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The Weekly Post

“We Cover The News of West-Central Illinois With A Passion”

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Illinois’ grocery tax to end, aquifer protections begin

By BEN SZALINSKI and BRENDEN MOORE
Capitol News Illinois

The on-again, off-again Illinois statewide 1% grocery tax will go away on Jan. 1, though many people will continue to pay it at the local level.

Data compiled by the Illinois Municipal League shows that 656 municipalities – a little more than half of the state’s number – have passed an ordinance establishing their own grocery tax. Those communities are home to

7.2 million people, or 56.5% of the state’s population. Three counties – Washington, Wabash and Moultrie – have also approved countywide grocery taxes.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed a bill in 2024 eliminating the 1% statewide grocery tax, which he touted as a measure to ease residents’ tax burden. But because the revenue from the state grocery tax went to municipal governments rather than state coffers, the measure allowed

local governments to levy their own 1% tax via ordinance, rather than a referendum to voters.

Here are some other laws that will take effect in the new year:

Hotel soaps phased out

The phase-out of small, single-use plastic bottles in Illinois hotel rooms continues.

Senate Bill 2960, passed and signed into law in 2024, bars hotels from providing toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner and bath soap in less than six-ounce plastic containers unless

specifically requested by the hotel guest.

The ban took effect in hotels with 50 or more rooms on July 1 and takes effect for all hotels starting in 2026. Hotels in violation will receive a written warning for the first offense and be subject to fines of up to \$1,500 for each subsequent violation.

The legislation is intended to spur the state’s hospitality industry to reduce its plastic footprint by shifting to either refillable toiletry containers or larger plas-

tic bottles.

Similar laws have been enacted in California, New York and Washington.

Squatter removal

Senate Bill 1563 will make it easier for authorities to remove squatters who are illegally staying at someone else’s residence.

The law clarifies that a court-ordered eviction is not required for police to remove squatters from a person’s home, and police can enforce criminal trespassing

Continued on Page 5

BEEF PRICES STILL RISING

Cattle supply remains low

Possible increases in domestic herd in 2026

By RHIANNON BRANCH
FarmWeek

Livestock markets in 2025 have been more favorable than in recent years compared to crop markets, but a high-price environment does not mean producers should ease up on risk management.

Brittney Goodrich, assistant professor of ag economics at the University of Illinois, points to the cattle industry where several years of drought have drastically cut domestic beef supplies and border closures due to New World Screwworm have interfered with imports, pushing prices higher.

“During this last year, we haven’t decreased the herd size as much as we had previously. We’ve also not



Tight supplies of cattle in the U.S. continue to keep pressure on the markets heading into 2026. Photo by Catrina Rawson of FarmWeek.

slaughtered as high of a percentage of cows and heifers as we had in previous years. So there may be some modest indications that we’re starting to think about expansion, but it’s going to be slow,” Goodrich told FarmWeek. “USDA projects no real

significant expansion until between 2026 and 2027, then we might start to see herd sizes increase, which would put downward pressure on feeder and fed cattle prices.”

USDA reported an estimated 11.7

Continued on Page 8

Brimfield tax hike stirs a response

Residents take issue with proposed tax increase of 9%

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Weekly Post

BRIMFIELD – Fingers were a theme of a sometimes-contentious Brimfield School Board meeting Dec. 17.

Ultimately, figurative fingers in taxpayers’ pocketbooks might have caused more public angst than actual, upturned middle fingers in front of one of President Donald Trump’s buildings.

A proposed 9% increase in the district property-tax levy spawned a Truth in Taxation hearing that lasted about 45 minutes. At least six people among an audience of about 40 questioned the board regarding the hike. They accused the board and administrators of being too extravagant, among other things.

“School boards were run in the past by farmers and bankers, because they were con-

Continued on Page 2

Inside

• Princeville Village Board decision on code-enforcement software expected next week. **Page 8**

SAVE THE DATE

Ag Marketing Breakfast

Wednesday, January 28th
Breakfast is served from 7:30 to 8:00am with the meeting to follow.

Yates City Community Center
Watch for complete details coming soon

The best part of any journey is the people you meet along the way, and we’re pleased to say we’ve never met a better bunch of folks than you.

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Happy New Year!



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BRIMFIELD: Principal apologizes for post

Continued from Page 1
servative people,” said one observer, Scott Searle. “You guys are living in a different generation than what the rest of us are.”

Public concerns regarding a recent social-media post by Marcy Steele, the Brimfield High School principal, were significantly lower in number and more subdued in tone.

Following public-comment period, a choked-up Steele apologized for the post, in which she and two of her children were depicted making obscene gestures toward the Trump International Hotel & Tower in Chicago. Steele posted the photograph Dec. 7 to Facebook, but it was deleted the following day.

“I greatly regret the post,” Steele said. “I was not thinking. I don’t regret it because of the heat that I’ve taken or the horrible messages that my children have received, but more because of the divide it’s caused in the community. Because I love these kids.

“I don’t make the same mistake twice. So it won’t happen again.”

Earlier, Brimfield officials issued a statement that was critical of the post and of Steele’s judgment. No additional official

repercussions were noted.

Among those attending the meeting was a uniformed Peoria County Sheriff’s Office deputy, stationed in a rear corner of the room. Brimfield Superintendent Chad Jones said he requested the deputy as a precaution, given the initial public reaction to Steele’s post.

But only four people commented about Steele, and only for a few minutes. One speaker, Gordon Henderson, said those he contacted about Steele spoke highly of her.

“He who casts the first stone needs to be pretty innocent themselves,” Henderson said. “If I got fired for every mistake I made, I’d have 45 different jobs over the last 45 years. She’s paid a price for this. She’s been publicly embarrassed. Christmastime is a time for forgiveness.”

Jeremy Schaub and Ryan Stear said Steele’s behavior did not warrant job termination. But they suggested tangible consequences should have resulted.

“I think there was an opportunity to hold somebody accountable, and we didn’t,” Stear said.

Schaub and Stear also

were among the group that criticized district officials regarding the 2025 tax levy. The board approved a levy of \$6,600,431. The 2024 tax extension was \$6,052,411. The new levy is expected to increase by \$243 the tax on a property valued at \$200,000, according to Jones.

District funds have paid for significant recent capital improvements, including new windows and other renovations at Brimfield Grade School. Board President Steve Updyke suggested the work was overdue.

“Those windows were there when I was there 50 years ago,” Updyke said. “Everything in that building was 40 or 50 years old. It needed a lot of work, and it had been kicked down the road for years.”

But some attendees said that project and a \$2 million bus barn being constructed east of the high school could have been done incrementally. The bus barn appeared to be particularly vexing. Searle said a similar facility in Princeville is more modest.

In November, when he first proposed the levy, Jones told the board district finances kept him

awake at night. Schaub referenced that comment in his criticism.


“Think you’re going to lose sleep at night over how this is going to affect people’s wallets?” he said. “I want you to look in the mirror and think about how you’re affecting everybody in this district. You make enough people mad, the population will go down. Ever think about that?”

Among other decisions, board members:

- Approved hiring Andrew Quick as a high school physical-science teacher for the 2026-27 academic year.
- Reappointed Julie Albritton as grade-school principal.
- OK’d a Brimfield-Princeville chess-team trip Jan. 23-24 to a tournament in West Chicago.
- Sanctioned the competitive-cheerleading team’s potential trip to the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association state championships Jan. 10-11 in Springfield, should the team qualify.
- Authorized expelling a student not identified publicly by name. That action came following closed session.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Hot Picks Ahead

- **Mobile Clerk** – Peoria County Clerk Rachael Parker’s office will pay a visit to Lillie M. Evans Library in Princeville on Jan. 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to provide services, including certificates for birth, marriage and death. The clerk’s office will accept cash and checks for its services. To learn more, call (309) 385-4540.
- **Native Seed Celebration** – A variety of native prairie seeds will be available for swap or merely to take home on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 10 a.m. to noon at Salem Township Library in Yates City.

This Week’s Events

- **Book Group** – The Morrison & Mary Wiley Library book group meets Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss “I Must Betray You” by Ruta Sepetys.
- Farmington Public Library’s second Monday book group will meet Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss “Corrupted” by Lisa Scottoline.
- **Mahjong** – A Mahjong group is gathering to play on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. at Morrison & Mary Wiley Library in Elmwood. Adults are welcome to join.
- **Bingo** – Williamsfield American Legion Post 371 holds bingo the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Future Events

- **Community Luncheon** – Brimfield’s Union Church will hold its monthly community luncheon on Jan. 13 from noon to 1 p.m. Cost is \$7.
- **Harvest Home** – A Harvest Home fundraiser dinner will be Jan. 15, 4:30-6:30

p.m. at Yates City Community Center. Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, roll, dessert and a drink. \$13.

- **Movie Night** – Lillie M. Evans Library in Princeville has interactive family movie night Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. for a free showing of “Megamind.” Goody bags provided.

Publicize Your Event

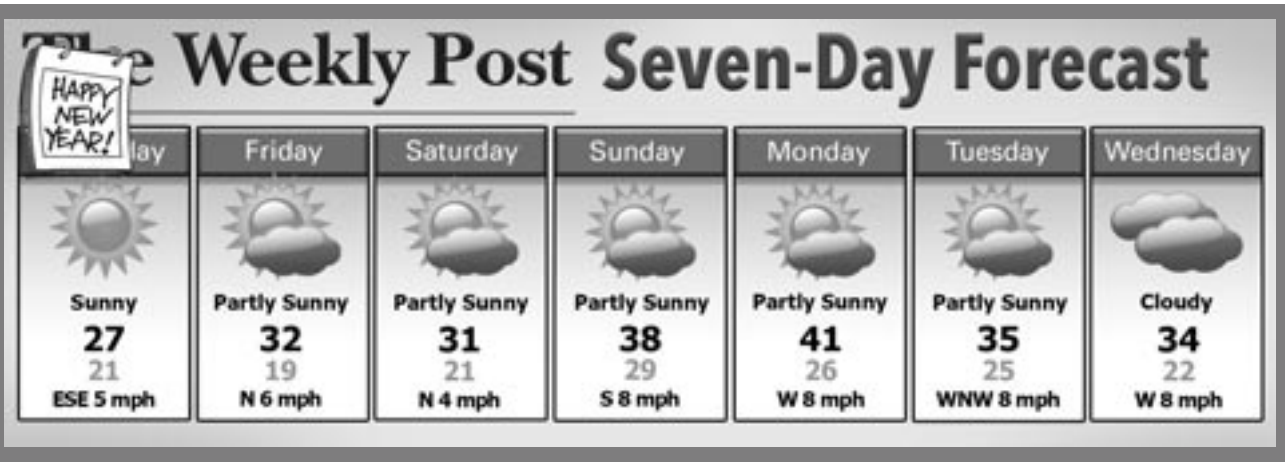
Email information about your upcoming event to us at news@wklypost.com.

