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March 26, 2026
Vol. 14 No. 8

The Weekly Post

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LOCAL AUTHOR FAIR



A group of 24 local authors gathered at Brimfield Public Library last Saturday (above), including Jane Charles (below), a romance novelist from Peoria. Photos by Molly Copher.

Local writers featured in Brimfield

By **MOLLY COPHER**

For The Weekly Post

BRIMFIELD – Brimfield Public Library was not only sporting a coffee truck outside its doors last Saturday, but inside it was also hosting its first local-author book fair.

Tables covered with books from 24 central Illinois authors filled the Activity Room. Also there were the authors themselves, ready to sign their work and have a chat with attendees.

Among those was Bill Norris, 96, who offered this greeting when I entered the room. "I'm sure I've got a poem for you," Norris said. "I've probably written 100 or something. I've got one for every-



body!" Sure enough, the Carlock resident began reciting his original poetry to whatever prompt he was given, be it shoes or climate change or time.

Norris started writing when he was 88. How does one get started at 88? "That's a story," he said. "I went to the senior center, and I was talking to a teacher. He said he wrote poems, and I said I could do

that. He said 'Try it!', and he challenged me. So, OK, I accepted the challenge."

Norris has been inspired ever since and ended up publishing his own book of poetry, "Bare Feet in the Grass."

If poetry wasn't your thing, there were plenty of other genres to choose from, including fantasy, romance, mystery, short stories and more.

The book fair is the brainchild of Chip Joyce of Peoria, who has worked as marketing and outreach specialist with Brimfield Public Library since January 2025. Joyce previously worked at Bradley University and Peoria Magazine and
Continued on Page 7

Closure rejected

Judge rejects railroad's request for closure of Whittaker Road

By **NICK VLAHOS**

For The Weekly Post

The Whittaker Road railroad crossing east of Laura probably will remain open after all.

A proposed order from an Illinois Commerce Commission administrative-law judge rejected a request from BNSF Railway to close the unguarded crossing. BNSF cited safety concerns and lack of use when it asked in 2023 for the closure.

But the proposed order, which was issued March 17, sided with Millbrook

Township officials who opposed the closure. They said oversized farm equipment uses the crossing regularly and proposed detours are unsafe.

David Badillo, an ICC administrative-law judge, released the order. Colleague Latrice Kirkland-Montague presided over an evidentiary hearing in December

Continued on Page 2

Inside

• Elmwood School Board hires coaches, hears levy details. **Page 6**

Princeville to share more TIF revenues

By **NICK VLAHOS**

For The Weekly Post

PRINCEVILLE – It took a little convincing, but the final holdout has agreed to a proposal to receive some Princeville village tax-increment-financing revenues.

Earlier this month, the Akron Township Board approved the plan, which the Princeville Village Board first authorized in November 2024 and revised the following year. It al-

lows nine local and area taxing bodies to share money annually from TIF 4, which covers most of downtown and west-northwest Princeville.

Among other things, the agreement sets aside for the other nine taxing bodies 25% of annual TIF 4 property-tax-revenue increments. They also are to receive all such increments from a new solar farm in TIF 4. Distributions are to

Continued on Page 9

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RAILROAD: Cautious optimism about ruling

Continued from Page 1
 in which each side presented its case. According to the order, parties have up to 21 days to respond if necessary.

Millbrook Township Highway Commissioner Matt Perham wasn't sure exactly what happens next. He spoke with the

township's Peoria-based attorney, Noah Miller, who suggested parties in such cases usually have settled out of court before things get to this point.

"He was cautiously optimistic," Perham said about Miller, who did not respond to a Weekly Post request for comment.

The commission is expected to consider the proposed order for approval. It isn't clear when. The commission meets at least twice a month.

Meeting sites alternate between Chicago and Springfield.

"To me, it's probably less of a ruling and more of a recommendation to the board," Perham said.

Only about 10 vehicles on average use the crossing daily at Whittaker Road, which runs north and south. But the vehicle number can approach 100 during planting and harvest seasons, according to township officials. Most of the vehicles that use the crossing are related to agriculture.

"There was clear evidence that Whittaker Road is actively used by the farmers in the area for convenience and to transport hazardous materials during the harvest season," the order stated.

BNSF proposed traffic that uses the Whittaker Road crossing be diverted to crossings at Illinois Route 78 or Brimfield Road. But the order stated those detours are greater than the state standard of

four miles, although not by much – 4.02 miles west to Route 78, 4.03 miles east to Brimfield Road.

The order also reiterated township claims about potential dangers regarding the alternative crossings. Route 78 passes under the railroad tracks. The clearing is 13 feet, 9 inches, which can be too short for some farm vehicles. Oncoming-vehicle visibility is questionable because of a dip in the road.

Visibility also can be problematic at Brimfield Road and Illinois Route 90, just north of the east-west tracks. A hill and bend on Route 90 east of the intersection can result in westbound traffic disappearing temporarily from the view of drivers on Brimfield Road.

"BNSF has failed to show how the Whittaker Road crossing is unsafe nor how the closure would increase public safety," the order stated. "Instead, the evidence shows that public convenience and safety would be served by maintaining the Whitaker (sic) Road crossing."

Perham appeared to take some satisfaction from the proposed order, but he lamented legal expenses that became significant for a township that has a modest budget. The ICC held multiple status hearings between the original BNSF request and the evidentiary hearing.

"The only thing that happened here was attorneys made some money and it looks like we're going back to the way we were three years ago," Perham said. "If this taxpayer money saves lives and stops farm accidents, I have something to smile about."



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Elmwood High School Alumni Social



All Elmwood Graduates Welcome
Saturday, April 4th 6:30pm
 Maple Lane Country Club, Elmwood

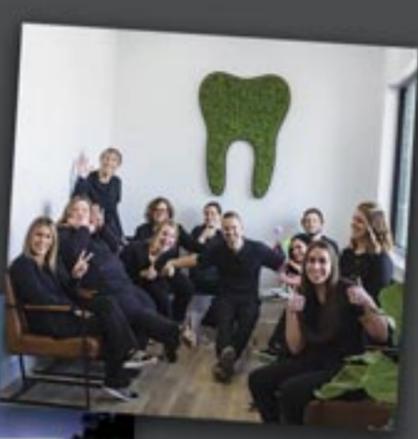
Please join us for an evening of celebration of those that have graduated from Elmwood High School.
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THE WEEK AHEAD

Hot Picks Ahead

- **Musical** – St. Mary’s of Kickapoo presents the musical “Frozen Jr.” on Friday, March 27, at noon and 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 28, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 each night. Tickets sold at the door, \$10 adults and \$5 children.
- **Pancake Breakfast** – Brimfield Fire Department has its pancake and sausage fundraiser breakfast on Sunday, March 29, 7-11 a.m. Adults \$8, ages 2-8 \$5.
- **Free Movie** – Elmwood Kiwanis free movie and Easter-egg hunt is Saturday, March 28. Free showing of Trolls at 1:30 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, followed by a 3:30 p.m. egg hunt at Elmwood’s Central Park.

The Weekly Post Seven-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
87 36 WSW 13 mph	53 29 N13 mph	60 37 WSW 7 mph	68 47 S 15 mph	79 58 SSW 12 mph	79 56 SSW 16 mph	77 49 April Fools Day

This Week’s Events

- **MANNA Meal** – Monthly MANNA Meal is today, March 26, at noon at Elmwood United Methodist Church. Lasagna, garlic bread, vegetable and dessert. \$8. Bingo after the meal for chance to win two free meals.
- **Fish Fries** – Brimfield American Legion has catfish fillets and shrimp on Friday, March 27, 5-7 p.m.
– Kickapoo Sportsman’s Club has a fish fry Friday, April 3, 4:30-7 p.m.
- **Craft Show** – The annual Spring Fling craft show at Laura’s Millbrook Township Center is Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission and door prizes.
- **Historical Meeting** – The Elmwood Historical Society meets Tuesday, March 31, at 4 p.m. at the Lorado Taft Home, 302 N. Magnolia St. Discussion and some cleaning will be the focus. Bring cleaning supplies. Old and new members needed.

Future Events

- **Elmwood Alumni** – Elmwood High School has an alumni social gathering April 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Maple Lane Country Club. No tickets needed. All Elmwood graduates welcome, but honoring graduating classes ending in 1 and 6.
- **Easter Hunt** – The K9 Koala Easter egg hunt is April 4 at 10 a.m. at Jacobs Park in Farmington. Open to all ages, even adults.
- **Blood Drive** – St. Mary’s of Kickapoo has a blood drive April 4 from 7-11 a.m. For appointments, call (309) 253-1465 or 1-800-733-2767.
- **Career Fair** – Elmwood High School has a career fair for all area high school students April 6 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Vendors are welcome. Email tombell@elmwood322.com.
- **Bingo** – Williamsfield American Legion Post 371 holds bingo the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Call (309) 231-8076.

Publicize Your Event

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

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The Weekly Post

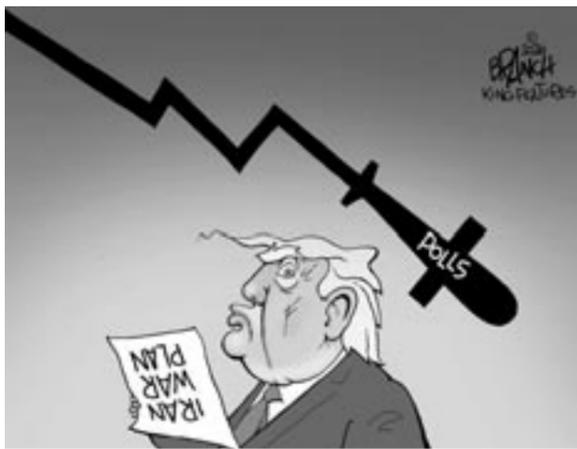
The Weekly Post is published every Thursday (except for two weeks, June 12, Dec. 24 ... and possibly another if the Bills ever win a Super Bowl) by Lampe Publications LLC, 115 W. Main St., Elmwood, IL 61529. All phone numbers listed are area code (309).

