsfield on Dec. 5. Allen scored 12 of her 17

points in the final two quarters to lead Elmwood vs. R-W, and Andrea Glenn added seven. Lemmerman scored four in limited play and will likely be sidelined for a while with a leg injury suffered while attempting to draw a charge.

Elmwood travels to the Monmouth United Tournament on Saturday (Dec. 14) to play Payson-Seymour at 10:30 a.m. and Farmington at 1:30 p.m. Tourney play continues Dec. 17 with a game vs. United at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 19 with time and foe based on pool-play results.

• **ROWVA-Williamsfield** – The Lady Cougars (2-6) have dropped four in a row since beating Farmington on Dec. 2.

Most recent was a 45-29 loss at Bureau Valley on Monday that saw R-W fall behind 11-2 after one quarter.

"Bureau Valley came out ready and we dug ourselves a hole that we couldn't get out of," Coach Jeff Hannam said.

On Saturday, R-W lost at home to Illini Bluffs (47-40) after falling to Elmwood on Dec. 5 (44-40) and Princeville on Dec. 4 (39-31).

"Unfortunately, we came up on the short end of our last three games last week, but I can't fault the effort from the girls," Hannam

said. "We are getting better each day."

Megyn Erlacher was leading scorer vs. Princeville with 16 points, Adydysen Link had 11 to lead against Elmwood and Ella Rigg tallied 12 to set the pace against Illini Bluffs. Riley Smith and Erin Welch scored nine points apiece against IB.

R-W was to face Anna-wan on Wednesday and is at Orion on Dec. 16.

• **Farmington** – The Lady Farmers (2-6) earned a second win on Dec. 4 by topping South Fulton, 39-32, for the second time this season.

Farmington also lost to Princeville last Saturday, 50-30. Sophomore Lynsey Shriber led the Lady Farmers with 13 points on 4-for-6 shooting from the field and 5-for-10 from the free-throw line.

Carmen Gavelys and Molly Zaborac added six points apiece for Farmington, which shot 9-for-28 from the field (including 0-for-8 on 3-pointers) and 12-for-22 from the line.

Farmington is next at the Monmouth United Tournament on Saturday, facing the hosts at 10:30 a.m. and Elmwood at 1:30 p.m. Tourney play continues Dec. 17 vs. Payson Seymour at 6 p.m. and concludes Dec. 19 with game time and foe determined by pool play.

IHSA board adjusting classification schedule

The Illinois High School Association Board of Directors on Monday voted to begin using a one-year classification cycle instead of the current two-year cycle.

As a result, the IHSA will use enrollments collected by the Illinois State Board of Education in September 2024 to determine a school's classification for the 2025-26 school year.

In a press release, the IHSA said its board "has heard the concerns from the public, and more importantly, from our member schools in the days since the completion of the IHSA's fall state tournaments."

And in 2025, the IHSA board said it plans to "delve deeper into all aspects that impact IHSA classifications."

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CryptoQuote
answer
Words are singularly the most powerful force available to humanity.
— Yehuda Berg

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer
3 4 9 1 5 7 2 8 6
5 8 6 4 2 9 3 1 7
1 7 2 8 3 6 4 5 9
9 2 7 5 1 8 6 3 4
6 3 5 9 4 2 8 7 1
8 1 4 6 7 3 5 9 2
7 9 8 2 6 5 1 4 3
4 6 3 7 8 1 9 2 5
2 5 1 3 9 4 7 6 8

BOYS HOOPS: Elmwood tops Delavan in 2OT

Continued from Page 16
it 34-31. Stark County sealed it by going 3-for-4 on free throws in the final 18 seconds. Browning finished with a team-high 12 points.

“This is my third year with him, and I feel like this is the first time where you knew that the moment was not going to get too bright and he was ready for it,” Stark County Coach Kane Mastin said. “He looked very natural and relaxed out there, and that was just awesome to watch.”

Ross Saner had 11 points for Stark County in its final varsity game in its current gymnasium, which opened in 1960. The Rebels’ first game in their new gym is scheduled for Jan. 10 against Knoxville.

A day after the Stark County game, Brimfield (4-3) lost at home to undefeated Annawan, 61-51. Connor Doe had a game-high 23 points for Brimfield, and Johnson scored 19. On Dec. 3, Brimfield won 47-35 at Flanagan-Cornell behind 15 points from Doe and 11 from Jackson Kappes.

ROWVA-Williamsfield was scheduled to visit Brimfield on Tuesday night. On Friday (Dec. 13), Brimfield is to play at Havana.

• **Elmwood** – Quinton Johns had 17 points, Garrett Webster 16 and Bo Windish 15 as Elmwood won 65-61 in double overtime Dec. 7 in an Inter-County conference opener at Delavan.

The Trojans (5-2) trailed 59-57 with about two minutes left in the second OT when Webster drove to the basket to tie it, then hit a 3-pointer in transition. Elmwood led by 10 after three quarters, but Delavan



Landon Crawford goes up for a shot vs. Tremont. Photo by Dave Giagnoni.

came back to tie it at 48.

Elmwood also led by three with two minutes left in the first OT.

“We hadn’t been in a close finish yet, and our lack of experience showed up a few times, but I was really proud of how much we battled through some adversity,” Elmwood Coach Josh Fugitt stated.

Oliver Thornton had 16 points, Webster 14 and Windish 14 to lead Elmwood to a 61-47 home victory Dec. 4 against West Prairie. Thornton and Webster each scored eight in the third quarter to help Elmwood erase a three-point halftime deficit.