- **Raccoon Roundup** – The fourth annual Raccoon Roundup will be Jan. 30-31, with sign-up (Jan. 30, 5-8 p.m.) and

weigh-in (Jan. 31, 2-5:30 p.m.) at the Elmwood Tap. Cost \$25 per person, up to four-person teams. Raffles during weigh-in, DJ after. Call (309) 403-1183.

- **Meals on Wheels** – Meals on Wheels delivered in Elmwood and Yates City on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Call (309) 772-9284.

- **Yoga** – Yoga Thursdays, 6 p.m. at Brimfield Public Library. \$4. Classes Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Princeville’s Lillie M. Evans Library.



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Quotable - “The negative impacts of expanded marijuana use, especially on children and adolescents, are worrisome. And the public policy challenges, such as the exponential increase in difficult-to-combat driving under the influence, are both significant and serious.”
— Raul Labrador, Idaho attorney general
— Illinois Press Association Member

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SCATTERSHOTS



Of the new and the familiar in 2026

Rambling through central Illinois, recovering from PHSD.

• • •

As is so often the case, this New Year looks as though it will provide plenty of fresh things to ponder, as well as much more of the same old same old.

Among the most frightening to monitor are ramifications of AI in all facets of our lives. Despite my kids and plenty of commercials telling me about the many wonderful AI benefits I’m missing out on, the skeptic in me remains unconvinced.



Jeff LAMPE

Actually, the whole idea of giving more autonomy to computers makes my skin crawl. Consider that the song “Walk My Walk” reached No. 1 on the Bill-

board charts for Country digital songs. Breaking Rust is credited with the song and is really just a computer whose success so far has raised a ruckus in the music world.

Turns out AI can make a song that sounds just like much of the other synthetic, auto-tuned stuff already out there. If I was a musician – or any sort of worker, for that matter – I’d be more than a little nervous about my employment moving forward in this new world.

In regards to familiar items, we recently had a caller voice the opinion that our editorial cartoons left her disgusted. According to the caller, we print too many liberal editorial cartoons and need to balance things.

Of course, at some point in 2026, a caller will let me know that our cartoons are too conservative and that we need to provide some balance.

Both are correct. Our syndicated service provides eight cartoons to choose from each week. Some

weeks, all of the cartoons are anti-Trump, making options limited. But for the record, we do try to offend everyone equally by providing cartoons on both sides of the widely split political spectrum.

A familiar face we look forward to seeing again in 2026 is **The Mayor of Oak Hill**, whose final visit of 2025 was a lively one. Hizzoner has brought his winemaking to another level, with sharp-looking labels for his tasty libations. A bottle of rhubarb lasted only a few minutes, thanks in part to a coincidental visit by appliance-fixing wizard **Bill Clayton**.

As always, The Mayor also imparted some wisdom before leaving, quoting the late ballroom-dancing guru **Arthur Murray**: “To put a little fun in your life, try dancing.” That would definitely be something new for 2026. ... Parting shot: It’s post-holiday stress disorder.

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

Pot more potent but not among worst drugs

I rarely concern myself with holding a minority position if I believe in the issue or the facts. I will also change my opinion on an issue if the facts merit a change of opinion. I readily concede I was of the opinion that Trump’s imposition of tariffs would have a dreadful effect on the economy.

Here in the farm belt, many farmers are feeling pain from currently losing market share of commodity sales to China. However, the rest of the economic indicators are positive and the farm situation is improving. I have simply had to learn that Trump’s agendas are not conventional and one has to wait and see how the game is going to play out.

Richard KORITZ

This brings us to Trump’s recent executive order on marijuana. Trump has changed the legal category of cannabis (THC) from a Schedule I drug to a Schedule III drug. That is significant.

Forty states have legalized cannabis for medical use and 25 have done so for recreational use. Illinois is among both of these categories. If you go north of Lincoln on Old 66, there is a large cannabis factory that is a major employer in Logan County. It should be noted that cannabis possession and sales are still criminal offenses at the federal level. However, the schedule reclassification by Trump will greatly reduce federal law enforcement’s attention to marijuana offenses.

Several years ago, I got into a heated argument with some state

law-enforcement individuals who wanted to aggressively go after marijuana offenders. I stated my preference was to go after the meth and crack offenders and simply go after the marijuana offender if it came about from a methamphetamine or crack investigation. My opinion was that cannabis would be legal in Illinois with 10 years of that debate and I thought the other investigations were of better use for the taxpayers.

Needless to say, the police officers took a dim view of my analysis and said marijuana would never be legal in Illinois. Today, in Illinois, you can procure cannabis in almost any community from licensed vendors. My political analysis was spot on, but my view of cannabis use was off.

I viewed cannabis as a soft drug that was less harmful than alcohol. The chemical toxicity of cannabis was very low until the late 1990s, from my observation. The guys using pot were simply being mellow in the back of the bus. It wasn’t a big deal. The real problem back then was heroin and cocaine.

Times have changed. The states have legalized cannabis and the cannabis growers have used modern techniques to increase the potency of cannabis. The cannabis of 2025 is a whole lot more potent than that of 1960. The problem is that the general public is talking about the pot of yesteryear and not today’s vintage. It is entirely different.

In my semi-retirement I have stopped taking private cases. My practice is almost entirely court-appointed cases in Logan County involving abuse, neglect and

child-custody matters. I am seeing more parents using cannabis in neglect and abuse cases, stating they use it to calm themselves. My observation is they calm themselves to the point that they don’t care for the children. That doesn’t work for anyone.

Cannabis use can also impair driving abilities. There are many vehicle accidents that probably have marijuana involved, but it is rarely prosecuted. There does appear to be more attention paid to the impaired-driver problem than the child neglect/abuse problem.

The legalization of marijuana simply allows for those who like cannabis to justify their personal abuse of the drug. That same observation can be said of alcohol abuse. I foresee cannabis abuse becoming more and more prevalent, which simply puts the public at greater risk.

The one thing about Trump’s executive order that I find positive is the classification of cannabis as a Schedule III drug. That is an acknowledgment that cannabis is not as dangerous as heroin and cocaine. This allows for more medical research. Cannabis has shown many positive aspects for pain relief and treatment of certain eye afflictions. Research in those areas will probably be expanded, and that may well be the best result of this executive order.

As for me, I will stick to my drug of choice, caffeine in a cup of coffee while inhaling the wood smoke from a campfire of an evening. That for me is contentment.

Richard Koritz is an Illinois native and former DeWitt County state’s attorney.

NEW LAWS: Include safer gear for firefighters

Continued from Page 1
charges against a squatter. Pritzker signed the bill in July after squatters moved into a home next door to Rep. Marcus Evans in Chicago. According to ABC-7, Chicago Police told homeowners they couldn't remove the squatters from the home and the homeowners would have to go through the eviction process in Cook County court, which can take months.

Drinking-water protections

Senate Bill 1723 bans carbon sequestration – the process of capturing and storing carbon by injecting it underground – within an area that overlies, underlies or passes through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-designated sole-source aquifer.

The new law applies to the footprint of the Mahomet Aquifer, which is the main source of drinking water for more than 500,000 people across a 15-county area in central Illinois.

It comes as Illinois, especially downstate, is targeted for carbon-sequestration projects due to the state's favorable geology and the availability of federal tax credits.

Studies, including those conducted by researchers at the University of Illinois, have found minimal risk to water sources from sequestration activity.

But the legislation was a priority for central Illinois community activists, environmental advocates and a bipartisan cadre of local lawmakers with zero risk tolerance due to the lack of a clear alternative water source if the aquifer were tainted.

Safer gear for firefighters

Illinois will take first steps toward requiring safer gear for firefighters.

Under House Bill 2409, manufacturers of firefighter turnout gear starting in 2026 must provide written notice if their prod-

ucts contain PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals."

Numerous scientific studies have linked exposure to PFAS to an increased risk of developing various forms of cancer.

Manufacturers will be banned from selling turnout gear and personal protective equipment containing PFAS altogether starting on Jan. 1, 2027.

Lift-assist fees

House Bill 2336 allows municipalities or fire districts to charge assisted-living facilities or nursing homes for calls to fire departments requesting help lifting a resident when it is not an emergency.

The bill was an initiative of the Illinois Municipal League, which argued the calls to fire departments for the nonemergency service are a burden on local governments and shift liabilities for injuries that happen during the process to fire departments rather than the facility.

Stadium funding

Senate Bill 2772 adds women's professional sports to the types of facilities the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority can oversee. Current law only allows the ISFA to oversee sports facilities for baseball, football and auto racing.

The bill is not designed to move any team's stadium proposals forward, though the Chicago Stars women's soccer team has previously been reported to be interested in building a new stadium with help from state funding.

The bill was the only one related to sports-stadium funding that advanced in Springfield in 2025. The Chicago Bears committed earlier this year to building a stadium in Arlington Heights but are still waiting for approval from the village and struggling to find support in Springfield for funding.

Public-official privacy

House Bill 576 allows state lawmakers, constitutional officers and state's attorneys, among others, to request that their personal information be redacted on public websites.

Public officials would be able to use their campaign funds to pay for personal security services and security upgrades to their home, including security systems, cameras, walls, fences and other physical improvements.

Rewilding

House Bill 2726 allows the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to implement rewilding as a conservation strategy for the state.

This could entail the restoration of land to its natural state and the reintroduction of native species, especially apex predators and keystone species like bison and beavers.

Illinois is believed to be the first state to codify the strategy into law.

Reservation app regulations

State lawmakers voted this year to crack down on third-party restaurant reservation apps.

House Bill 2456 prohibits third-party reservation services from selling reservations without a restaurant's permission. Restaurants are still allowed to partner with the services.

Paid time off to pump breast milk

Senate Bill 212 mandates employers to compensate mothers who take breaks at work to pump breast milk for up to a year after their child is born. The bill prohibits employers from requiring employees to use paid leave time for pumping.

Naloxone in libraries

House Bill 1910 requires that libraries maintain a supply of opioid-overdose medication, like naloxone. This drug is often administered through a nasal spray

like Narcan. The law also requires that at least one staff member be trained to identify overdoses and administer the drug.

Police training on sexual assault

Senate Bill 1195, also known as Anna's Law, requires police officers in training to participate in trauma-informed programs, procedures and practices that are designed to reduce trauma for victims.