Postmaster - Send address changes to The Weekly Post, P.O. Box 745, Elmwood, IL 61529
Phone - 741-9790 **Email** - news@wklypost.com
Office Hours - Mon-Tues 9-5, Wed 9-3, Fri 9-3
News - Jeff Lampe 231-6040, jeff@wklypost.com
Classifieds - Shelly Brodine 741-9790 **Advertising** - 741-9790
Subscriptions - Subscriptions \$75 for 50 issues.
Deadlines - News due Tuesdays by noon. Ads due Mondays by noon.

Quotable - "The difference between a good life and a bad life is how well you walk through the fire."
- C.G. Jung

Illinois Press Association Member

SCATTERSHOTS



Of National Burn Day & plans for when I lose it

Rambling through central Illinois, pondering why I care that teams that spend millions on their basketball team can beat teams that spend thousands.

• • •

Last Saturday was not National Burn Day. Should have been. Should also have been National Burn Your Ditch or Grassy Field Day. The skies were filled with black clouds all day, leaving a smoky smell to linger over much of the area.



Jeff LAMPE

As anyone who burns regularly knows, there are only certain windows for a safe fire. Lots of factors come into play. Wind speed. Wind direction. Relative humidity. How much volunteer help you have on hand. And, as we learned Saturday, temperature matters too.

Normally for our March burns, we are working in 40-50 degrees. Normally, we prefer winds under 12 mph. We had none of that Saturday, but sometimes volunteer help trumps stats.

Even though we had a full complement of five Lampes, we started very cautiously, burning into the wind for 90 minutes and carefully spreading the fire, battling minor creepers of flame now and then. Those little flames can create big problems, so we stayed on them and generally, things went well. Much better than the year a creeper got loose and the three of us on hand could not stop the flames until they burned up a bunch of nice walnuts and oaks.

That was a bad year. That was also the year when the youngest, 12 at the time, said we can't burn unless we've

got a full crew. I was glad he said it, because now it's gospel.

Plus, all our burns are trickier now that we rotate fires between the east and west side of our big prairie. A mistake could easily send flames racing through the other side, and then who knows what would happen.

But even all that safety-first back-burning only works if the wind stays true to the forecast. Saturday was supposed to be south/southwest wind all afternoon. As anyone who burns knows, the wind doesn't follow a script very well.

So when it switched to the southeast for a few minutes, things got dicey fast. At some point, you have to light the edge opposite your back-burn so the fire will go with the wind and meet in the middle in a towering-but-safe display of flame.

That moment came fast. After a day of caution, I found myself running with the diesel-and-gas-filled drip torch, lighting the west edge of the prairie to meet a fire suddenly headed west faster than planned. The boys say the flames were the biggest ever. Their videos seem to back that up.

All I know is the last 5 acres burned in 9 minutes and the first 5 acres took 90 minutes. One heat draft almost knocked me over and I was more than happy to spend the rest of Saturday on the couch, watching basketball and hockey.

• • •

Every day a new thought occurs to me ... then I forget what that thought could have been. That reminds me of my friend Tim, who is older than me and says he has made a sign that he wants his wife, Bea, to hold up when the time is right.

"You are going crazy," Tim said he wants her to have the sign written by him so he will believe it when it

happens.

Thinking of that makes me smile, since Bea has probably already held the sign up a few times and Tim won't pay attention when she really means it anyway. My point here is not to make fun of Tim but to be prescient. This is coming for many of us and I admire his planning.

That's even changed one of my master plans. Once upon a time, I pondered writing a grand book of advice from father to sons. Then I realized if the boys are anything like me, they wouldn't read the book until they were too old to use the advice.

So the notes of advice, I have decided, are best saved for me to read and reread. They are a simple cheat code against the brain changes ahead.

"They are correct about you needing to take showers."

"Do not send money to every charity that sends a letter, even if they send 1. Return address labels, 2. Notepads, 3. Dreamcatchers, 4. Bumper stickers, 5. 10 cents."

"Tip well. Never make your kids frantically throw bills on the table as you leave a restaurant."

"Wearing the same clothes for three straight days is a very bad idea."

Stuff like that. My only worry is that I will lose all the notes when they are needed most.

• • •

So far, **Tiny Miller** of Williamsfield is the lone person to take me up on trading trees for pie - though his liquid version of apple pie had quite a strong punch. But the offer still stands. Anybody got a rhubarb pie for some chestnuts? ... Parting shot: The only real madness this March is learning how much some schools have paid to their "student-athletes."

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Elmwood Elementary School will be holding Kindergarten Open House for next year's parents and students on:

Thursday, April 23rd

3 Time slots available:

- 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- 6:15 - 6:45 p.m.
- 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Elmwood Elementary School
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In order for your child to register for next year's class they must be 5 years of age on or before September 1st, 2026.

We are asking parents to bring the following:

- Copy of your child's birth certificate
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GUEST VOICES

States, Congress should oversee elections

To the Editor:

'Tis the season for public-office elections. The primaries have ended and the general election will soon start.

I was curious about the similarity of negative campaign ads directed at Democrat rivals Juliana Stratton and Raja Krishnamoorthi, as those were the ads aired locally. After looking through data on the Federal Election Commission website and enlisting the aid of Microsoft Copilot, it was clear to me that accusations of accepting contributions from MAGA-affiliated donors and ICE contractors could not be verified. Lies?

There is one exception – if the truth is really st-r-e-t-c-h-ed, as one out of 9,518 individual donors to Raja could be in question. That contribution was not kept, but donated to a charity for homeless people. This twisting of truths is not new to politics, so I was disappointed, but not surprised. The same kind of barbs are directed toward Republican candidates as well.

What did surprise me was finding, while at the Federal Election Commission website, that the Commission cannot properly fulfill all of its duties. DOGE cut staff by about 20%



and no replacement commissioners have been named for those whose terms had expired. Only two of the six remain; not enough for a quorum to conduct all business, although election administration has been transferred to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

“Since May 2025, the Commission has been without the necessary quorum of four Commissioners,” said Shana Broussard, new chair of the Federal Election Commission, on July 1, 2025. “And while this challenging time means that the Commission is unable to perform some of our most critical policymaking and enforcement functions, including issuing advisory opinions and voting on matters under review, the Commission continues to fulfill many of the duties fundamental to our mission.”

The Federal Election Commission has been minimized. Voting records

from Arizona have been seized. Voting records from Georgia have been seized. Voting records have been demanded of 36 other states. Legislation to make voting qualification uncertain, the SAVE America Act, is being forced to a vote without proper debate.

The power to regulate the large majority of elections lies with the states and U.S. Congress as set out by the Elections Clause of the U.S. Constitution. If followed, the SAVE America Act would consolidate more power over elections within the executive branch and diminish the legal role held by Congress and the states in election administration. Let your federal legislators know how you feel on this matter.

As President Andrew Jackson said in 1837, “But you must remember, my fellow citizens, that eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty and that you must pay the price if you wish to secure the blessing.”

– David Courson, Elmwood
The Weekly Post welcomes letters to the editor. Email your letter to jeff@wklypost.com or mail to: The Weekly Post, PO Box 745, Elmwood, IL 61529. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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DINE IN OR TAKE OUT

Elmwood School Board OKs coaching hires

By JEFF LAMPE
 For The Weekly Post

ELMWOOD – Hiring coaches and hearing about levy projections were two main outcomes of Monday’s meeting of the Elmwood School Board.

Hirings for this spring include Dash Anderson as junior high boys track coach and Jared Harkness as JH assistant boys track coach. Daniel Yeagle was approved as a volunteer

high school track coach.

The board also approved these non-teaching coaches for 2026-27: Gregg Meyers (HS boys cross country, track), Chelsea Brown (HS head volleyball), Penny Silzer (JH head volleyball), Karla Begner (HS and JH volleyball assistant), Breanne Bell (HS assistant basketball and girls track), Nicole Briney (JH cheerleading), Emily Brunnelson (JH scholastic bowl), Bran-

don Butler (freshman football, HS boys basketball assistant), Mike Dutton (JV football), Jared Harkness (JH assistant boys track), Amerika Harmon (JH assistant girls track), Blaise Steffen (JH softball), Robin Thrasher (HS basketball cheer), Gavin Updyke (JH assistant boys basketball) and Drew Vawter (bass fishing).

Resignations were acknowledged for the end of this school year from Athletic Director Tyler Baysingar and paraprofessional aide Makayla Vicary. Also resigning were Brett Powers (JH boys basketball coach) and Dash Anderson (JH assistant boys track coach).

use Health Life Safety Funds to repair concrete north of the Industrial Arts Building. Superintendent Joel Schmieg said the project will also include installing bollards in front of school entrances.

Schmieg also said his 2025 levy projection was almost identical to the rate of 5.39242 in Elmwood’s final tax computation. That is an increase from last year’s levy of 5.22793 – the equivalent of a \$161 increase for a home valued at \$300,000.

Schmieg said the district received two anonymous donations for families in need, specifically toward outstanding student-lunch account balances.

Board President Jessica Reyling reported that negotiations are ongoing with the teacher’s union.

The board also OK’d IHSA and IESA membership for 2026-27 and a consolidated district plan required for certain federal funds.

Tenure will be earned by four staff members upon the start of the 2026-27 school year: Brett Grant, Lane Hampton, Erin Magee and Lexie Tomevi.

A public hearing prior to the regular meeting elicited no public comment regarding the district’s plans to

Elmwood approves two grants for signs

By JEFF LAMPE
 For The Weekly Post

ELMWOOD – The Elmwood City Council voted to give two local businesses TIF grants to pay a portion of the cost for new signs.

That was the lone action at a 10-minute meeting on March 17.

The Elmwood Center for the Humanities and Night-

hawks Coffee is to receive half of its \$5,346.62 expense for fabrication and installation of a new double-sided sign that will be installed above an awning at the business on 120 W. Main St.