Following a game Wednesday at Bushnell-Prairie City, Elmwood is to play host Saturday to Princeville.

• **Farmington** – A long trip Dec. 7 to Carthage ended in defeat for Farmington, 50-39 against Illini West.

Boston Smith scored 17 points on Dec. 3 and Landon Crawford tallied 14 as Farmington lost 61-41 at home to Tremont. The Turks led 24-7 after the first eight minutes against a team whose top players still appear to be recovering from the Farmers’

football run to the state semifinals.

“Our football players had two practices going into this game, so stamina was a huge factor,” Farmington Coach Marty Lozier stated. “We also aren’t there on our legs yet.”

Farmington (2-3) was to travel Tuesday to Macomb. The Farmers return home Friday to face Abingdon-Avon.

• **Princeville** – Tucker Sennett had 19 points, Jake Williams 13 as Princeville (3-2) exacted a measure of revenge against Peoria Heights, 54-21. Heights eliminated Princeville last season in a Class 1A regional title game. This time, Sennett did all his scoring in the first three periods.

Princeville was host

Tuesday to Lowpoint-Washburn and is host Friday to Illini Bluffs before a visit Saturday to Elmwood.

• **ROWVA-Williamsfield** – R-W fell to 1-6 overall and 0-2 in the ICAC as it lost 74-43 on Dec. 6 at Peoria Christian.

Mason Empson had 12 points to lead the Cougars, and teammates Jaxson Strom and Dawson Traphagan evenly split 20.

On Dec. 3, ICAC host Delavan defeated R-W 52-27.

“We lack experience, and it shows,” R-W Coach Ryan Hart stated.

Following a game Tuesday at Brimfield, R-W is to play Friday at Oneida against Kewanee Wethersfield, then again at 3 p.m. Saturday at Varna Midland.

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Pressing for points

Young Lady Princes improving on defense and in win column

By **JEFF LAMPE**

For The Weekly Post

Trailing by 15 heading into the fourth quarter of a game at North Fulton on Dec. 2, John Gross decided it was time to try something different.

Not different for him, as the veteran girls basketball coach has employed plenty of strategies, defenses and schemes in his 41-year coaching career.

But the concept of pressure defense was relatively new to his Princeville girls players. Since coming to Princeville, Gross has used a press infrequently and the last few years, with standout post player Brianna Brodie, pressed sparingly if at all.

But after rallying to lose by just three points at North Fulton thanks to the change on defense and winning three straight – including a 43-31 home win over Ridgewood on Monday – the press may be a staple for this year’s Lady

Princes.

“If the dumb coach would have (changed defenses) earlier, we might have won,” Gross said of the North Fulton game.

“Now it’s probably going to become our game. We just found out we’re a much better team when we are pressing teams.”

Princeville (4-6) pressed its way past ROWVA-Williamsfield on Dec. 4 by a 39-31 score and then on Dec. 7 topped Farmington, 50-30. Both games were on the road.

“We’re starting to shoot better and we’re getting some easier shots off the press,” Gross said. “We’re just trying to kick up the defense and make things off of it. We’re steadily getting better, but it’s still going to take some time.”

Paisley Schock scored a season-high 23 points in the win over Farmington on 8-for-15 shooting from the field and 4-for-4 accuracy from the line. Schock



Sahara Streitmatter (left), guarded here by Farmington’s Sophia Anderson, is one of Princeville’s top scorers this year with an average of 15 points per game. Photo by Dave Giagnoni.

also grabbed seven rebounds. Sahara Streitmatter added 14 points.

Schock and Streitmatter lead Princeville and average about 15 points per game.

“The rest of them, it’s been one or another that will score six or eight, and that helps,” Gross said.

Schock had 21 points in the win over R-W on 7-for-18 shooting, while Streitmatter and Bethany

Sennett tallied six apiece.

Gross said the winning streak has helped the confidence of his team, which includes one senior, one junior and several underclass contributors.

Foul trouble is one concern for Gross in regards to the press, since he has only 10 players in the program and is still attempting to play JV games.

Against Ridgewood on *Continued on Page 14*

Brimfield struggles in loss to Stark Co.

By **NICK VLAHOS**

For The Weekly Post

TOULON – Brimfield and Stark County appeared to be teams headed in opposite directions last week. But when they played each other Dec. 6, the roles reversed.

Winners of four of its first five games, Brimfield shot poorly in its sixth. So did Stark County, which lost four of its first five. But the host team ascended over a one-minute stretch late in the fourth quarter to beat Brimfield 37-33 in boys basketball.

Brady Johnson had a game-high 13 points, including all nine the Indians scored in the first quarter. But only three teammates scored, none in double digits. Brimfield missed at least 10 first-half shots from point-blank range, according to Indians Coach Scott Carlson.

“I’m not sure we got any better in the second half,” he said shortly after the final buzzer. “Not shot-

faking, fading away, taking shots too quick. We were fortunate they weren’t scoring on their easy ones, but ...

“We just threw a major clunker, and it’s hard to explain. When you go in (the locker room) after a game like that, I don’t know what to say. Our effort was there. It’s just too bad that we didn’t finish plays.”

Brimfield finished 13-for-49 from the floor and 2-for-16 on 3-pointers, according to Carlson.

The Indians led 14-13 at halftime and by five, 24-19, after Johnson’s layup with 2:57 remaining in the third quarter. But the Rebels then scored seven in a row. The game saw-sawed after that until Stark County junior guard Ben Browning took charge.

Browning’s three-point play with 1:57 left in the game gave Stark County a 32-31 lead. Fifty-two seconds later, his layup made *Continued on Page 15*

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