The bill is named after Anna Williams, a suburban-Chicago resident who brought the initiative to lawmakers following her own experience with a sexual-assault investigation. The bill takes effect in January.

Predatory towing

Senate Bill 2040 gives the Illinois Commerce Commission new powers to punish predatory towing companies that sometimes tow cars under false pretenses only to charge drivers afterward.

The ICC-backed law allows the agency to revoke towing licenses, impound tow trucks and more.

Jerry Nowicki contributed to this story.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



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PUBLIC RECORD

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

Police reports

• **FARMINGTON** – A Canton woman admitted she stole a donation jar from a Farmington business, according to authorities.

Security video revealed Nicole M. Van Dusen, 42, took the jar from atop a slot machine at Sneaky Pete’s In & Out Gaming Parlor, 43 E. Fort St., and put it in her bag shortly after 6:30 p.m. Nov. 20, according to a Farmington police report. The jar, for the benefit of the police department, contained \$16.

Van Dusen said she gave \$6 from the jar to Misty D. Windsor, 44, of Canton. The two visited the gaming parlor together, and Canton police located them afterward.

Each woman was accused of two counts of theft. Both were transported to the Fulton County Jail in Lewistown.

• **YATES CITY** – A machine shed was destroyed and a chicken coop was damaged in a fire at a farm north of Yates City.

The blaze began shortly before 10:45 a.m. Nov. 25 in the 600 block of Knox Highway 18, a Knox County Sheriff’s Office report stated. The owner blamed the fire on a fallen heat lamp. The fire also damaged a nearby 1950 Allis-Chalmers Model B tractor parked in the machine shed.

Damages were estimated at \$3,500. Elba-Salem firefighters also responded.

• **KICKAPOO** – A Princeville man was involved in a two-vehicle crash south of Kickapoo.

Christopher A. Hull was driving a northbound 1994 Buick Park Avenue shortly after 3:15 p.m. Nov. 24 in the 7100 block of N. Kickapoo-Edwards Rd. when it struck a 2007 Lexus RX350 that was pulling out of a driveway or parking lot, according to a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report.

The other driver was Larry L. Grohmann of Peoria. He said he was turning south onto Kickapoo-Edwards Road and didn’t see Hull’s vehicle.

Grohmann sustained minor injuries and was transported to Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria. Hull declined medical attention. Both vehicles were towed.

• **KNOXVILLE** – A 16-year-old Williamsfield-area girl required hospital attention following a single-vehicle wreck east of Knoxville.

The girl was driving a 2013 Dodge Ram pickup truck that was entering westbound Interstate 74 at Exit 54 shortly before 5 p.m. Nov. 21 when it hydroplaned on the ramp, according to a Knox County Sheriff’s Office report. The vehicle left the pavement and entered the westbound ditch.

Before it stopped, the vehicle struck multiple low-hanging tree limbs. The girl was transported to OSF Saint Mary Medical Center in

Galesburg. Paramedics evaluated her passenger, a 16-year-old Elmore girl who declined transport, with parental permission. The vehicle sustained major damage and was towed.

• **PEORIA** – A Trivoli woman accused of shoplifting from a Peoria business also was accused of possessing methamphetamine.

Alicia L. Phillips, 35, was taken into custody shortly before 1:45 p.m. Nov. 21 at Wal-Mart, 3315 N. University St. According to a Peoria police report, Phillips took a pair of gloves worth about \$20. Also found were clear-plastic baggies that contained a white substance that tested positive for meth.

Phillips was charged with meth possession and retail theft and was taken to the Peoria County Jail.

• **KICKAPOO** – A Peoria County Sheriff’s Office vehicle was damaged in a two-vehicle crash north of Kickapoo.

Shortly before 7 p.m. Nov. 20, Deputy Jon Greer was responding to an accident at Princeville-Jubilee Road and Jubilee Hollow Court when he passed the scene by mistake and drove to the next intersection to turn around, per a sheriff’s-office report.

Greer checked for other traffic and made a three-point turn. As his vehicle moved forward, another struck it from behind. Illinois State Police responded. The deputy’s vehicle was towed. The report did not include the name of the other driver. No injuries were specified.

The initial accident appeared to involve a 2004 Ford Freestar minivan that struck a deer. The driver was Aubrey L. Pyle of Toulon, a sheriff’s-office report stated. Pyle reported no injuries.

• **PRINCEVILLE** – An intentional fire in a forest near residences south of Princeville resulted in no injuries and no property damage.

First responders were summoned at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 17 to the 11300 block of W. Jubilee Ridge Rd. The fire, which a 65-year-old man had set, was spreading toward a neighbor’s shed, according to a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report.

The man was not located immediately, but after he was, he apologized for letting the fire get out of control. He set it to burn dead brush. Akron-Princeville, Brimfield, Dunlap, Elmwood and Limestone firefighters responded, and the flames were extinguished.

• **BELLEVUE** – No injuries were reported following a two-vehicle wreck west of Bellevue that involved a Hanna City man.

Joel P. Woerner was driving a westbound 2012 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck shortly after 2:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in the 4300 block of W. Plank Rd. when a 2020 Mack dump truck headed in the same direction struck the vehicle’s rear passenger side.

The other driver was Douglas B.

Austin of East Peoria. The accident happened where two lanes of traffic merge into one. Woerner’s vehicle had one passenger, a female. The pickup truck sustained rear passenger-side quarter-panel damage and a broken taillight but was drivable.

• **DOUGLAS** – Someone might have attempted to break into the Elba Township building, according to authorities.

Township Road Commissioner Roland Ekstrand said he noticed fresh pry marks on the entry-door frame when he visited the building about 11:30 a.m. Nov. 16, according to a Knox County Sheriff’s Office report. A search revealed nothing missing.

Ekstrand said the township would investigate installing security cameras.

• **BARTONVILLE** – A Hanna City man required a hospital visit following a single-vehicle crash west of Bartonville.

James M. Hines was driving a southbound 2000 Ford F-150 pickup truck shortly after 5:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in the 4900 block of S. Harkers Corner Rd. when he lost control of the vehicle on a bend. The vehicle crossed the road and landed in a ditch, a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report stated.

Hines bled heavily from head lacerations, which Logan-Trivoli firefighters treated. An ambulance transported Hines to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. The vehicle was towed; it sustained major overall damage.

• **MAQUON** – A 15-year-old Elmwood boy was accused of taking his father’s vehicle without permission, then wrecking it in Maquon.

A Knox County Sheriff’s Office deputy found the boy and the 2021 Hyundai Venue sport-utility vehicle about 8:30 a.m. Nov. 16 in the 600 block of West St. His father tracked him with a cellphone application. The vehicle left the pavement and traversed a ditch; front-end and radiator damage resulted.

The boy said he was attempting to visit a girlfriend, a sheriff’s-office report stated. He was cited for improper lane use and for driving without a license.

• **NORWOOD** – A Hanna City resident was one of two women accused of domestic battery regarding an incident west of Norwood.

Skye A. Mayo, 28, was arrested shortly after 6:30 p.m. Nov. 15 in the 8800 block of W. Farmington Rd., a heavily redacted Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report stated. Also arrested was Desiree J. Ricks, 32, of Decatur.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services was notified.

• **HANNA CITY** – A tire flew off a vehicle in Hanna City and damaged a windshield-washing station at a

Continued on Page 7

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PUBLIC RECORD

Continued from Page 6
convenience store.

Hailey A. Ford of Canton was driving a westbound 2010 Dodge Journey sport-utility vehicle about 2:15 p.m. Nov. 14 in the 13000 block of W. Farmington Rd. when the front passenger-side tire broke off the axle, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report.

The vehicle stopped in front of Casey's, 13032 W. Farmington Rd., and the tire rolled into the parking lot and smashed into the windshield-washing station. The impact knocked it off its metal post and cracked a fluid reservoir.

No injuries were reported to Ford and her passenger, a male. The vehicle was towed.

• **KICKAPOO** – No injuries were reported following a two-vehicle crash south of Kickapoo.

At 5 p.m. Nov. 12, Sadie R. Spahn of Peoria was driving a 2019 Chevrolet Malibu that was turning left from an Interstate 74 exit ramp onto southbound Kickapoo-Edwards Road when it struck a 2015 Honda Accord, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report.

Brent L. Millard of Edwards was the other driver, also southbound. He said he couldn't stop in time. Both vehicles sustained minor damage.

• **FARMINGTON** – A Peoria man's blood-alcohol content was almost twice the legal limit after police stopped his vehicle in Farmington.

Willie L. Ward, 61, was driving a 2006 Ford van when it was pulled over shortly after 9:30 p.m. Nov. 8 in the 600 block of E. Fort St., a police report stated. An officer saw the van swerving on Illinois Route 116 as it was entering the city.

After Ward was stopped, he appeared confused about where he was and where he was headed. Later, his BAC was found to be .151. The legal limit is .08. Ward was accused of operating an uninsured vehicle, illegal transportation of alcohol and two counts of driving under the influence of alcohol.

• **OAK HILL** – At 5:30 p.m. Nov. 28, Eileen A. Huber of Elmwood was driving an eastbound 2023 Chevrolet Traverse sport-utility vehicle in the 13900 block of Illinois Route 8 east of Oak Hill when the SUV struck a deer. Huber was uninjured, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated. The vehicle sustained minor damage to its front passenger-side headlight and bumper.

• **KICKAPOO** – Shortly after 5:30 p.m. Nov. 27, David W. Orwig

of Wyoming was driving a north-bound 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee in the 9700 block of N. Princeville-Jubilee Rd. north of Kickapoo when the vehicle struck a deer. Neither Orwig nor his passenger, a female, was injured, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report. The vehicle sustained damage to its front bumper and grille but was drivable. The impact killed the deer.

• **KICKAPOO** – Shortly after 8:45 p.m. Nov. 26, a 16-year-old Princeville boy was driving a north-bound 2020 Chevrolet Equinox sport-utility vehicle in the 10600 block of N. Princeville-Jubilee Rd. north of Kickapoo when the vehicle struck a deer. The boy was uninjured, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report. The vehicle was drivable; it sustained minor damage to its hood, grille and front bumper.

• **GALESBURG** – These were among calls to which the Knox County Sheriff's Office responded between Nov. 29-Dec. 13: suspicious vehicle, Yates City; open door, Dahinda; two domestic disputes, Dahinda; fire, Dahinda; road hazard, Williamsfield; alarm, Williamsfield.