Just a block away at 118 E. Main St., Black Maple Coffee, LLC received \$1,425 of the \$2,850 cost for a double-sided sign in front of the vacant Parkview building. Black Maple’s logo will be featured on one side, The Canopy Events & Catering on the other.

Owner Emily Morton said on her application the coffee shop will also serve breakfast and lunch while the catering business will use upper floors for event rental space. No opening date has been announced.

NOTICE TO GRADUATES OF ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
 of

Availability of Scholarship Grants and Financial Aid to pursue College and Advanced Education and Training under the MARIE AND MARGARET EKSTRAND EDUCATIONAL TRUST

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the graduates of ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL (Community Unit School District No. 322, Peoria County, Illinois) who are pursuing or who will be pursuing education beyond high school of the availability of scholarship grants and financial aid under the Marie and Margaret Ekstrand Educational Trust.

The Trustees of the Trust will be granting scholarships and financial aid from the trust to students based upon the following criteria:

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AUTHORS: Different paths to become writers

Continued from Page 1

said he considers the library the cultural hub of Brimfield.

"The library is definitely a vital part of this community," he said. "I want to help it become even more indispensable. I want it to be a place where people can come for anything."

He said his vision for the event is to create reciprocal relationships with local authors, where they can help the library with events and literature and the library can help them sell beyond what online retailers allow.

"I feel like everyone is walking away happy today," Joyce said.

Some of that enjoyment came from the chance authors had to discuss their books and their paths to becoming published writers.

Eric Swearingen from East Peoria started writing while he was a flight nurse. "It was a pretty intense line of work, and I needed a mental-health outlet," he said. "So I started writing, and three years later, I had a book."



Joyce

Inspired by his favorite authors Joe Abercrombie and Brandon Sanderson and using characters from an aborted Dungeons & Dragons campaign, Swearingen crafted his debut novel, "Children of Starlight."

Abby Lattanzio of Bloomington is a big Kenneth Oppel fan who graduated from Northland College with a degree in writing and came to Brimfield to showcase her works, including "Elementals," the first in a fantasy trilogy about four brothers, each with the ability to control a natural element, who fight to save their kingdom from their corrupt uncle. A second book in the series is in its final editing stages, she said.

Jackie Lawson of Peoria attended with fantasy novels and short-story collections. Her first book was published in 2018 and was inspired by a dream she wasn't able to finish during a 15-minute power nap. However, her favorite creation is "Peculiar Lessons," a novel she describes as "The Magic School Bus: College Edition."

"Instead of science, they are looking for urban legends, cryptids, beasties, all of those kinds of things," she said. "I looked for two years for something like it to read.



Writers answer questions and discuss their books at last Saturday's local-author book fair at Brimfield Public Library. Photo by Molly Copher.

And I could not find it, so I got mad, and I wrote it."

Claire Craig Evans of Peoria is no novice writer, either. She is a former magazine writer and journalism major, as well as a retired criminal prosecutor and current lecturer. While living in Peoria, she met and married a British man, which led to her book, "High Tea and the Low Down."

While talking about meeting her husband and how that produced her book, Evans explained, "Part of the deal was I had to be willing to move back to the U.K. which I did in 2008, and I lived about four years there. I wrote a blog while I was there because I was making so many cultural errors and all of this was so funny, and it ended up being book-worthy."

Now, she lectures on 17 different topics on British culture and had a March 24 presentation at the Brimfield library on British spycraft.

Brian McDonald of Bloomington was so inspired by Michael Connelly and David Baldacci that he started penning his own crime-fiction novels, starting with "The Defenders," set in Peoria and complete with familiar landmarks.

"I retired and I had a lot of extra free time so I started trying to put some characters together and make a story," said McDonald, a former Caterpillar Inc. employee and Eureka College educator. "I like watching the police shows on TV, and I wanted to follow in my favorite writers' footsteps."

Steve Davis of Elmwood was on hand and described his first attempts at writing for the Elmnet website.

"I always realized that I wasn't a skilled writer, but I had ideas," he said. "The first novel I wrote was during COVID when we all had to stay home. And then I added some short stories to contests, and I just

kept trying to improve."

His latest novel, "Will It Require Pants?," is set in rural Henderson County, where Davis is originally from and centers around a man accused of murder and exploring how extremism can impact everyday life.

Davis' inspiration comes from legacy. "I just think that if I leave it behind, my grandkids are little now, but they'll read this and learn who I was."

There were also romance novels. Jane Charles from Peoria is a USA Today best-selling author and estimates that she has written around 70 novels since she was first published in 2012.

"I think I've always wanted to write. I was reading a lot, and I was spending a lot of money on books, so I thought I would just try writing my own," she said, describing her new vocation as an addiction in its own right.

Her advice to those considering literary journeys of their own? "Just start writing and see what happens," she said.

Honestly, Joel Shoemaker and his writing cannot be given a label. He is from Peoria and though he didn't grow up wanting to be a writer, he has been a librarian for decades. He wrote his first novel, "Bacon Grief," because, "There's nothing like this on the shelves.

"Toni Morrison famously said, 'If there's a book that you want to read but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it,' and so I took up that challenge and I wrote it."

He also has a cocktail-themed short-story collection of 14 stories and 28 recipes, as well as a short-story collection about teeth.

"There are 28 teeth in the adult human mouth absent wisdom teeth, and there are 28 short stories in this book similarly absent wisdom," he said.

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PUBLIC RECORD

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

Police reports

• **PRINCEVILLE** – Vehicle burglaries and thefts were reported in Princeville.

Shortly after 3 p.m. March 6, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office deputy was dispatched to a residence in the 300 block of W. High St. regarding the apparent burglary of a 2014 Ford F-150 pickup truck. Much of the report was redacted, but it indicated a vehicle about a block away was reported stolen earlier in the day.

About 8 a.m. March 6, a 2011 Hyundai without license plates and with its lights on was reported parked in front of a residence in the 100 block of E. High St. Again, much of the report was redacted. But the Peoria Police Department notified the vehicle owner, who arrived and took custody of it.

No suspect information was available.

• **ELMWOOD** – An Elmwood-area man was accused of swindling customers of a business he was operating.

Christopher Sloan, 49, was arrested March 5, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office. The arrests appear to stem from two incidents in February, one in Bartonville and the other in Princeville, according to heavily redacted sheriff's-office reports. The Bartonville incident involved \$239 in cash.

Sloan was charged with theft-control intent of less than \$500 and of theft-control intent between \$500 and \$10,000, as well as two counts each of deceptive practices and home-repair fraud. The nature of the business was not listed on the reports. Sloan was taken to the Peoria County Jail.

• **HANNA CITY** – A law-enforcement officer couldn't determine who was driving in a single-vehicle accident reported near Hanna City.

The vehicle, a 2010 Hyundai sedan, was eastbound shortly after 7:15 p.m. March 4 in the 11700 block of Illinois Route 116 when it made a U-turn into the north-side ditch, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated.

According to a witness, a dark-

haired female was driving and a male arrived and attempted to drive the vehicle out of the culvert. The vehicle sustained front-end damage. Another witness said a man was test-driving the vehicle, which she had just purchased.

The man denied driving, although his cellphone was found on the driver's-side floorboard. A wooden mailbox post in front of a residence also was damaged, although the owner said an earlier passing snow-pow might have caused that.

• **DUNLAP** – A Princeville man and his male passenger reported no injuries after their vehicle rear-ended a school bus south of Dunlap, then struck a tree.

Antonio E. Peacock was driving a northbound 2009 Dodge Avenger shortly before 4:30 p.m. March 3 in the 10900 block of Illinois Route 91 when the vehicle struck the Dunlap School District bus, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report.

Peacock said he lost control of the vehicle because of rain and alignment issues. The vehicle left the pavement to the west, traversed a ditch and stopped after it hit the tree, which was in the yard of a residence.

The Avenger sustained overall disabling damage and was towed. Courtland Funchess was the school-bus driver; the report did not list his hometown. Funchess said he was uninjured and the bus sustained minimal rear-bumper damage. The report did not specify if the bus had passengers.

• **FARMINGTON** – A Kentucky man was accused of multiple traffic offenses after he was stopped while driving in Farmington.

Alvarez Hernandez, 24, of Somerset was behind the wheel of a 2019 Ford Edge that was traveling 50 mph in a 35-mph zone about 4:15 a.m. March 3 in the 600 block of E. Fort St, according to a Farmington Police Department report.

Hernandez's Kentucky driver's license was suspended. Police identified Hernandez through his Mexico passport. He was cited for the license violation and for speeding, and he received a notice to appear in Fulton County Circuit Court in Lewistown. The vehicle was towed.

• **FARMINGTON** – A Bloomington man was accused of drunken

driving following an apparent altercation with another driver east of Farmington.

Alexander M. Bricker, 21, had a blood-alcohol content of .198 after a Farmington police officer stopped him about 10:45 p.m. Feb. 27 in the 1000 block of E. Fort St. The legal limit is .08. Bricker was driving a westbound 2018 Kia Optima, according to a report, and an open can of Coors beer was found inside.

The other driver, a 33-year-old Farmington man, said Bricker's vehicle struck his, a 2025 Ford, on Illinois Route 116. He said Bricker yelled at him and was swerving on the road. The other vehicle was damaged, although the report wasn't specific.

Bricker was accused of illegal transportation of alcohol, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and two counts of driving under the influence of alcohol. He received a notice to appear in Fulton County Circuit Court in Lewistown.

• **PRINCEVILLE** – Shortly before 9:30 p.m. March 6, Jisela M. Horton-Meza of Princeville was driving a northbound 2025 Toyota on Princeville-Jubilee Road about one mile south of Parks School Road when the vehicle struck a deer that emerged from the east. Horton-Meza was uninjured, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report. She drove away the vehicle. The report did not specify if it was damaged.

• **EDWARDS** – Shortly after 10:15 p.m. March 2, Brandon L. Johnson of Elmwood was driving a westbound 2020 Jeep Renegade in the 6100 block of Illinois Route 8 east of Edwards when the vehicle struck a deer that emerged from the south. Johnson declined medical attention, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated. The vehicle sustained damage to its front bumper, grille and passenger-side headlight and was not driven from the scene.