Windstorm blows trampoline into residence

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Weekly Post

ELMWOOD – A sudden windstorm blew a trampoline two blocks into an Elmwood residence, where it smashed a window and damaged a garage door.

The incident was reported shortly after 11:30 a.m. Dec. 18 in the 300 block of W. Main St. The trampoline had been at a residence in the 500 block of W. Main St., but it was unsecured because yard work was being performed there, according to an Elmwood Police Department report.

One of the trampoline arms caused a side window to be knocked into the



A windstorm on Dec. 18 transported this trampoline two blocks east into a home in the 300 block of W. Main St. in Elmwood.

house two blocks away. An Elmwood police officer did not notice the

damage to the unattached garage until the following day. The bottom of the garage door was pushed inward.

The trampoline was damaged beyond repair, the report stated. No financial estimates regarding any of the damage were available.

Also damaged in the windstorm was a 2014 Chevrolet delivery van parked in the 100 block of E. Main St. The driver, a Havana man, said a flower box was blown into the van's rear passenger-side quarter panel, according to a police report. Damage appeared to be minor.

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Princeville near decision on software

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Weekly Post

PRINCEVILLE – The Princeville Village Board might decide next week whether to purchase computer software designed to process code violations more efficiently.

Trustee Spencer Wilson said he plans to check with other communities that use the software provided by Kansas-based CivicPlus. The village also is considering whether to hire someone part time to help process code-violation reports.

“For something like this, this would be a few hours a week or a few hours a month, to baby-sit the program,” Village President Jeff Troutman told trustees when they met Dec. 16.

The village has been without a code-enforcement officer since the previous one, Dan Sullivan, resigned in early August. Troutman and trustees have been handling code-violation reports since then, but complaints tend to increase in the spring and summer.

A potential Sullivan replacement didn’t appear interested in the job at first, but a part-time role might be

appealing, Troutman indicated.

“It’s not something they need to be out here three or four days a week with,” he said.

Representatives of CivicPlus, which supplies the village with municipal-code software, made a code-violation presentation in early December to the Princeville board codification committee. Wilson is its chairman.

The software would allow residents and others to upload addresses and photographs of properties in question. They can be sent anonymously. The system provides automatic replies and confirmation and can be customized.

“I look at it as a lot of automation, whereas right now it’s a lot of manual work,” Wilson said.

CivicPlus is to charge the village \$16,000 initially. Annual renewals would begin at \$9,750 and increase by 5% thereafter. The village already has budgeted sufficient code-enforcement money, according to Wilson.

Municipal governments in Carbondale and in Excelsior Springs, Mo., which have populations be-

tween 10,000 and 25,000, also use CivicPlus code-enforcement software. Trustee Teresa Gilroy suggested Wilson contact CivicPlus to see if communities closer to Princeville’s population (about 1,700) use it.

Trustees are expected to vote on the CivicPlus proposal this month. The next board meeting is Jan. 5.

In other business during the final board meeting of 2025, trustees approved a \$7,500 tax-increment-financing redevelopment grant to Hand Craft’d, a freeze-dried candy company at 127 E. Main St. There had been uncertainty regarding the TIF-grant application from Amanda Hand, the company owner.

Also authorized was the appointment of Bruce Bruner to the Princeville Zoning Board. Bruner’s selection puts that board at full strength, seven members. It meets as needed.

The village also issued a building permit for installation of eight solar panels on a rooftop at 611 N. Aten Ave., Troutman said.

CATTLE: New World Screwworm a consideration

Continued from Page 1

million head of cattle on feed as of Dec. 1, down 2% from last year. Placements in feedlots (1.6 million head) declined 11% while marketings of fed cattle (1.52 million head) were down 12% from a

year ago.

Despite slow progress to rebuild the U.S. cattle herd, beef markets experienced some downward price movements this year and recently fell from the peaks seen in September.

“I think that was just a

seasonal thing that we kind of expected to happen, it was just much more drastic than we’re used to seeing,” Goodrich said. “But that’s kind of highlighting that even in these relatively good times, there can be huge price swings that we need to be prepared for.”

Goodrich said all livestock producers should keep in mind even in times of high prices there is downside price risk.

“Things like knowing your cost of production and hedging, if you’re large enough in futures and options markets, can be good tools to use,” she said. “There’s also a relatively new risk management tool provided by USDA that is basically a subsidized option for hogs, feeder cattle and fed cattle. Folks can use that to protect against some of that downside price movement if they’re not

big enough to be a player in the futures and options markets.”

Livestock producers should continue to monitor the situation with New World Screwworm into 2026.

“If they open live cattle imports back up from Mexico, that may put some downward pressure on our beef prices here in the U.S., particularly on the feeder and fed cattle side,” she said.

Goodrich shared her livestock market outlook during the Illinois Farm Economics Summits held in DeKalb, Peoria and Mount Vernon in December.

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Pages From The Past

Compiled by Andy Latora

Five Years Ago

• Starting late this year or early in 2022 in Farmington, construction is scheduled to start on a \$210 million wind-energy network generating enough electricity for 50,000 homes and millions of dollars in tax funds for local governments.

10 Years Ago

• Elmwood CUSD 322 unveiled a new \$1.7 million addition to the junior high school, featuring six new classrooms, a computer lab, a “virtual high school” room, new restrooms and several new storage rooms and closets.

• Princeville girls basketball coach John Gross earned his 700th career victory as a head coach.

• The Brimfield boys basketball team moved up to the No. 2 ranking in Class 1A.

45 Years Ago

• A starter set of 25 silver bells was dedicated at the United Methodist Church of Williamsfield by Rev. Jack Talmage.

55 Years Ago

• David Korth of Elmwood and 13 other farmers were named to re-

ceive Ford Motor company’s 1971 Ford Farm Efficiency Awards.

• A group of 56 area middle-school students spent the week at the Journal Star plant in Peoria following a two-week study of the newspaper industry.

• Dr. Robert Whitney opened a veterinary clinic in Peoria.

75 Years Ago

• The McGuire Shoe Repair Shop in Elmwood has the newest thing in a stapling machine that makes it possible for your shoes to be repaired while you wait.

• Skating on the Spoon River was especially popular this week, as large groups of people were spotted up and down the river.

95 Years Ago

• A new bridge spanning the Spoon River at Trenton Hill was completed.

• A 12-pound red fox was shot near Laura.

• A 395-acre farm near Williamsfield sold at an average price of \$20 per acre.

• The merger of Hedding College in Abingdon and Illinois Wesleyan in Bloomington was official.

Hedding carried to Wesleyan an endowment fund of \$152,000.

• The Illinois River was at its lowest stage, 8.6 feet, since July 1811. Old sandbars and landmarks familiar only to the oldest navigators appeared during the summer and fall.

110 Years Ago

• Illinois led all other states in the amount contributed to support the government in way of internal revenue taxes.

120 Years Ago

• The Elmwood Coal Co. now has over 100 men on its payroll.

• Twenty-one new members were added to the Elmwood Fire Department, bumping the number of members to 60.

125 Years Ago

• The railroad strike ended and Laura Station now has an agent both day and night. Plenty of cars shipping grain passed through and everything was running smoothly.

• Wallick Brothers of Williamsfield is offering bargain prices. Eight bars of Santa Claus soap for 25 cents, a gallon of syrup for 25 cents and men’s shoes for \$1.

BRIEFS

Locals among WTVP’s 40 Leaders under Forty

PEORIA – The latest WTVP-TV class of 40 Leaders Under Forty includes local residents Molly Copher of Brimfield and Rozana Dwyer of Elmwood.

Dwyer is a general surgeon for Graham Health System.

Copher is genetics lab manager for AgReliant Genetics and works part-time for The Weekly Post as a writer.

Peoria airport posts best passenger total for year

PEORIA – General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport officially surpassed its previous all-time passenger record in just 11 months.

With November traffic finalized, PIA welcomed 62,474 passengers during the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 741,724 passengers. This 11-month total exceeds the airport’s former 12-month record of

689,416 passengers set in 2019, representing a 7.6% increase with one month remaining in the year.

The airport has set passenger records in 14 of the last 16 months and has been trending 20% ahead of last year.

Illinois shotgun-season harvest hits 81,225 deer

SPRINGFIELD – Hunters in Illinois took a preliminary total of 81,225 deer during the seven-day 2025 Illinois firearm deer season that concluded Dec. 7. Comparatively, hunters harvested 82,496 deer during the 2024 gun season.

The preliminary harvest for the second weekend of the firearm season Dec. 4-7 was 29,816 compared with 27,835 deer harvested during the same period in 2024. The preliminary harvest for the first weekend of this year’s firearm season Nov. 21-23 was 51,409 deer.

Harvest was down 60 in Fulton County (1,930), down 52 in Knox County (1,057) and up 50 in Peoria County (901).

Remaining 2025-26 deer hunting opportunities in Illinois include:

• Late-winter antlerless-only and chronic wasting disease season, in designated counties only, Jan. 1-4 and Jan. 16-18.

• Archery deer season continues through Jan. 18.

College honors

• Savannah Grachek of Brimfield made the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean’s list (3.4 gpa or better) for the 2025 fall semester.

• Several local students made the Olivet Nazarene University Dean’s list (3.5 gpa or better) for the fall 2025 semester. Honorees include Jacob Avery of Edwards, Alivia Bryant of Brimfield, Chloe Donnelly of Edwards, Elizabeth Howard of Edwards and Noah Peterson of Hanna City.

• Bailey Kennelly of Yates City made the Cedarville University Dean’s list (3.5 gpa or better) for the 2025 fall semester.

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0000 N. Daily Road, Princeville, IL

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235 +/- acres bordering DragonFly Lakes. Enjoy 14 acres of food plots this fall benefiting the trophy whitetail or turkeys running around this farm. Low hunting pressure of neighbors increases the potential for this farm. \$1,715,500

1841 N. 1400 RD., Dahinda, IL 61428

4 bed 3 bath home located overlooking the spoon river bottoms. Enjoy the peace and tranquility this home offers along with your choice of 36 acres up to 247 acres offering some of the best whitetail hunting in the area. Property offers a lake, 40 tillable acres and 137 CREP acres. Home with 36 acres \$1,395,000 or home with 247 acres \$2,600,000.

0000 RR, Maquon, IL

Large farm consisting of 115 tillable acres, 144 acres in CRP on its 2nd year and hardwoods great food plots. Income is around \$88,000 a year. This area is known for its B&C caliber deer and offers pheasants and fishing the Spoon and Haw Creek. 413 acres \$3,510,500

00 N. Hardscrabble Rd., Sparland IL

Walk in to the park like setting and enjoy the trails to the back property line where you can enjoy views of the Illinois River in the winter months. Wonderful build site with an opportunity to build a lake at the front of the property. 77 acres \$639,800

17217 N. Dairy Farm Rd., Smithfield, IL 61477

Beautiful homesite overlooking the fields below offering a great trail system and tremendous deer and turkey hunting. 140 acres \$895,000

000 Bartholomew Ln., Elmwood, IL 61529

Great sloping pasture offers great build sites with opportunity to make an income with hay or livestock. Lake on property offers water year round that had been used for bird hunting in the past. \$777,443

0000 RT 24, East Peoria, IL 61611

Located on Rt 24 and Rt 116, this is an amazing location overlooking the Illinois River. Property includes 10 acres zoned commercial off a dead end road. This piece butts up to Fondulac Park and offers great deer hunting. \$600,000

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000 E. 500 East, Oconee **SOLD**

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The family of Barbara Dollar would like to thank everyone for their memorial donations, those who attended services, sent cards, etc. We would also like to thank her caretakers.

The Family of
Barbara Dollar



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New gun-storage, FOID laws take effect

By **BEN SZALINSKI**
Capitol News Illinois

Gun owners in Illinois must take new steps in 2026 to secure their firearms in their homes, particularly when children are present.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed Senate Bill 8, known as the Safe Gun Storage Act, in late July. The bill prohibits gun owners from storing their weapons in an unsecured way at any location where they know the gun could be accessed by a minor, a person at risk of harming themselves or others, or by a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm.

Under the law, gun owners will be required to keep them in a locked con-

tainer so that they are inaccessible or unusable by anyone other than the owner.

Gun owners who violate the law could be subject to civil fines of \$500. But those fines could go up to \$1,000 if a minor, at-risk person or prohibited person obtains the firearm, and as high as \$10,000 if such person uses it to kill or injure someone in the course of committing a crime.

In lieu of those fines, courts could instead order the gun owner to perform community service or pay restitution for violating the law. The new law also provides that gun owners could also be subject to civil liability in private

lawsuits.

However, the law also provides that gun owners will not be found in violation of the law if a minor, at-risk person or prohibited person obtains their firearm by unlawfully entering the premises.

Gun owners must also report lost or stolen firearms to police within 48 hours of discovering a gun missing. That's down from the previous 72-hour requirement.

Gun permits for offenders

Senate Bill 1899 creates a path for first-time gun offenders to obtain a Firearm Owner's Identification Card and legally own a gun.

First-time offenders are allowed to apply for a FOID card after receiving a court order demonstrating they successfully completed the First Time Weapons Offense Diversion Program and are otherwise eligible to own a gun.

The opportunity narrowly applies to people charged with a Class 4 felony, which is the lowest-level charge for illegally possessing a firearm. The bill received bipartisan support in the legislature, and proponents said it will mostly benefit young

people.

Background checks for police officers

State lawmakers passed a bill in response to the murder of Springfield resident Sonya Massey in 2024. Massey, a black woman, was killed when former Sangamon County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Grayson, a white man, shot her in her kitchen while investigating a reported prowler. Grayson was convicted of second-degree murder in October.

Under Senate Bill 1953, a police department or sheriff's office making a hire would be required to request personnel files from the applicant's previous employers, including other law-enforcement agencies. The previous employer would be required to share the information within 14 days.

Law-enforcement applicants would be required to sign a document authorizing the release of information, including military service records, police discipline databases, employment and criminal history, driving records, academic credentials, a credit check and more.

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DOJ sues Illinois over immigration law

By BRENDEN MOORE
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – In an expected move, the Trump Administration filed a lawsuit last week seeking to nullify a new state law that allows Illinois residents to sue federal immigration agents who arrest them in or near courthouses or if they believe their constitutional rights were violated.

The suit was filed by the Department of Justice in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. It alleges that the law, passed by the Democrat-led state legislature in October and signed by Pritzker earlier this month, violates the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution and increases the likelihood that officers face threats and harassment.

“Threatening officers with ruinous liability and even punitive damages for executing federal law and for simply protecting their identities and their families also chills the enforcement of federal law and compromises sensitive law-enforcement operations,” the Department of Justice said in a statement.

The complaint names Gov. JB Pritzker and Attorney General Kwame Raoul as defendants.

A spokesperson for Pritzker said in a statement to Capitol News Illinois that “the Trump Administration’s masked agents are not targeting the ‘worst of the worst’ – they are harassing and detaining law-abiding U.S. citizens and Black and Brown people at daycares, hospitals, and courthouses.”

“This new law reflects our belief that no one is above the law, regardless of their position or authority,” the spokesperson said.

Pritzker signed the law in the aftermath of Operation Midway Blitz, a federal immigration-enforcement campaign that targeted the Chicago region starting in September.

The Department of Homeland Security said the operation resulted in the arrest of more than 4,500 immigrants who were living in Chicago and its suburbs without legal permission. But the raids often led to violent confrontations between masked federal agents and protesters during various operations in the city and suburbs, including near an Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facility in Broadview. Many of these skirmishes resulted in the deployment of tear gas and other chemical agents.

Leading Illinois Democrats viewed the new law as a comprehensive legislative response to the blitz that provides safeguards to people in their interactions with immigration agents.

It also places new requirements on public colleges and universities, hospitals and child-care facilities and mostly prohibits them from disclosing the immigration status of students, patients, parents and children.

But the reach of the law is limited. Not included in the package is a ban on law-enforcement officers wearing face masks while on duty, for instance.

In its 22-page filing, the federal government specifically challenged the provisions relating to immigration agents’ actions in and around state courthouses as well as the private right of action that it created, arguing that “states have no power to ‘in any manner control the operations of’ the federal government.”

Under the law, all people attending court are considered “privileged from civil arrest” inside

state courthouses and within a 1,000-foot buffer zone outside of the buildings.

Though there had long been a de facto understanding that such facilities were off-limits for immigration enforcement, they have increasingly been the site of apprehensions.

The law also allows residents to sue immigration agents for violating their

constitutional right to due process and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

This latest case has been assigned to Judge David W. Dugan, a Trump appointee. Raoul’s office, which is engaged in more than three dozen legal cases with the federal government, has until Jan. 13 to respond to the complaint.

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NOTICE OF SALE
of Property Owned by the City of Farmington, IL
and Invitation to Bid Thereon

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the Mayor and City Council for the City of Farmington, IL will receive bids for the purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest in the following real property.

Fifty (50) feet off of the South side of Lots One (1) and Two (2) in LITTLE'S ADDITION to the town, now City of Farmington, ALSO, Ten (10) feet of even width off of the North side of Lot Number Three (3) in LITTLE'S ADDITION to the Town, now City of Farmington, which property is generally located at 165 N. Wall Street, Farmington, Illinois 61531 and is currently devoted to vacant residential lot and zoned R-1.

Bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above-described property are hereby invited and will be received by the City Mayor at City Hall between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the date below for the opening bids. Said proposals shall be addressed to:

City Mayor
City of Farmington
322 E. Fort St. #101
Farmington, IL 65131

and shall bear the legend "PROPOSAL - SALE OF 165 N. WALL STREET" and the name, address, and phone number of the bidder.

All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Farmington at 4:01 p.m. on January 19, 2026.

A contract may be awarded to the highest bidder or the bidder whose bid is found to be in the best interest of the City. The Property shall not be sold for less than the minimum bid amount of \$6,000.00. The Mayor and City Council reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The Mayor and City Council further reserve the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within 30 days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Copies of the bidding documents may be obtained at the office of the City Clerk.

/s/ Kenn Stufflebeam
Kenn Stufflebeam, City Mayor

Published 1/1, 1/8, 1/15/26

NOTICE OF ASSUMED NAME BUSINESS

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Peoria County on December 2, 2025, under the Assumed Name of Smart Water Scouts Inc., with the business located at 2000 W. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 5, Peoria, IL 61615. The true name and residence address of the owners is: Jill Larson, 430 S. Ohio Ave. Morton, IL 61550

Published 1/1, 1/8, 1/15/26

SEEKING BIDS FOR ROAD GRADER

Salem Township is seeking bids for the purchase of a new road grader. Bids are due by January 12, 2026. Bids should be mailed to

Salem Township
Box 225
Yates City, IL 61572

The township has the right to refuse any or all bids.

Published 12/18/25, 1/1/26

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

Publication Notice of Court Date for Request for Name Change (Minor Children):
REQUEST OF Marena D. Burdess

TO CHANGE NAME OF MINOR CHILD, Case No. 22 MR 196

There will be a court date on a Request for Name Change (Minor Child) for **Lyla Renee Dringenberg** to **Lyla Faye Burdess**. The court date will be held at 10:30 a.m. on 2/9/2026, in the Peoria County Courthouse, Peoria, Illinois.