• **GALESBURG** – These were among calls to which the Knox County Sheriff's Office responded between March 1-7: dog bite, Williamsfield; noise complaint, Yates City; burglary, Dahinda; suspicious incident, Dahinda; fire, Yates City; fire, Williamsfield.

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BRIEFS

Jamonica Rolle picked as new ICC president

EAST PEORIA – The Illinois Central College Board of Trustees selected Jamonica Rolle as the college’s next president following a comprehensive national search. She will assume the role on July 1.



Rolle

The Board’s decision reflects Rolle’s demonstrated ability to deliver measurable outcomes in student achievement, strengthen workforce-aligned programming and build partnerships that support employers and communities.

“Dr. Rolle is a highly accomplished leader with 20 years of progressive experience across all aspects of a community college. Her strengths and qualifications clearly align with ICC’s mission and current priorities as evident in her strong commitment to student success,

workforce development and community impact. Her proven ability as a collaborative, innovative leader will also guide the college into its next era of excellence and community servicer,” said Cindy Byrd, chair of the ICC Board.

Rolle serves as college provost and senior vice president of academic affairs and college operations at Broward College. She holds a doctorate from the University of Florida.

Health Department gets StormReady certification

PEORIA – The Peoria City/County Health Department recently received its StormReady certification from the National Weather Service. The certification was made possible through the efforts of the Peoria County Emergency Management Agency, housed within the health department.

To be considered a StormReady entity, community organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency-operations center.

- Have more than one way to receive severe-weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public.
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally.
- Promote public readiness through community seminars.
- Develop a hazardous-weather plan, which includes training severe-weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

Et cetera

Better Banks announced the addition of Zach Maher to the lending team as senior vice president. Maher, a native of the Princeville area, brings more than 20 years of banking experience and most recently served as vice president of commercial lending.

The Peoria County Coroner’s Office was notified last week that it received accreditation from the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners. Four other offices across Illinois, and only 55 nationwide, have achieved this accomplishment.

PRINCEVILLE: Akron Township last to agree

Continued from Page 1
be in proportion to each taxing body’s rate.

In order of share, those bodies are the Princeville School District, the Lillie M. Evans Library District, the Akron-Princeville Fire Protection District, Illinois Central College, Akron Township, Princeville Township, Peoria County, the Peoria airport authority and the county soil-and-water conservation district.

Each taxing body had to approve the deal for it to be enacted. All but Akron Township did. Trustees rejected it in a vote last October. But according to Village President Jeff Troutman, they might not have understood the offer. Troutman attended the board’s March meeting to help explain it.

“I pretty much begged them to get some money back,” he said. “If they didn’t sign it, it wouldn’t go into effect. Finally, at the meeting I kind of looked at them and said, ‘This is the deal. Me as a

village representative, I shouldn’t even be talking to you. My village is going to take a hit. If you don’t want it, nobody else is going to get it and the village is going to keep it.’

“Once one of their board members understood, he explained it to them.”

Akron Township is expected to receive about \$50-\$60 a year under the plan, according to Princeville TIF administrators. The agreement is in effect for the life of the TIF, which in general is 23 years. TIF 4 was established in 2023.

School District representatives have been lobbying for more of a say in how the village handles TIFs. They have suggested a TIF-induced limit on the school’s share of property-tax increases in most of the village impacts their operations adversely. Almost all of Princeville is in a TIF district.

In TIF districts, property taxes that are to go to various bodies are frozen.

Subsequent tax increases are diverted into a fund used for infrastructure improvements.

“The district is hopeful this TIF district will promote growth in the village,” School Superintendent Tony Shinnall stated.

The Village Board gave the deal its final approval March 18. Also approved were:

- The blocking of three parking spaces in front of

Dirt Road Designs, 137 E. Main St., to accommodate a dirty-soda and energy-drinks tent March 27, part of the business’ grand re-opening.

□□Construction of a prefabricated shed in the backyard of a residence at 209 S. Walnut St.

□□Closure of Illinois Route 91 between North and Spring streets for the annual Heritage Days celebration. The road is to be closed June 17-21.

ELMWOOD KIWANIS FREE MOVIE & EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 28th
Free Movie at 1:30pm
Palace Theatre
TROLLS (PG)
Free Small Popcorn OR Soda
Movie gets out at 3pm

The Easter Bunny will be at the theatre to lead everyone to the Easter Egg Hunt at Central Park

3:30PM EASTER EGG HUNT
Easter Bunny will be in the gazebo for pictures after the egg hunt

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March 26 **Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30pm**
Jackpot \$13,625 (Tickets available all week)
Ribeye, Tots & Apps. 5:30-7:30pm

March 27 **Catfish Fillets, Walleye or Shrimp 5-7pm**
Comedy Show 7pm (Doors Open at 6:30)
\$15 per person at the door - Open to the Public

March 28 **Women of the Moose**
Easter Egg Hunt at Reed Park
4pt. Pitch 1:15pm

March 30 **Hot Roast Beef 5-7pm**
Bingo 6:30 (doors open at 5pm)
\$8 Pizza Every Sunday
Free Pool & Juke Box Every Wednesday

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NOTICE TO OAK RIDGE CEMETERY LOT OWNERS

All ground decorations at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Farmington must be removed by March 31st, for spring clean-up. Decorations may be replaced after April 1st.
Please note: Cremation lots are not included in this clean-up, and no decorations attached to grave markers or shepherd hooks will be removed.
Thank you for your cooperation!

NOTICE

Anyone wanting to save grave decorations at Elmwood, Lehigh, Southport & Watkins cemeteries please have them removed by April 1st

Thanks for your cooperation
Elmwood Township Cemetery Board



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OBITUARIES

Pauline E. Bennington
PRINCEVILLE – Pauline E. Bennington, 87, of Peoria, formerly of rural Princeville, passed away at 12:04 a.m. Monday, March 23, 2026, at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

Pauline was born on Sept. 5, 1938, in Castleton, to parents Carl and Laura (Pyell) Mueller. She married Dale L. Bennington on May 15, 1960; he survives.



Bennington

Also surviving are one son, Andrew Bennington of Dunlap; one daughter-in-law, Lori Bennington; her fur-baby, Meanie; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins whom she loved dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant daughter; brother, Charles Mueller; and sister, M. Audrey Mueller.

Pauline was a registered nurse who graduated from Methodist Nursing School. She worked as the head nurse in a major New York City hospital's emergency room, as well at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis and at the local Princeville medical center for almost 20 years.

Pauline took pride in raising her son and enjoyed attending his activities. She and Dale were lucky enough to spend time traveling together, visiting 38 countries around the world. She was a woman of strong faith and active member at the Trinity Lutheran Church.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Peoria. Her funeral service will be at noon Thursday, March 26, 2026, also at the church. Pastors Mark Nelson and Matthew Synnott will officiate. Burial will be in Wyoming Cemetery at a later date. Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Wyoming is assisting the family with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church or the ARK in Lacon. Condolences may be left for Pauline's family on her tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Wayne Cross
TRIVOLI – Wayne Cross, 91, of Trivoli, passed away at 12:26 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

He was born on Feb. 13, 1935, in

Franklin County, Ill., a son of John and Opal (Shaw) Cross. He married Helen Ailene Irvin on March 28, 1958, in Bonnie, Ill. She preceded him in death on June 7, 2015.

Also, preceding Wayne in death were his parents; son Roger Cross; brother Robert Cross; sister Mary Morris; one grandchild, Brianna Wood; and one great-grandchild, Emalyn Cross.



Cross

Surviving are his children Debra (Mike) Harms of Yates City and Jeff (Sandi) Cross of Peoria; six grandchildren, Kyle (Shana) Harms, Kayla (Rocco) Harms, Jordan (Mitch) Ryan, Trevor (Chloe) Cross, Connor (Alyse) Cross and Morgan (Tyler) Federwisch; 15 great-grandchildren; brothers Charles (Irene) Cross, Gene (Betsy) Cross and Delbert (Pat) Cross; sister Ruth Stewart; and his beloved friend and dance partner, Mariann Forney of Brimfield.

Wayne was a loving husband, father and friend. He had a great sense of humor, a strong faith and a never-ending love for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He gave generously to his community and was always there to lend a hand to anyone in need.

Whether outdoors hunting, fishing, gardening or enjoying a game of cards or a puzzle indoors, he found joy in every moment. His memory will forever live on in our hearts.

Wayne retired in 2000 from Caterpillar Inc. after 42 years of service. He was a devoted member of the Douglas United Methodist Church and member of the Farmington Sportsmen's Club. He served his country in the U.S. Army.

Funeral services were to be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at the Anderson-Sedgwick Funeral Home in Farmington, where a visitation was to be held from 10 a.m. until the time of services. Pastor Kris McMillan was to officiate. Burial was to follow the services and take place in Trivoli Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or to the Logan-Trivoli Fire Department.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.sedgwickfuneralhomes.com.

Gerald E. Martin
PRINCEVILLE – Gerald E. "Pooch" Martin, passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at home with his beloved Louise and daughters by his side.

He was born March 12, 1938, having just joyfully celebrated his 88th birthday, to Christian C. and Bessie F. (Streitmatter) Martin in Princeville at 7 Oaks Hospital. He married Louise G. (Michel) on Sept. 4, 1966, in Morton; she survives.



Martin

Also surviving are two daughters, Marla Kay (Robert) Leman of Bloomington and Kara Sue Martin of Peoria; three grandchildren, Brock Martin Leman, Kyle William Leman and Ali Louise Leman; two sisters, Arlene Martin and Arlys Martin of Princeville; and many treasured nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and some great-greats.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters Alice Marie Metzger, Doris Michel and Janet Schubert; and brothers Ervin, Nathan and Ellsworth "Ike" Martin.