/s/ Marena Burdess, Petitioner

Published 1/1, 1/8, 1/15/26

Answers on Page 13 — **Super Crossword** — **CORNER TO CORNER**

ACROSS
1 Fishhook end
5 Neophyte
9 Negate
15 "Kapow!"
19 "— Ben Adhem"
(Leigh Hunt poem)
20 Whole bunch
21 Opposed (to)
22 Nevada city on I-80
23 Mild-flavored lettuce
24 Dawn's direction
25 Common corsage flower
27 2019 buddy-cop action-comedy film
29 Learning Tower city
31 Co-avenger with Electra
32 Wooden shoe
34 Bestow
38 Feedbag grain
39 Jaguar, e.g.
41 "It's not — deaf"
43 Guy who helps people get out of jail
48 Attila the —
49 "I pass," in cards
51 Bic — Stic
52 Add up to
53 March 15, e.g.
55 Emperor before Caligula
58 In the direction of
62 Unsafe
64 Convent VIP
65 Quilt, e.g.
66 Small bouquets
68 Monkey in "Aladdin"
69 Die-hard devotees
70 What this puzzle's solver does when filling in the upper-left to lower-right diagonal?
74 8-11 p.m., TV-wise
78 Exec's deg.
79 Tattle
84 Old Russian revolutionary
85 German for the verb "love"
88 Sheer fabric
89 States of oneness
90 Filename display area
92 Not far at all
93 GQ or Us
94 Send forth
96 Some pinchers, for short
98 Completed
99 Male sibling by birth
105 Asian fusion restaurant chain
106 Taxing org.
107 French body of water
108 Like an ode
110 Marjanovic of the Rockets
112 Memory loss
116 Like eyesores
118 Citigroup alternative
121 Item for surfing on one's stomach
125 Work for
127 Impose — on (forbid)
128 Arm bone
129 Princess Beatrice's mom
130 Ran away
131 1967 Peter Sellers film, with "The"
132 Casual tops
133 Brines, e.g.
134 Lays (down)
135 Spin — (do like Spider-Man)
DOWN
1 Streisand, to friends
2 Slightly
3 Vigorous quality
4 — Gump Shrimp Company
5 Mechanical-looking dance
6 Pro vote
7 Rub roughly
8 Sight-related
9 Beach hut
10 "Selma" director
11 Lincoln loc.
12 Boohoo
13 Canadian gas choice
14 NBA star James
15 Twists to pull free
16 Sun output
17 Poker cost
18 Hardness
scale inventor
26 Take in a novel, e.g.
28 Abba of Israel
30 Boohoo
33 Leg bone
35 Popular office plant
36 Building wings
37 Hitting stat
39 Bird sound
40 Video's counterpart
42 Last name of the Bee Gees
44 Eight-armed creatures
45 The second Mrs. Trump
46 Actress Eve
47 Bird homes
50 Cheapen
54 Enjoy a slope
56 McEntire of country
57 Lead-in to a proposal
59 Bake-off needs
60 "As if that — enough ..."
61 Pooch sound
63 Aden citizen
65 — de-sac
67 Composer Erik
69 Ocean floor
71 Mouth or face, slangily
72 Rescue squad VIP
73 Upscale
Swiss watch brand
74 — tucked out
75 Of kidneys
76 "The Princess Bride" character
Montoya
77 The Engle-neers' sch.
80 It's charged
81 Knotted like shoelaces
82 Huxtable mom on TV
83 Goat groups
85 Limber
86 Black, in verse
87 Honcho
90 Mambo king
Puente
91 Ricochets
95 Janitorial tool
97 Dell heroes
100 Last Greek letters
101 Actor Amaz
102 Court filings
103 Pianists' exercises
104 Road semi
109 Staff symbols
111 Addis —, Ethiopia
112 Be up against
113 Yard post
114 Not any
115 Aid in crime
117 New Haven university
119 Local theater, informally
120 Door handle
122 Iron —
123 Iron —
124 Tear
126 No longer in the mil., e.g.

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OBITUARIES

Marlys A. Ely

PRINCEVILLE – Marlys Ann Ely, 63, of Princeville, passed away at her residence on Dec. 26, 2025, after a hard-fought battle with ALS. She was born on May 22, 1962, in Peoria to Jerry D. Broadfield and Mary Ann (Hrdlicka) Broadfield. She married Matthew E. Ely on May 24, 2002. He survives. Also surviving are her daughter, Krista Peterson of Princeville; her stepson, Ethan (Jami) Ely of Colfax; both of her parents; and her sister, Lisa Eads (Robert Lorange) of Princeville. Marlys spent many years working, with her last position as Princeville Township clerk. She loved going on tropical vacations with her family and friends and hanging out with friends at her pool cabana. Marlys amazed everyone with her lucky trip-winning skills, treating her husband and daughter to many wonderful trips and memories. She adored her cats and they stuck by her side, always giving her a reason to smile. Marlys looked so forward to meeting Jackson Ely, a beloved addition to her family. His arrival was a definite blessing for her. A special thanks goes to Matt and Krista for their wonderful care and compassion and for allowing Marlys to end her journey in her own home. As she passed sometime during the night, we choose to believe that she went to meet Jesus on his birthday. Hallelujah! Marlys was strong until the end and she will be missed by many, many people. A celebration of life will be planned for a later date.



Ely

Lois M. Fuchs

PRINCEVILLE – Lois Marie Fuchs, 100, of Princeville, passed away at 2:35 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, after living on the same farm since 1970. Lois was born on Feb. 1, 1925, in rural Sparland to Albert and Calla (McCartney) Kimble. She married Burnett R. Wisner on Feb. 26, 1944, in Lacon. He died Sept. 25, 1947. She then married Herman J. Fuchs on Aug. 28, 1948, in Chilli-icothe. He preceded her in death on Nov. 2, 2004. Lois and Herman met at a barn dance in Magnolia and were married for 56 years. Surviving are one son, Albert (Sharon) Fuchs of rural Speer; two granddaughters, Tiffany (Grant) McCauley of Wyoming and Elisha (Nick) VanMeenen of Morton; six great-grandchildren, Katie (Jacob Zumwalt), Matthew and Jacob McCauley and Amelia, Abigail and Alyssa VanMeenen; and one great-great-granddaughter, Ember. Also preceding her in death are one daughter, Rose Marie Fuchs; one son, Ronald B. Wisner; five sisters, Lena Moore-Bogner, Ruth Johnson, Virginia Newell, Alice Blackwell and Margaret Lindsey; and two brothers, Charles and Howard Kimble. She attended Hull one-room schoolhouse in LaPrairie and graduated from Sparland Township High School. She worked as a housekeeper at Lacon Woolen Mill and as a hard-working farmer for many years. Her son and daughter-in-law continue the legacy of the family farm. She loved being with her family, taking care of her grandkids, farming, milking cows, raising chickens, gardening, canning, coloring and cooking delicious large meals around the table of fried chicken, pot roast and ham. She was loved by so many through the years with her positive life outlook, kindness and smile. She would always remind you to “Be careful” when you headed out the door. Cremation has been accorded. A private graveside service will be held at Blue Ridge Cemetery in rural Edelstein. Memorial contributions may be made to Akron-Princeville Ambulance Service. Condolences may be left for Lois’ family on her tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.



Fuchs

Armond Sloan

PRINCEVILLE – Armond Sloan, 97, of Princeville, passed away at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, at Carle Health Proctor Hospital in Peoria. Armond was born on May 28, 1928, in Princeville to Dewey H. and Bernadine H. (Merrill) Sloan. He married Joyce Lorraine Parker on May 28, 1947, in Forrest. She preceded him in death on Oct. 27, 2015. Surviving are one son, Robert Sloan of Princeville; one daughter, JoAnn (Charles) Craig of Princeville; two grandsons, Mark Sloan of Utah and Josh Hickey of Idaho; five step-granddaughters; 19 great-grandchildren; and six great-great- grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; one daughter in infancy, Janet Sloan; grandson Brian Sloan; his sister, Juanita Eberle; and one half-sister, Carol Harms. Armond was self-employed as a farmer. He farmed from the age of 13 until he was 86. Farming was his



Sloan

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Sunday School: 9:30 am

AWANA: Wed. 6:15 pm ages 3-12

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United Church of Christ

Pastor Stephen Barch

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BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. For possible New Year's resolutions, Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be _____." Resolved, Established, Directed, Bountiful

2. Likewise, Psalm 37:5 instructs us to "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to _____." Nurture, Pass, Action, Light

3. From which book's 29:11 does the Lord declare plans to prosper you, thoughts of peace to give you

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Tuesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm

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Pastor Zoila Marty

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Dahinda IL 61428

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Sunday School during worship

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 am

hope and a future? Leviticus, Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah

4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 are among the verses to focus on what in a new year? Blessings, Moving forward, Grace, Church attendance

5. In which month of the religious calendar did the new year begin in the Bible? 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th

6. From James 1:5, what may one lack, and if they ask God, it shall be given? Love, Wisdom, Truth, Goals

ANSWERS: 1) Established, 2) Pass, 3) Jeremiah, 4) Moving forward, 5) 7th, 6) Wisdom

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(Maquon worship: 11 am)

Facebook Live is 11 am at Maquon UM Church page

EDWARDS

Baptist Church

7422 N. Heinz Ln. Edwards

(309) 692-1755

bethanycentral.org

Sun. Worship: 9 & 10:30 am

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

stmaryskickapoo.org

Sat. Confession: 2:45-3:45 pm

Saturday Mass: 4 pm

Sunday Masses: 7:30 & 10 am

Mon., Wed., and Fri. Mass: 8 am

Sat. Confession: 2:45-3:45 pm

ELMWOOD

Crossroads Assembly of God

Pastor Don Nuttall

615 E. Ash St. Elmwood

(309) 742-6409

crossroadselmwood.org

Wed. Bible Study: 7 pm

Sun. Worship: 10:30 am

First Presbyterian Church of Elmwood

Reverend Marla B. Bauler

201 W. Evergreen Elmwood

(309) 742-2631

firstpresbyterianofelmwood.org

Sun. Worship: 10:30 am

Sun. School: 9:30 am

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Father James Pankiewicz

802 W. Main St. Elmwood

(309) 742-4921

Sat. Mass: 5:30 pm

Tues. & Thurs. Mass: 8 am

Tues. Confession: After mass.

United Methodist Church of Elmwood

Pastor Austin Miller

821 W. Main St. Elmwood

(309) 742-7221

elmwoodumc.org

Sunday Worship: 9 am NEW!

Youth Sunday School: 10 am

FARMINGTON

Farmington Bible Church

Pastor Tony Severine

497 N. Elmwood Rd.

Farmington

(309) 245-9870

Sunday School: 9:30

Worship Service: 10:30

Farmington United Methodist Church

Pastor Austin Miller

187 W. Fulton St.

Farmington

(309) 245-4310

farmingtonmethodist61531@gmail.com

Sunday School 10:15 am

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington

Pastor Cindy Bean

83 N. Cone Street Farmington

(309) 245-2914

firstpresfarmington.com

Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship: 10:30 am

Live on Facebook also

Fellowship: 11:30 am

New Hope Fellowship Assembly of God

Pastor Tom Wright

1102 N. Illinois Route 78

Farmington

(309) 231-8076

Sun. Worship: 10 am

Wed. Worship: 7 pm

PRINCEVILLE

Princeville United Methodist Church

Pastor David Pyell

420 E. Woertz Princeville

(309) 385-4487

princevilleumchurch.com

Sun. Worship: 8:30 am

Sunday School: 8:45 am

St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church

Father Corey Krengiel

Father Deogratias Mpewo

119 Saint Mary St. Princeville

(309) 385-2578

incarnationcatholic.org

Sun. Mass: 9 and 11 am

Wed. & Fri. Mass: 6:45 am

Tues. & Thurs. Mass: 8 am

Wed. Confession: 7-8 pm

TRIVOLI

Brunswick Community Church

4027 S. Stone School Rd, Trivoli

Pastor Terry England

Sunday School: 9:45 am

Sunday Worship: 10:45 am

Sunday Evening: 6:00 pm

Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7:00 pm

(309) 403-4626

Zion-Penn Ridge Lutheran Church (LCMC)

18015 W. Smithville Rd., Trivoli

Pastor Mark Schoenhals

Pastor Jay Johnson

(309) 696-1300

zionpennridgelutheranchurch@gmail.com

Sunday Worship: 9:00 am

4th Sunday of month Worship: 8 am with communion

WILLIAMSFIELD

St. James Catholic Church

Father Deogratias Mpewo

214 N. State Route 180

Williamsfield

(309) 446-3275

stjameswilliamsfield.org

Sun. Confession: 7-7:20 am

Sunday Mass: 7 am

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 am

Sunday Worship: 11 am

YATES CITY

Faith United Presbyterian Church

Reverend Marla B. Bauler

107 W. Bishop St. Yates City

(309) 358-1170

Worship: 9 am

Sunday School: 10:15 am

Thursday Choir: 7 pm

We Cover The News of West-Central Illinois With A Passion

Early wake-up calls unkind to Farmington in Macomb tourney

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Weekly Post

Farmington boys basketball had tough losses in two consecutive morning games at the Macomb-Western Holiday Tournament.