Pooch graduated from Princeville High School in the Class of 1956. He is a U.S. Army veteran, inducted in September 1961, having served active-duty deployment to Korea prior to his honorable discharge in 1963. He was able to take part in the Greater Peoria Area Honor Flight on Oct. 16, 2018, accompanied by his daughter Kara.

Pooch worked at Joan of Arc for 20 years, then worked at Martin Fertilizer and Farms for 10 years and at Jim Agles (Princeville Chevrolet dealership) for several years before becoming a co-founder and partner in Dunlap Motors in April 1999. He enjoyed being around cars and serving customers at the dealership until his retirement on June 1, 2024.

He was a member of the Princeville Lions Club and the Princeville Apostolic Christian Church.

Pooch loved his wife, family, church, community, country and his Lord. He was a gentle, kind and compassionate man who enjoyed the simple things in life. He grew up on a farm and loved caring for the land; he showed that through his beautiful garden and yard. He valued time spent with those he loved – drives

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

I	S	T	O	C	H	I	T	B	O	S	S	A	P	P	L	E	S		
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U	N	I	T	E	R	A	S	I	A	E	G	A	D	I	N	L	A		
R	E	T	I	R	E	M	E	E	T	S	O	L	E	E	G	A	N		

CryptoQuote

answer
No gain is so certain as that which proceeds from the economical use of what you already have.
— Latin Proverb

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

OBITUARIES

through the country, supporting them at their events and vacationing together.

A funeral was held at the Princeville Apostolic Christian Church on March 23, 2026. Ministers of the church officiated.

The service was livestreamed at princevillechurch.org. Burial was in Princeville Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Akron-Princeville Ambulance Service or Apostolic Christian Skylines. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Princeville is assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences for Gerald's family may be left on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Del R. Messersmith

MONICA – Del Ray Messersmith, 69, of Monica, passed away at 11:55 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2026, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

Del was born on March 24, 1956, in Peoria to LeRoy L. and Patsy D. (Sniff) Messersmith. He married Barb (Coon) Messersmith of Princeville on Oct. 24, 1981. She survives.

Also surviving are his three children, Ashley Messersmith, Sara (Ben) Bohm and James (Shannon) Messersmith, all of Princeville; four grandchildren, Jordyn, Payton, Colin and Kinsley; and one brother, David (Julie) Messersmith of Tremont. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Dennis Messersmith.

Del worked at Big River Game Calls in Dunlap for many years. He loved duck and goose hunting, cooking and, above all else, Del loved his family.



Messersmith

A graveside service will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 27, 2026, at Princeville Township Cemetery. The Rev. David Pyell will officiate. Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Princeville is assisting with arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Akron-Princeville Ambulance Service. Condolences may be left for Del's family on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Melvin B. Slane

PEORIA – Melvin Ben "Mel" Slane, 82, of Peoria, formerly of Princeville, passed away at 11:57 a.m. Monday, March 16, 2026, at his home.

Mel was born on Dec. 8, 1943, in Peoria to Harold O. and Opal Louise (Hartman) Slane. He married M. Colette (Godsil) Slane on July 31, 1965, at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church in Princeville. She survives.

Also surviving are four daughters, Melanie ("Sam") Shamsuddin of Lisle, Michelle ("Bill") Stader of Pewee Valley, Ky., Mary (Paul) Schmidt of Germantown Hills and Marcy (Thomas) McWethy of East Peoria; one son, James Slane of Peoria; 16 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two brothers, Don Slane of Columbus, Ind., and Ken (Helen) Slane of Peoria; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one granddaughter, Abigail McWethy; and one sister-in-law, Alice Slane.

Mel graduated from Princeville High School in 1961. He then went on to receive his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois and continued



Slane

his education at Bradley University for his master's degree in engineering.

He worked as an engineer at Caterpillar Inc. from 1965 until his retirement in 2000. During his career, Mel was an inventor on two patents.

In high school, Mel played football and baseball, as well as the clarinet. He then played in the Caterpillar softball league, bowled on a few leagues, enjoyed 5k runs, gardening, planting flowers and roses, reading and visiting wineries and restaurants with Colette. He especially appreciated Mariachi restaurant in Peoria, where they were treated like family.

Mel also loved genealogy, often utilizing Find a Grave and visiting cemeteries where ancestors were buried – he was the family historian. He loved his cats and dogs. Mel served as a lector at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish in Peoria and at St. Mary of the Woods while living in Princeville. He was also a former member of the Wyoming Knights of Columbus.

His funeral mass will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish in Peoria. A visitation will be one hour prior to the funeral mass at the church. A private burial will be in Princeville Township Cemetery. Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Princeville is assisting with arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Peoria or the Peoria County Genealogical Society.

Condolences may be left for Mel's family on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

The family would like to thank Beacon of Hope Hospice and the Carle Methodist Hospital Seven Crescent Unit for their wonderful care of Mel during his final weeks.

More obituaries on Page 12

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Thank You

The family of Roger "Todd" Morse would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who helped make his Celebration of Life so meaningful and special.

Thank you to those who offered their time, support, and kindness - whether through planning, preparing, sharing memories, or simply being present. Your compassion and generosity brought comfort during a difficult time and reminded us just how deeply he was loved.

We are especially grateful to those who traveled, brought food, sent flowers, made donations, or reached out with messages of support. Every gesture, big or small, meant more to us than words can express.

Thank you for honoring his life and for surrounding our family with such warmth and care. With sincere appreciation, the family of Roger Morse

AREA CHURCHES

BRIMFIELD

Baptist Church of Brimfield
Pastor Doug Seeley
321 S. Jefferson St. Brimfield
(309) 678-2208
Sun. School: 9:30 am
Sun. Worship: 10:40 am
Wed. Bible Study: 7 pm

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Father Corey Krengiel
Father Deogratias Mpewo
314 W. Clay Brimfield
(309) 446-3275
incarnationcatholic.org
Sat. Confession: 4-4:45 pm
Sat. Mass: 5 pm
Daily Mass: Mon. & Thurs. 8 am
Adoration: Thursday 7 am

Saint Paul Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
Rev. Michael Wagnitz, Pastor
204 W. Clay St. Brimfield, IL
(309) 446-3233

The Lord bless your day.

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Divine Service followed by Bible class

Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Soup Supper
7 p.m. Lent Vespers

Brimfield E-Free Church

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

Union Church at Brimfield

United Church of Christ
Pastor Stephen Barch
105 W. Clay Street Brimfield
(309) 446-3811

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Rehoboam (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Genesis 4, what righteous man started the practice of herding sheep? Adam, Cain, Abel, Job
3. How many times is the word "Bible" mentioned in the biblical scripture? Zero, 3, 49, Over 1,000

brimfieldunionchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 am
Tuesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm
• First Sunday is Communion Sunday (gluten-free offered)
• Grief & Loss Group meets Tuesday afternoons 3-4:30 pm until further notice.

DAHINDA

Dahinda United Methodist Church

Pastor Zoila Marty
1739 Victoria St. P.O. Box 14
Dahinda IL 61428
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am 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 (Maquon worship: 11 am)
Facebook Live is 11 am at

4. According to Jesus, what was Satan from the beginning? Deceiver, Evil, Thief, Murderer
5. In biblical times, which was a large unit of money or weight? Levy, Talent, Shekel, Sepulcher
6. Of these, who wasn't a son of Noah? Shem, Ham, Levi, Japheth

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Abel, 3) Zero, 4) Murderer, 5) Talent, 6) Levi
(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

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

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

Salem Township Cemeteries
 Please remove all flowers and decorations from gravesites before April 1st 2026. Any decorations not removed will be disposed of beginning April 2nd.
 You may resume placing flowers on graves on April 6th.
 Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Williamsfield Fire Protection District
Trustee Vacancy
 Interested parties must live in Peoria County within Williamsfield Fire Protection District's boundaries.
 Contact Dustin Courson
 (309)337-2931

CLASSIFIED ADS - (309) 741-9790

FOR SALE

- **ZERO-TURN MOWER:** 2011 Exmark Lazer E, 52-inch deck, 24 hp Kawasaki, only 453.7 hours. \$3,500. (309) 231-6040.
- **RV:** 2023 Forest River Cedar Creek RV, 5 slide outs, 1 1/2 bath, washer & dryer, 2 - TV's, fireplace, full size refrigerator, large basement storage, stored in heated building. \$85,000 OBO, call Gary (309) 360-2455.
- **2017 HONDA CIVIC LX:** 2 door, 6 speed manual. Red exterior with 2 tone black & ivory interior. Excellent condition, both interior and exterior. Only 48,000 miles. 2.0 liter engine, \$14,800. phone 309-550-1120.
- **FORD F-150:** 2011 Lariat package, 4x4, V8, 203,000 miles, \$4,000. (309) 231-6040.

SERVICES

- **GIACOBBAZI'S INCOME TAX**

INC.: Est. 1990. In Person or Remote Services (309) 685-8003 or email office@giacobbazitax.com. Office in Peoria or drop-off location in Farmington.

- **WOOD FURNACE:** Beat rising heating bills with proven technology of a Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today for budget-friendly warmth! (309) 565-4300.
- **SALVAGE:** Buying junk autos farm equipment grain bins and also doing total farm clean up. Call Doug Lofgren at Spoon River Salvage (309) 299-8531.
- **LAND CARETAKER:** Retired Peoria County deputy looking for strip-mine land to caretake. Able to caretake, do maintenance on the property year-round. Please contact me at (309) 657-6142. Please leave a message.

OBITUARIES

Melvin D. Swearingen
 LEWISTOWN – Melvin D. Swearingen, 73, of Lewistown, passed away March 18, 2026, at his residence. He was born on Jan. 25, 1953, in Peoria, a son of Marshall and Mabel Mae (Trau) Swearingen. He married Kenna Howerter on Sept. 25, 1976, in Lewistown. She survives.

Also surviving are his sons Chris (Heather) Swearingen of Lewistown and Chad (Stephanie) Swearingen of Lewistown; five grandchildren; a brother Merle (Edie) Swearingen of Lewistown; and sisters Marcy Goldring (Glenn) Edenburn of Farmington and Marsha (Mark) Giacobazzi of Peoria Heights.

Preceding Melvin in death were his parents; mother and father-in-law,

Kenneth Howerter and Doris Case; and sister Mavis Swearingen.

Per Melvin's wishes, there will be no services, and cremation rites will be accorded through Sedgwick Funeral Homes & Crematory. A celebration-of-life gathering will be held at a later date.

Condolences can be left online at www.sedgwickfuneralhomes.com.

Gary W. Williams
 MAPLETON – Gary W. Williams, 73, of Mapleton, passed away on March 23, 2026, at his residence. He was born on Sept. 24, 1952, in West Frankfort to Vernon and Ruth (Turner) Williams Jr. They preceded him in death.

He married Sandra "Sandy" Bleichner on May 20, 1972, in Elmwood. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Sheila (Chris) Peckham of Farmington and Jodie Othon of St. Petersburg, Fla.; grandchildren, Payton (Caleb) Miller, Jordan (Reed) Wilson, McKenzie (Aden Emery) Peckham, Addison (Blake) Springer, Kyle (Sada Eveland) Peckham, Abigail Othon, Xavier Othon and Izabel Othon; brother Robert (Carmen) Williams; and sisters Sandra (Steve) Sumner and Debra (Ivan) Price.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Steve Williams.

Cremation rites will be accorded and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Condolences can be left online at oakshinesfuneralhome.com.

Farmers feeling fertilizer, fuel pinch

By **TAMMIE SLOUP**
 FarmWeek

As the war in Iran intensifies, farmers across the U.S. face increased fertilizer costs and shortages, as the Middle East is an important hub for nitrogen-fertilizer production and exports.

John Newton, American Farm Bureau Federation vice president of public policy and economic analysis, stressed the urgency of the situation during a recent media call, he noted a North Dakota member told him they already booked 60% of their fertilizer, but when they recently tried to book the remainder, it was about \$200 a ton higher, which increased their fertilizer bill by nearly \$20,000.

"This is real money. These are real price increases that have real effects on farmers and our food security," Newton said.

Fuel prices also influence farm operations. Diesel fuel powers many aspects of agricultural production, so rising energy prices affect both fertilizer production costs and on-farm operating expenses.

Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition, released a snapshot of what the consequences of the increase in diesel fuel can be on a farmer and grain elevator.

His calculation notes a single farmer could pay almost \$2,000 more in diesel fuel because of cost escalation over the past month, and a grain elevator would pay almost \$100,000 more.

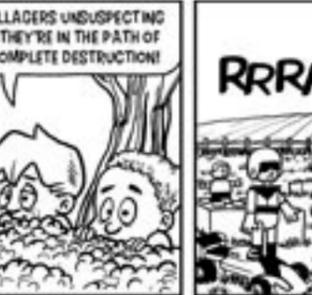
U.S. farmers are bracing for a "system shock" resulting from the disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, according to AFBF President Zippy Duvall, who penned a re-

cent letter to President Donald Trump about the impact on the agriculture sector.

"Like oil, global fertilizer markets are highly vulnerable to disruptions in maritime transit routes, especially through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping corridor for key fertilizer materials and finished fertilizer. Further, the recent energy production halts in the Middle East will affect the price and availability of many downstream products farmers depend upon. These supply chain shocks are expected to drive already record-high input prices even higher at a time when farm margins are already extremely tight and many farmers are underwater," Duvall wrote.

Duvall urged Trump to take proactive steps to safeguard fertilizer supply chains and reduce the risk of market disruptions.

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Just Like Cats & Dogs



GRIN THE BEAR IT



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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1. GEOGRAPHY: Which Canadian province lies to the north of Washington state?
2. MOVIES: In the "Star Wars" movies, which character wields a purple lightsaber?
3. GAMES: In Monopoly, how much money do players get when they pass "Go"?
4. FOOD & DRINK: Which fast-food chain's 1970s jingle began, "Hold the pickles, hold the lettuce, special orders don't upset us"?
5. TELEVISION: What holiday did George's dad invent in the sitcom "Seinfeld"?
6. ANATOMY: How many skin cells does the average human being shed in a minute?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many presidents have won the Nobel Peace Prize?
8. ASTRONOMY: How many moons does Mars have?
9. LITERATURE: What is the name of Harry Potter's pet owl in the novel series?
10. SCIENCE: What is the boiling point of water in Celsius?

Answers

1. British Columbia.
2. Mace Windu.
3. \$200.
4. Burger King.
5. Festivus.
6. 30,000 to 40,000.
7. Four: Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama.
8. Two: Phobos and Deimos.
9. Hedwig.
10. 100 degrees C.

TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Hoppers (PG)
 2. Reminders of Him (PG-13)
 3. Undertone (R)
 4. Scream 7 (R)
 5. GOAT (PG)
 6. The Bride! (R)
 7. Kiki's Delivery Service (G)
 8. Wuthering Heights (R)
 9. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze (PG)
 10. Crime 101 (R)
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FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 10

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.

KY WGOK OC CY VFLQGOK
 GC QTGO ATQVT ZLYVFFXC
 NLYH QTF FVYKYHOVGP RCF
 YN ATGO JYR GPLFGXJ TGIF.
 — PGQOK ZLYIFLD

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Kurtz made a difference in her hometown

By **ANDY LATORA**

For The Weekly Post

BRIMFIELD – The Brimfield Board of Education had a light agenda at its March 18 meeting.

Among the few items of business were approving the resignations of Angie McGrath, a counselor at Brimfield Grade School, and Julie Kurtz, the principal at Brimfield Grade School. McGrath's is effective at the end of the school year and Kurtz's is effective on June 30. Both were unanimously approved.

Kurtz spent her first 19 years in education in the Dunlap school district teaching at the grade-school level – kindergarten, 2nd and 5th grades and as a reading specialist – before returning home.

“Leaving Dunlap was a very difficult decision, but as a Brimfield native and with my son still in school here at the time, returning home was the right choice for my family and my career,” she said.

Kurtz called her time at Brimfield an incredible journey.

“Walking the halls as a student years ago and then returning as the principal has been a surreal and deeply meaningful experience,” she said. “I’ve learned so much, and it has been an honor to make a differ-

ence in my hometown.”

Kurtz is in her 26th year in education, with the last seven years as Brimfield Grade School principal. Board President Steve Updyke acknowledged her efforts.

“Thank you for everything you did for Brimfield Grade School,” Updyke said. “I’m not trying to make you cry, but your positivity has made a difference here, so thank you. I wish you all the best.”

“I just want to thank the children of this district, which I call my home community,” Kurtz said during her remarks in the grade-school principal’s report. “To the students and families and staff of Brimfield Grade School it has been an honor the last seven years. It has been one of the highlights of my professional career.

“This was not an easy decision to make and I have no doubt that this building will be successful and continue to thrive. I am a member of this community and I’m excited to be a part of it and I want to thank you all for trusting in me these last seven years.”

One item she discussed during her report was a curriculum map that Brimfield staff was tasked with developing as a first step in the district’s strategic plan. She said the

committee was expecting to complete its work by 2029, but it’s done now and can be seen on the district’s website.

That’s the commitment Kurtz appreciates about her community.

“I truly love this community – the families, friends and staff here are amazing,” Kurtz said. “Even when we don’t always agree, we respect one another’s opinions and work through challenges together. There is no better feeling than being part of a community that comes together for the betterment of all.”

Kurtz is not sure what’s in store in her future. She may explore opportunities outside of education or she may miss it and want to return in some capacity. Either way, the prospects are exciting.

“I am excited for the journey ahead, and I’m also excited to see what’s in store for Brimfield,” she said. “There is incredible vision happening here, and the community is so fortunate to have such a strong educational system. I’m grateful to be able to observe the district’s growth from the outside.”

The only other actions were approval for annual membership fees for Brimfield to participate in IHSA and IESA sports and activities.

Elmwood HS simulating prom crash

ELMWOOD – Elmwood High School is working in conjunction with OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, the Elmwood Fire Department, the Elmwood Police Department, the Peoria County Coroner and other local agencies to facilitate Operation Prom Night as a preventive measure to remind high school students not to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Operation Prom Night will be held April 8 at 1 p.m. on Ash Street by the football field. All high school students will be escorted to the area to observe the event. April 9 is a weather day, if needed.

Elmwood High School student actors will simulate an accident caused by driving while intoxicated after prom. State and local law-enforcement officers, EMS crews and firefighters will respond to the mock scene, just as they would to a real accident. If weather permits, a Life Flight helicopter will land as part of the reenactment. Peoria County Coroner Jamie Harwood will also participate and speak.

Brimfield High School will also bring students to participate in this event.

Additionally, OSF’s Lisa Maynard will introduce a guest speaker to discuss the circumstances in which she tragically lost her own child due to a drinking and driving accident.

LEGAL ADS - Call (309) 741-9790

FARMINGTON ZONING BOARD OFFICIAL HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of Farmington, Illinois will hold a public hearing on **April 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** The hearing will take place in the **Farmington Council Chambers, located at 322 E Fort St., Farmington, Illinois.**

The purpose of this hearing is to consider a request for a zoning variance submitted for the property identified as:

- **Property Index Number (PIN): 05-04-01-406-004**
- **Common Address: 92 N Brebner St., Farmington, IL 61531**

The petitioner is requesting a **variance for a cornerlot setback to allow a reduced setback of 7 feet, 1 inch (7' 1")**.

All interested parties are invited to attend and will be given an opportunity to be heard.

Published 3/19, 3/26, 4/2/26

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY – IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of **ROBERT T. ORGANISCAK, Deceased** 2026-PR-32

CLAIM DAY NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of **ROBERT T. ORGANISCAK**. Letters of office were issued on February 20, 2026, to **KELLY BREWER**, 1952 Knox Rd 700 N, Maquon, Illinois 61458, Administrator, whose attorney of record is Froehling, Weber & Schell, LLP (NANCY A. SCHELL), 150 North Elmwood Road, Farmington, Illinois 61531, Phone #309/245-2474, Fax #309/245-2475.