In a 9 a.m. tipoff Monday in the consolation bracket, Farmington was eliminated from the tournament by losing 50-47 to Liberty at Western Hall. Farmington (1-8) had a chance to tie the game in the final seconds, but a Liberty steal sealed its win. Landon Crawford and Blake Melz each had 16 points for Farmington, and Boston Smith scored 11. Liberty led by as many as eight points, in the second quarter.

Farmington’s tourney

opener began about 10:30 a.m. Dec. 27 against top-seeded West Hancock, which received a scare before it won 43-39. Farmington trailed by 12 early in the second half but cut its deficit to three in the fourth quarter. Smith had a team-high 16 points. Kaydon Bolinger and Jack Gronewold each had seven rebounds. Gronewold and Smith evenly split 26 points Dec. 20, but Fulton beat Farmington 56-45 at the Great Western Shootout in Abingdon. Farmington fell behind 19-9 in the first quarter and couldn’t recover. The Farmers missed too many open shots, according to Coach Marty Lozier.

Farmington plays Jan. 6

at Havana and Jan. 8 at Monmouth-Roseville.

• **Brimfield** – Scott Carlson has been coaching a long time, but it’s doubtful he saw anything quite like what he saw Dec. 20 at the Eureka College Shootout. Brimfield lost 36-12 to Deer Creek-Mackinaw. That isn’t a misprint. Brimfield had two points in the first quarter and one in the second, yet trailed by only 10 at intermission. According to Carlson, Brimfield simply couldn’t make a basket. The teams combined to go 0-for-31 on 3-pointers.

“We were here, but we definitely did not show up,” Carlson stated.

Dee-Mack had 21 offensive rebounds, the same number of total boards

Brimfield had. It was the Indians’ second consecutive defeat after they had won their first nine.

Lexington overcame an early Brimfield lead Dec. 19 to win 45-40. Lane Symonds had 14 points for Brimfield, including nine in the first half.

Jackson Kappes returned from injury to score 20 in a 55-37 victory Dec. 16 over Kewanee Wethersfield. Kappes had 11 second-quarter points. Symonds has 12 points. Tom Burkitt had eight rebounds, and Dawson Traphagan had seven assists.

Brimfield plays Saturday afternoon against Galva and Jan. 6 against Peoria Christian, both at home.

• **Elmwood** – Quinton Johns had 16 points Dec.

20 and Garrett Webster had 12 points and seven rebounds, but Elmwood lost 47-38 to Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley at the Eureka College Shootout. A 3-pointer by Johns was the only first-quarter scoring for Elmwood, which trailed 23-12 at intermission.

The GCMS loss was the third in a row for Elmwood.

The Trojans held Havana to 10 first-half points Dec. 19 but scored only 16 in the second half of a 42-31 defeat. No Elmwood player had more than six points, which four did.

Abingdon-Avon dominated the middle quarters in a 73-42 victory Dec. 16 that gave Elmwood its first loss. A-Town led by three after one quarter but outscored Elmwood 43-27 in the second and third. Miles Addison had a team-high 16 points for Elmwood, which plays Jan. 8 at Sciota West Prairie.

• **Princeville** – The second quarter doomed Princeville in a 59-44 loss Dec. 20 to Delavan. Princeville scored only five and trailed 34-21 at halftime. Brady Day had a team-high 16 points, including 14 in the second half, and Collin Lowery scored 11.

Two nights earlier, Day scored 21 to lead Princeville to a 50-44 victory over Henry. Day had 18 points Dec. 16 against

Varna Midland, but Princeville managed only two second-quarter points in a 53-42 loss. Princeville led by three points after a quarter but trailed 25-19 at intermission.

Princeville is to play host Jan. 9 to ROWVA-Williamsfield.

• **ROWVA-Williamsfield** – Something different (a Tuesday-morning game) didn’t change things for ROWVA-Williamsfield, which fell to 0-12 with a 77-24 loss Dec. 23 to Varna Midland. Mason Empson had 13 points for R-W, which trailed 47-14 at intermission.

The game had been scheduled for Dec. 13 but was postponed. The 10 a.m. rescheduled starting time was a good fit for both teams, according to R-W Coach Ryan Hart.

Peoria Heights beat R-W 72-46 on Dec. 19 behind a 25-6 first-quarter lead. Daniel Skala had 10 points for R-W (0-6 ICAC). Empson and Hayden Tucker each scored nine Dec. 18, but R-W lost to Bushnell-Prairie City, 53-44. R-W led by two after one quarter but was outscored 29-19 in the middle periods.

On Dec. 16, North Fulton won 57-21. R-W trailed 2-0 with two minutes left in the first quarter but was outscored 11-2 before the buzzer. R-W plays Jan. 6 at Monmouth United.

VALLAS: Players, assistants have ownership

Continued from Page 16

Vallas said about 95% of players who finish their freshman year stay with the program.

Input extends also to Farmington’s large cadre of assistants, four paid and five who volunteer. Vallas leaves defensive playcalling to Kaleb Platenberger while Dylan Hayden runs the offense. Vallas also has plenty of input, but his coaches operate with a considerable amount of autonomy during games.

“I’ve been extremely lucky to have a great group of assistants that have been the kind of football guys who always want to know more and to take on more,” Vallas said.

Ownership obviously has its rewards. Farmington reached the quarterfinals this season for the fourth



Farmington Coach Toby Vallas poses with his family this fall. From left to right in front of Vallas are his wife, Kristin, and daughters Jia, Kiley and Elin.

time, joining the 2016 and 2021 teams. Vallas also coached Knoxville to the quarterfinals in 2004 – at the time the Blue Bombers’ first playoff appearance in 14 seasons.

In 2024, Farmington reached the semifinals before losing to eventual

champion Palos Heights Chicago Christian, 34-20. That game comes up often when talk turns to what it will take to finally win a state title.

“In 2024 we were good enough,” Vallas said. “We got unlucky with some calls and some injuries. We did all the other things.”

Yet while his ultimate goal remains a state title, Vallas said he will survive without one.

“One thing I’ve gotten better at is what I do in football doesn’t have anything to do with the person I am,” he said.

Beyond football, Vallas has contributed to the broader success of Farmington athletics, including serving as head coach of the 2018 girls track and field team that earned a second-place team trophy.

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIM BEARD IT



“He has the hangover virus.”

Weekly SUDOKU

		2		5		3	9	8
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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 6

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.

GMAPA UR WBQWHR RXTA

TWZJARR UJ BXIA. NSG

GMAPA UR WBRX WBQWHR

RXTA PAWRXJ UJ TWZJARR.

— EPUAZPUYM JUAGCRYMA

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: What body of water lies between Ukraine and Russia?
- SLOGANS: Which company uses the advertising slogan "Think Different"?
- MOVIES: Which actor plays himself in the movie "Zombieland"?
- HISTORY: Which U.S. president authorized the Indian Removal Act, which forcibly relocated Native Americans?
- BIOLOGY: How do plants take in oxygen and carbon dioxide?
- TELEVISION: What's the name of the bar in "The Simpsons"?
- MUSIC: Which pop singer refers to her fans as "little monsters"?
- ANATOMY: Where is the deltoid muscle in the human body?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is the primary ingredient in the Greek dish moussaka?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the children's book "Where the Wild Things Are"?

ANSWERS

- Sea of Azov.
- Apple.
- Bill Murray.
- Andrew Jackson.
- Tiny pores on the underside of leaves called stomata.
- Moe's Tavern.
- Lady Gaga.
- Shoulder.
- Eggplant.
- Maurice Sendak.

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TOP 10 MOVIES

- Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG-13)
- David (PG)
- The Housemaid (R)
- The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants (PG)
- Zootopia 2 (PG)
- Five Nights at Freddy's 2 (PG-13)
- Wicked: For Good (PG)
- Marty Supreme (R)
- Hamnet (PG-13)
- Dhurandhar (NR)

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GIRLS HOOPS: Brimfield goes 4-3 in pair of holiday tournaments

Continued from Page 16
Christmas. The next day, Elmwood reversed a result in a 44-31 victory over Tremont to advance to Monday’s final.
“I think that was a good win because it showed what we’re capable of and gave the team a real confidence boost,” Faulkner said.

In the finals, Elmwood won a tight game against Midland, 34-31, to claim the tournament title. Faulkner praised his team’s defense, which allowed 13 first-quarter points before holding Midland to single-digit quarters the rest of the way.

With the score tied late, Gianna Ramirez made a steal and drove to the other end of the court. She missed the layup, but Addison Thrasher netted the put-back bucket and a free throw set the final score.

“The girls stepped up on defense and have really bought into the team concept – crashing the boards, helping on defense – I felt like the last four or five games,” Faulkner said. “It was a total team effort and I’m really proud of our girls.”

Brooke Allen, who just returned from a concussion, led Elmwood (10-5) with 14 points and six rebounds in the final, Andrea Glenn had seven points and seven boards and Mackenzie Caulkins had four steals and nine rebounds.

• **Brimfield** – The Lady In-



The Elmwood girls basketball team took first in Princeville’s 14th annual Lee Westerman girls basketball tournament with a 34-31 win over Midland on Monday. Pictured are, Front row (left to right): Agatha Baumann, Alexis Begner, Addison Thrasher, Natalie Babcock, Gianna Rarmirez and Emily Anderson. Back row (l to r): Coach Kevin Faulkner, Adelyn Magee, Anna Salverson, Andrea Glenn, Corinne Colgan, Mackenzie Caulkins, Brooke Allen, Raelyn McClain, Layla Strom, Grace Kelsey and Juliette Coulter.

dians were busy through the holidays, going 4-3 in two tournaments.