Administration of this estate will be without court supervision, unless an interested party requests supervised administration pursuant to a petition filed under 755 ILCS 5/28-4.

Claims must be filed on or before a date not less than six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of this notice to creditors, whichever is later, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Claims must be filed in the Office of the Office of the Peoria County Circuit Clerk, 324 Main Street, G22, Peoria, Illinois 61602. The claimant within ten (10) days after filing his or her claim with the court: (1) shall cause a copy of the claim to be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney of record, unless the representative or the attorney has in writing either consented to the allowance of the claim or waived mailing or delivery of the copies, and (2) shall file with the court proof of any required mailing or delivery of copies.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2026.

KELLY BREWER, as Administrator of the Estate of **ROBERT T. ORGANISCAK, deceased**
By: **Nancy A. Schell**, their attorney

FROEHLING, WEBER & SCHELL, LLP
150 North Elmwood Road, Farmington, Illinois 61531
(309) 245-2474; nschell@fwslawyers.com
Published 3/26, 4/2, 4/9/26

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FARMINGTON

NOTICE to the legal voters, residents of the Town of Farmington, in the County of Fulton and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said town will take place on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 6 o'clock p.m. at 141 E. Vernon Street, Farmington, Illinois for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting, and especially to consider and decide the following: Set time, date, place, and salary for 2027 Annual Meeting and review Supervisor's annual reports.

DATED March 18, 2026
/s/ **Sandra K. Horn**
Farmington Township Clerk.

Published 3/26/26

ACCEPTING BIDS FOR WILLIAMSFIELD CEMETERY MAUSOLEUM REPAIRS

Truro Township will be accepting sealed bids for Williamsfield Cemetery's Mausoleum Repairs. Bids will be accepted until 5 p.m. on April 14, 2026, at which time they will be opened and publicly read at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of township trustees. Bids must be returned to the Township Supervisor, Sande Wilkie at 1741 Knox Road 1950 E., Victoria, IL 61485. Bids must be returned within a sealed envelope.

Marble and stone sections within the building need to be cleaned, repaired and re-secured by a qualified stonemason or marbleworker. Complete bid specifications and scope of work may be obtained by contacting Andrew Fritz, Township Sexton at (309) 639-2122.

Truro Township reserves the right to accept or reject all bids and to accept the bid of the most qualified contractor.

/s/ **Andrew Fritz**,
Truro Township Sexton
Published 3/26/26

Answers on Page 10 — Super Crossword — MEAGER MEAL

ACROSS

1 Colon's meaning in analogies	5 Casino IOU	9 Honcho	13 Fruits to bob for	19 Flow slowly	20 Jay of jest	21 Sinful	22 Artist Monet	23 Free	25 — avis (unusual thing)	26 Ottawa's land	27 Start of a riddle	30 By means of	31 Response to a punch	32 Clunker	33 State whose cap. is Boise	35 Riddle, part 2	46 Touch-me — (explosive plants)	48 Cellphone game, often	49 — Trapp family	50 Stable animal	51 Riddle, part 3	58 Locality	59 Squirms as in pain																																																									
60 Film critic Roger	61 Propelled a bicycle	63 Acting prize	64 Made a run for it	65 — extra cost	66 The, in Paris	67 Riddle, part 4	73 Pool length	76 "Jeepers!"	77 Margarine, quantity	78 — salts	82 Vocalist with the 2018 hits "Boo'd Up" and "Trip"	84 Lyric poets	86 Sweet wine of Portugal	88 Map out	89 Riddle, part 5	92 Gobble down	94 Big Brit. lexicon	95 Tooth doctor's org.	96 Auth. unknown	97 End of the riddle	104 British verb suffix	105 Toward a boat's back	106 Wiggly fish																																																									
107 Klutzy type	109 Riddle's answer	120 Regain a conscious state	121 Challenge	122 Fitness club machine	123 Consolidator	124 Iran's home	125 "Jeepers!"	126 Around H'wood, e.g.	127 Go to bed	128 Comply with	129 Lone	130 Novelist Jennifer	DOWN																																																																			
1 Caesar's "vid."	2 "Late Night" host Meyers	3 Able to read minds	4 Express a view	5 Musical staff symbol	6 One who saves the day	7 Wild about	8 Pomeranian, e.g.	9 Deprived (of)	10 Egg-shaped	11 Assistant on iPhones	12 Pomeranian, e.g.	13 Accumulate, as interest	14 Modeling compound for kids	15 Twinge of guilt, e.g.	16 Oahu feast	17 Water shirt	18 Briny body	24 Sharp remark	28 Cry of Homer Simpson	29 Actor Byrnes or felder	33 Halved	34 Entryways	36 Go very fast	37 Numbered musical work	38 FedEx rival	39 State firmly	40 Variety	41 Like most musical works with live sharps	42 Civil rights figure Parks	43 Dentist's tool	44 Lauder of cosmetics	45 Oboe inserts	47 Occupy, as a table	52 Morel or enoki, informally	53 Narrate	54 Comply with	55 City that's home to Tufts University	56 As far as	57 Carnival shelter	62 End of a college's URL	64 Go very fast	65 Earlier	68 Language of Bangkok	69 Infamous id	70 Ye — Shoppe	71 Relaxation	72 Met offering	73 Cartoon skunk Pepe	74 Islamic God	75 "Oro y —" (Montana's motto)	79 Representing	80 Otter-twisted cookies	81 French river or department	83 "... some kind of —?"	84 Ran in the wash	85 Q7 or A8 carmaker	86 Lead-in to care or gap. in health care	87 Impose — on (illegalize)	90 Gear tooth	91 Owns	93 Book of hymns	98 From the distant past	99 High degree	100 Conquer	101 That gal	102 A-list groups	103 Yummy	108 Apt first name for a general?	109 Actress Skye	110 Leave off	111 — pot (congestion cleaner)	112 Cain's father	113 Flower jar	114 Lake abutting Ohio	115 Thus	116 Close tightly	117 Lose vibrancy	118 Spanish pot	119 — Bator, Mongolia	120 Mean mull

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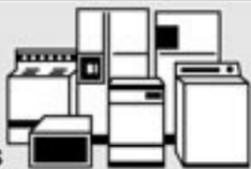
Say this prayer nine times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. This has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you, St. Jude. X.X.

GOT TERMITES?

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Glenn scores 10, North sweeps at Canton

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

CANTON – Andrea Glenn of Elmwood had 10 points and JP Sloan of Galva scored 23 as the North teams swept the Kiwanis Club of Canton senior all-star basketball games.

Glenn was one of four from the area who played in the girls game, in which the North beat the South 61-60 on March 21 at Spoon River College. Natalie Babcock of Elmwood had five points, Reagan Calder of Princeville had one and Laney Pollitt of Farmington had none.

Chloe Eeten of Illini Bluffs had a team-high 18 points and was game MVP. Kevin Faulkner of Elmwood was the North coach. Kaydi Miller of Havana had 17 points to lead the South.

In the boys game, MVP Brady Ward of Chillicothe IVC matched Sloan's point total to lead the North to a 103-97 victory.

Connor Doe of Brimfield had 14 points for the North, Blake Stahl of Galva had 12 points, Brady Day of Princeville scored eight, Garrett Webster of Elmwood scored three and Dawson Traphagan of Brimfield

was scoreless.

Landon Crawford of Farmington had a team-high 18 points for the South, and fellow former Farmer Boston Smith scored 11. Their coach at Farmington, Marty Lozier, also coached the South.

The 2-ball Hot Shot winners were Camryn Anderson of Kewanee Weathersfield and De'Arion Ruffin of Bushnell-Prairie City, who combined for 54 points. That competition pairs one boy and one girl who shoot from various spots on the gym floor and are awarded point values based on distance.

BASEBALL: Brimfield-Elmwood opens 3-0

Continued from Page 16

RBI and scored twice. Crawford had a pair of hits, including a double, Trevor Frye had a double among his two hits and Jonah Welker also had two hits.

"We're ahead of where I expected us to be at this point," Farmington Coach Justin Begner said. "While our record is 1-3, the results don't fully reflect how we've played.

"IVC only scored in one inning, we lost a close one in extras against Limestone and we left too many runners on base in each game. A few timely hits here and there could have changed those outcomes.

"That said, there are still areas we need to clean up, and those improvements will come as the season progresses."

Farmington was scheduled to play Stark County on Tuesday before games on Wednesday (Deer Creek-Mackinaw), Thursday (United) and Saturday (Peoria Christian).

• **Brimfield-Elmwood** – Sean Crowe was instrumental in B-E getting off to a 3-0 start.

In last Thursday's opener against Kewanee, Crowe recorded 12 strikeouts and allowed just one hit in six innings pitched in a 4-0 win over Kewanee. He also was 3-for-3 with a double and two RBI.

Dane Fagerburg homered and Kaeden Schatsiek went 2-for-3 with

a double, an RBI and two runs scored.

On Saturday, Evan Patterson gave up three runs and three hits in 4 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings in a 4-3 win over Rock Island Alleman. He also doubled and scored. Catcher Layne Johnson had two of B-E's eight hits.

Crowe got back to work on Monday with four RBI in B-E's 8-3 win over Henry-Senachwine. Griffin Hougham earned the pitching win with five strikeouts in 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, allowing one hit. Hougham tripled on a 2-for-3 day.

B-E was scheduled to play Tremont on Tuesday before a clash against Peoria Notre Dame on Wednesday.

• **ROWVA-Williamsfield** – Zander Vest went 2-for-4 with a pair of doubles and an RBI in R-W's season-opening 7-2 win over Stark County on March 20. Nick Little doubled and homered and had two RBI as R-W scored two in the third and added four runs in the fourth.

Connor Buck got the pitching win with four strikeouts in three innings of work. He allowed one hit and one run with one walk.

The next day, R-W trailed 9-4 after the first inning against host Canton but scored in every inning, including 13 times in its final two at-bats in a 21-11 six-inning victory.