Brimfield (6-10) went 2-1 at the Heyworth tourney, falling to Illini Central 53-43 on Dec. 17 before rebounding for wins over Paxton-Buckley-Loda (43-28) and Lexington (34-26) on consecutive days.

Brimfield split doubleheaders on Dec. 26 and Dec. 27 at the St. Bede Lady Bruin Classic, opening with a 59-16 runaway win over Putnam County, then dropping a 41-22 decision to Serena.

The next day, Brimfield lost to the hosts (58-34) before edg-

ing Orion 40-36. Cienna Graham hit the game-winner for her only bucket of the game against Orion, and Layni Linthicum iced the win with two free throws.

“We played four games in a span of 26 hours (at the St. Bede tournament), which was a big challenge for us as we only have nine girls on the roster,” Brimfield Coach Josh McKown said. “So I was pleased to come out of there 2-2.

“We’re playing much better than the beginning of the season and the girls play hard. We’re looking to build on a little success we’ve had over the holi-

days while working to play more complete games.”

Katie Doe led Brimfield in scoring in three of the four games at St. Bede and was an all-tournament selection. Linthicum was honorable-mention all-tournament.

• **Princeville** – Heading into its holiday tournament, Princeville (10-6) had wins over Lewistown (45-29) and North Fulton (46-29) on consecutive days before dropping a 64-16 decision at Illini Bluffs on Dec. 22.

In its tournament opener, Laurynn Bowers made four 3-pointers and shot 7-of-10 from

the floor for a game-high 26 points in a 57-25 rout over Bushnell-Prairie City. In the semifinals, Sahara Streitmatter, the team’s leading scorer, scored 27 in a 66-47 loss to Midland that knocked Princeville down to the third-place game.

Princeville finished fourth after a 34-31 loss to Tremont in its finale on Monday.

• **ROWVA-Williamsfield** – R-W (5-6) dropped its last three games before an extended break from competition, including a 38-36 setback against Stark County on Dec. 17.

“Our offense has been struggling the last few games,” Coach Jeff Hannam said. “We have missed a lot of easy shots, and we just can’t get shots to fall when we need them to.

“We don’t play over Christmas break, so it will be a good time to fine-tune some things.”

• **Farmington** – Farmington (5-8) limped into last weekend’s holiday tournament at Princeville with a couple of double-digit losses. The skid continued in its opener when eventual tourney runner-up Midland dropped a 54-22 setback on the Farmers on Dec. 26.

But Farmington rebounded with two straight wins to finish fifth. Farmington beat Bushnell-Prairie City 58-50 last Saturday and then beat Galva 61-54 in Monday’s consolation final.

BOYS HOOPS: Princes finish fourth after loss to Midland

Continued from Page 16
icit to 35-34 with 4:29 left in the game, but the Indians didn’t score again. Addison had four of the game’s final nine points. Fugitt credited the senior’s early inside presence and willingness to pass to an open shooter.

Brimfield had some open looks, too, but couldn’t capitalize. According to Brimfield Coach Scott Carlson, his team was 3-for-17 on 3-pointers and 8-for-29 in the lane. Some of that was because of the Elmwood defense, but some of it wasn’t, in Carlson’s estimation.

“Some of them we were just like almost afraid to be guarded – just throwing it up,” Carlson said. “I think their crowd got in our head. The mental-toughness aspect, we were clearly defeated. We’re the older team, and yet they seemed like they were more ready than we were. It totally surprised me.

“We were playing our rival for a championship, so I’m sure we were very excited for it. But you’ve got to be more than excited. You’ve got to funnel that energy into good play, and it just didn’t happen tonight.”

Connor Doe scored 12



Elmwood senior guard Garrett Webster (left) makes a push to the basket during last Saturday’s 51-41 win over Midland in the semifinals of the Princeville Holiday Tournament. At right, Karsyn Bolton dribbles. Webster led Elmwood with 25 points and Bolton added six points. Photos by Collin Fairfield.



Brady Day was the top scorer for Princeville in its holiday tournament games, tallying 15 in the third-place game vs. Midland. Photo by Collin Fairfield.



Brimfield’s Connor Doe scored a team-high 12 points Monday in the title game of the Princeville Holiday Tournament. Photo by Collin Fairfield.

to lead Brimfield.

In the third-place game, sixth-seeded Varna Midland beat Princeville 65-38. Fifth-seeded Princeville (6-7), which had 15 points from Brady Day, trailed 27-21 with 3:48 left in the second quarter. But Midland scored the final 10 of the half.

“We struggle from time to time. Tonight we just didn’t show up,” Princeville Coach Tait Sennett said. “Credit to Midland. They know how to apply some pressure, and we just didn’t want any part

of it, for whatever reason.”

Brimfield beat Princeville 45-31 in the semifinals Dec. 27. On a floor slick from condensation,

Dawson Traphagan had a game-high 14 points. Collin Lowery scored 10 for Princeville.

Elmwood won the other semi, 51-41 over Midland

behind 25 points from Webster and 10 from Karsyn Bolton. Elmwood broke from a 19-19 half-time tie against Midland, which upset No. 3 Peoria

Heights 71-62 in the first round Dec. 26.

In other first-round games, Doe returned from an ankle injury to have 27 points, including 13 in the first quarter, in a 65-36 Brimfield victory over eighth-seeded Ridgewood.

Webster had 17 points, Bolton had 14 and Quinton Johns scored 11 as Elmwood survived a final-quarter comeback by seventh-seeded Henry to win an opener 52-49.

Day scored 12 in a 43-34 Princeville victory over fourth-seeded Peru St. Bede, which managed only seven first-half points.

St. Bede beat Heights 60-52 on Monday for the consolation championship. Henry beat Ridgewood 69-55 in the consolation third-place game.

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We Cover The News of West-Central Illinois With A Passion

Elmwood sweeps Princeville holiday hoops tourneys

Boys team clips rival Brimfield

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Weekly Post

PRINCEVILLE – Inside and out, Elmwood beat Brimfield in the Princeville Holiday Tournament boys basketball title game. Brimfield might have helped beat itself, too, according to its coach.

Miles Addison went to the basket for most of his team-high 12 points, Garrett Webster had consecutive key 3-pointers and Elmwood defended the paint and perimeter Monday night for a 44-34 victory.

The second-seeded Trojans (10-3) won their second tournament of the season, following a 5-0 run through the Wally Keller Invitational in November in Kewanee. They



The Elmwood boys basketball team poses with the championship plaque after taking first at the 97th annual Princeville Holiday Tournament. Team members are, Front row (left to right): Cody Burge, Karsyn Bolton, Garrett Webster, Quinton Johns, Cooper Brown and Assistant Coach Brandon Butler; Back row (l to r): Head Coach Josh Fugitt, Hason Hubbard, Ryan Lentz, Gavin Strom, Miles Addison and Silas Schmieg.

also beat their biggest rival (11-3), the top Princeville seed.

“We know everybody on the other team – childhood, growing up,” said Webster, a senior whose eight points came after halftime. “To beat them and to know that they’re also a really good team, it feels really good to get that win.”

Webster helped Elmwood take control of a back-and-forth game. With 2:50 remaining in the third quarter and Brimfield ahead 25-24, Webster made a 3 that gave Elmwood a lasting lead. Forty-one seconds later, another Webster 3 put Elmwood ahead 30-25.

“I was frustrated we didn’t

get him the ball the next two possessions after that, but we were taking good looks,” Elmwood Coach Josh Fugitt said. “We just need to get a little better sense for who’s got the hot hand and make sure we keep going with it.”

A 3 from Griffin Hougham cut the Brimfield deficit.

Continued on Page 15

Girls get healthy just in time

By ANDY LATORA
For The Weekly Post

PRINCEVILLE – The Elmwood girls basketball players were reintroduced to each other just in time to string together three wins over four days to capture the Princeville Holiday Tournament.

Coach Kevin Faulkner’s crew was hammered by illness and injury in the run-up to the tournament. The Lady Trojans were shorthanded in a 49-24 loss to Illini Bluffs on Dec. 18 and had to postpone a game against Abingdon-Avon on Dec. 22.

“Half the team was home sick,” Faulkner said. “We had four varsity players show up for a practice, and that was it. We just had to stay away from each other.”

“We got together on Friday, the day after



Elmwood’s Brooke Allen dribbles up court during last Saturday’s 44-31 win over Tremont in the semifinals of the Princeville Holiday Tournament. Elmwood won the girls title on Monday, 34-31, over Midland. Photo by Collin Fairfield.

Christmas, for the first time in eight days.”

The recovery time must have worked. Elmwood beat Peoria Heights 46-15 to open the Princeville tourney on the day after

Continued on Page 15

Vallas named to hall of fame

Farmington coach honored by football coaches association

By JEFF LAMPE
For The Weekly Post

FARMINGTON – Toby Vallas still has not been able to cradle the trophy he covets most.

But in his quest for a state football championship, the Farmington coach has earned another award. Vallas was recently named to the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame and will be honored March 28.

“A lot of great players made this happen. That’s something really special,” Vallas said. “That was probably the best part of getting it was all the players and assistant coaches reaching out to me. It was great to hear from

them.”

Vallas is one of six active coaches in the 16-member class of 2026 and has 143 wins in his football career, including a record of 103-23 in 11 seasons at Farmington. Vallas was head coach at Knoxville from 2003-11 and came to Farmington in 2014.

Prior to his arrival, the Farmers had fielded three teams that won football playoff games. Under Vallas, Farmington is 13-9 in the playoffs and eight of his teams have won a playoff game.

The Farmers also won nine conference titles from 2016 to this year and have not lost a regular-season home game since Aug. 28, 2015.

Speed and sharing are among the reasons Vallas singled out as causes for success at Farmington. When he first arrived, Vallas said he envisioned a team built on speed.

“My background was always track and I was such a believer in the speed component of everything,” he said. “Our first couple years, I think I maybe went a little mad scientist and we weren’t strong enough. But the offense took off right away, and so people were patient and let it develop. You don’t get that everywhere.”

Vallas also wanted the players to have considerable input in the program.



Farmington Football Coach Toby Vallas has a record of 103-23 in 11 seasons at Farmington and is 13-9 in the playoffs.

“I’m not dumb, I know when to ask,” he explained. “But the journey of letting the team figure things out really gives them ownership. That’s been the biggest difference. When it’s yours, you will really fight for it.”

Vallas said that has helped encourage players to come out, with Farmington averaging more than 90 players for the past eight seasons. That’s out of a total enrollment of 351 students. And

Continued on Page 14

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