R-W pounded out 19 hits, Little had three doubles among his six

hits and Drake DeJaynes had a two-run triple and scored four times.

Cooper Smith's two-run single in the fifth gave R-W a 13-11 lead in the comeback win.

DeJaynes was credited with the pitching win after tossing 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ hitless innings with four strikeouts.

R-W (2-0) was scheduled to play West Central at Biggsville on Tuesday.

• **Princeville** – The Princes dropped their season opener 5-3 against Mendon Unity last Friday before posting an 8-3 victory over Galena the next day.

Princeville trailed 2-0 before rallying for five runs in the bottom of the fourth. Coley Palmer delivered a two-run single in that frame.

Carter Peterson launched a solo home run as part of a three-run fifth and pitched the final four innings to earn the mound decision. He allowed five hits, one earned run with five strikeouts.

Later on Saturday, Princeville dropped an 11-1 decision against the Valmeyer Pirates. Cooper Cox, Jett Benningfield and Peterson had two hits each for the Princes.

Benningfield knocked in Princeville's run in the bottom of the fourth. Valmeyer scored four runs in the top of the fifth to close out the five-inning contest.

Princeville was scheduled to play Kewanee on Tuesday.

SOFTBALL: R-W scores 35 runs combined

Continued from Page 16

pitched a no-hitter. Ella Buckley had a three-run inside-the-park homer in the third.

Princeville came back in the seventh inning March 20 to tie Eureka, which scored twice in the eighth to win 9-7. Kamryn Smith

doubled home Makenzie Zielkie, then scored on a Claire Sutherland fielder's choice to tie the game. Ali Ehnle and Laurynn Bowers each had two RBI, and Zielkie scored three times.

The previous day, Olivia Stone's two-run tiebreaking single in the sixth gave

Princeville its first victory of the season, 5-3 over Tremont. Sutherland had two RBI and struck out eight. Smith was 2-for-3.

Princeville (2-3) is to play a doubleheader Saturday at Ottawa Marquette.

• **ROWVA-Williamsfield** – An eight-run second inning Monday propelled R-W (2-1) to a 12-1 victory over Sciota West Prairie. Lillian Huls' two-run double was the big blow, and three runs scored on two errors. Llylah Shaffer had three RBI.

R-W came back from a five-run, first-inning deficit to lead March 21 against Canton, which scored three runs each in the sixth and seventh to win 12-9.

Emerson Hannam's two-run single was the big blow in the Cougars' big inning. Huls, Mia Ratajczak and Riley Smith also had two

RBI each. Sophie Pohlman and Ella Rigg both were 3-for-5.

The previous day, Hannam and Smith also had two RBI each in a 14-2 five-inning victory over Lowpoint-Washburn. So did Shaffer and Hazel Walters. Hannam, Shaffer and Smith each had two hits. Smith had a double and a triple. R-W trailed 1-0 in the first but led 9-1 after two.

R-W is to play Thursday at Kewanee.

• **Farmington** – Kewanee scored twice in the fifth to take a two-run lead Monday over Farmington, which lost 4-3. Sophia Anderson was 2-for-3 with two RBI for the Farmers (0-2), who are to play today at home against Monmouth United.

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Local track athletes have solid indoor season

By **JEFF LAMPE**

For The Weekly Post

If results inside are any indication, the outdoor track season should be a good one for local teams.

Here's a rundown on local teams heading into the final indoor competition – the Illinois Top Times meet at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. Class A athletes compete Friday.

• **Elmwood-Brimfield** – In last Saturday's 18th annual Silver Streaks Last Chance meet at Monmouth College, Aiden Faulkner placed first for the Trojans in the 1,600 meters in a personal-best time of 4:36.32. Teammate Cole Cahill was fourth in the same race (4:43.99).

Faulkner's time qualifies him for the Illinois Top Times meet, though final entries will not be set until Wednesday, after press time. Faulkner was seeded 11th on Tuesdxay.

In other events, Danny Sharp was second in the 3,200 (10:25.59) and was close to making the Top Times cut.

Top finish for the Elmwood girls was the 4x800 relay of Bristol Schmidgall, Charlotte Walker, Taylor Forney and Mya Hill, which won in 10:15.65 and heads to Top Times seeded third.

Lexi Begner placed third in long jump by clearing 15 feet, 11.75 inches.

On March 14, Ella Helms won the 400 in 1:03.85 at the Central Illinois High Performance Classic at Illinois College. The 4x800 relay of Forney, Hill, Schmidgall and Walker placed third in 10:40.28. Also third was Ashlyn Bertsch in the pole vault after clearing 8-10.25. She is a likely Top Times qualifier.

Faulkner placed third in the 3,200 in 9:48.68 behind winner Chaz Oberkfell of Gillespie (9:19.09) and Trevor Crutcher of Dieterich (9:45.9).

On March 9 at Monmouth College for the RW Invite, Cahill won the 1,600 (4:48.24) ahead of teammate Sharp (4:57.67) and Kam Stevenson was

Top Times Qualifiers

Here are area athletes seeded in the top 15 for Friday's Class 1A Illinois Top Times meet.

- Taylor Forney, Mya Hill, Bristol Schmidgall, Charlotte Walker – E-B, 4x800 relay (3rd)
- Taven Ostrander – R-W, 200 (2nd) and 60 (6th)
- Jacob Bosch – Princeville, 800 (4th)
- Brock Butler, James Hunt, Oliver Melick and Bosch – Princeville 4x400 relay (5th)
- Aiden Faulkner – Elmwood-Brimfield, 1,600 (11th)
- Collin Lowery – Princeville, shot put (11th)
- Kyle Miller, Ethan Martin, Treyven Haroldson and Gage Galyean – Farmington, 4x200 relay (12th)
- Ashlyn Bertsch – E-B, pole vault (14th)
- Danny Sharp – E-B, 3,200 (15th)

third in the 800 (2:09.2).

For the girls, Bertsch won pole vault (8-6.25), Helms was second in the 400 (1:03.61), Ava Forney was third in the 60 (8.46) and Begner was fourth in long jump (15-10.5). The Lady Trojans also posted the top two 4x800 relay times, the best a 10:52.74 by Schmidgall, Addy Turner, Madalyn Ori and Hill.

• **Princeville** – The Princes competed last Friday at the HOI Indoor meet at Illinois Wesleyan and got wins from Jacob Bosch in the 800 (2:01.04) and from the 4x400 relay of Brock Butler, James Hunt, Oliver Melick and Bosch (3:34.9). Both winners are headed to the Top Times meet.

The 4x200 relay of Butler, Hunt, Melick and Dawson Freres was third in 1:36.89 and may also make Top Times.

At the Lincoln Trail Conference indoor meet on March 13 at Monmouth College, Collin Lowery won in shot put with a throw of 49-5 and Bosch won the 800 in 2:06.37, two spots ahead of teammate Collin Bowers (2:13.05).

In other results, Hunter Keyster was third in the 1,600 (4:55.22) and Taylor Hess was third in the 3,200 (10:32.03). The Princes also won the 4x200 relay behind Butler, Hunt, Melick and Freres in 1:37.87 and the 4x400 relay was first behind Butler, Hunt, Melick and Bosch (3:37.46).

For the girls, Bethany Sennett was fourth in the 800 (2:34.8)

• **Farmington** – Kyle Miller led the Farmers at Monmouth College on March 21, placing third in the 200-meter dash in 23.74. The Farmers also placed fourth in the 4x200 (1:36.3) behind the quartet of Miller, Ethan Martin, Treyven Haroldson and Gage Galyean, another local Top Times entrant.

Top finisher for the Farmington girls was Emma Pampaloni, fifth in the 3,200 (13:17.96).

The March 9 meet at Monmouth College produced more top-three finishes for the Farmers. That included the top 4x800 of Noah Shelby, Kevin Sampier, Caden Hartstim and Dax Ulm (9:19.56) and a win in pole vault after Ryan Helle cleared 11-5.75. Farmington's 4x200 ran 1:38.89 to place second, Galyean was second in triple jump (38-1.25), Mason Shelby was third in shot put (39-5.25) and Ulm was third in the 1,600 (5:03.75).

For the girls, Claire Price was second in pole vault (7-6.5) and Brielle Herron was third in the 60 hurdles (10.69) and high jump (4-11.75).

• **ROWVA-Williamfield** – At the LTC meet, Taven Ostrander won the 60 (7.05 seconds) and was second in the 200 (22.4), ahead of fourth-place teammate Daniel Skala (24.89). Ostrander is seeded second in the 200 at Top Times.

Parker Tamburro was the other boys winner, soaring 38-0.25 to take the long jump. Other results show Emerson Ponce second in 60 hurdles (10.02) and long jump (19-6.75);

the 4x200 relay of Skala, Ponce, Eagan Ostrander and Taven Ostrander second in 1:39.09; Logan Washburn third in the 400 (58.96); the 4x400 relay third in 3:54.7; and the 4x800 second in 9:33.16.

Leading the girls at the LTC meet was Megyn Erlacher with a win in shot put (34-4.75) ahead of Ella Erlacher (31-3.25). Lauren Johnson was third in the 60 (8.33) and Emily Hilman was third in the 3,200 (15:04.29).

On March 9 at Monmouth College, Taven Ostrander won the 60 (7.05) and the 200 (22.7). He was also anchor for the winning 4x200 relay (1:38.03) that included Skala, Ponce and Eagan Ostrander.

Ponce was third in the long jump, clearing 19-8, and placed fourth in the 60 hurdles (10.2). Tamburro was third in triple jump (37-8.5).

For the girls team, Harper Campbell was second in the 1,600 (6:44.05) and teammate Jayden Gerard was third (6:49.89). In other individual events, Megyn Erlacher placed second in shot put (34-10.5) ahead of third-place teammate Ella Erlacher (30-10.5).

The R-W 4x400 relay of Isabella Dennis, Avery Manning, Brooke Stickle and Marissa Brown was fourth in 4:33.55.

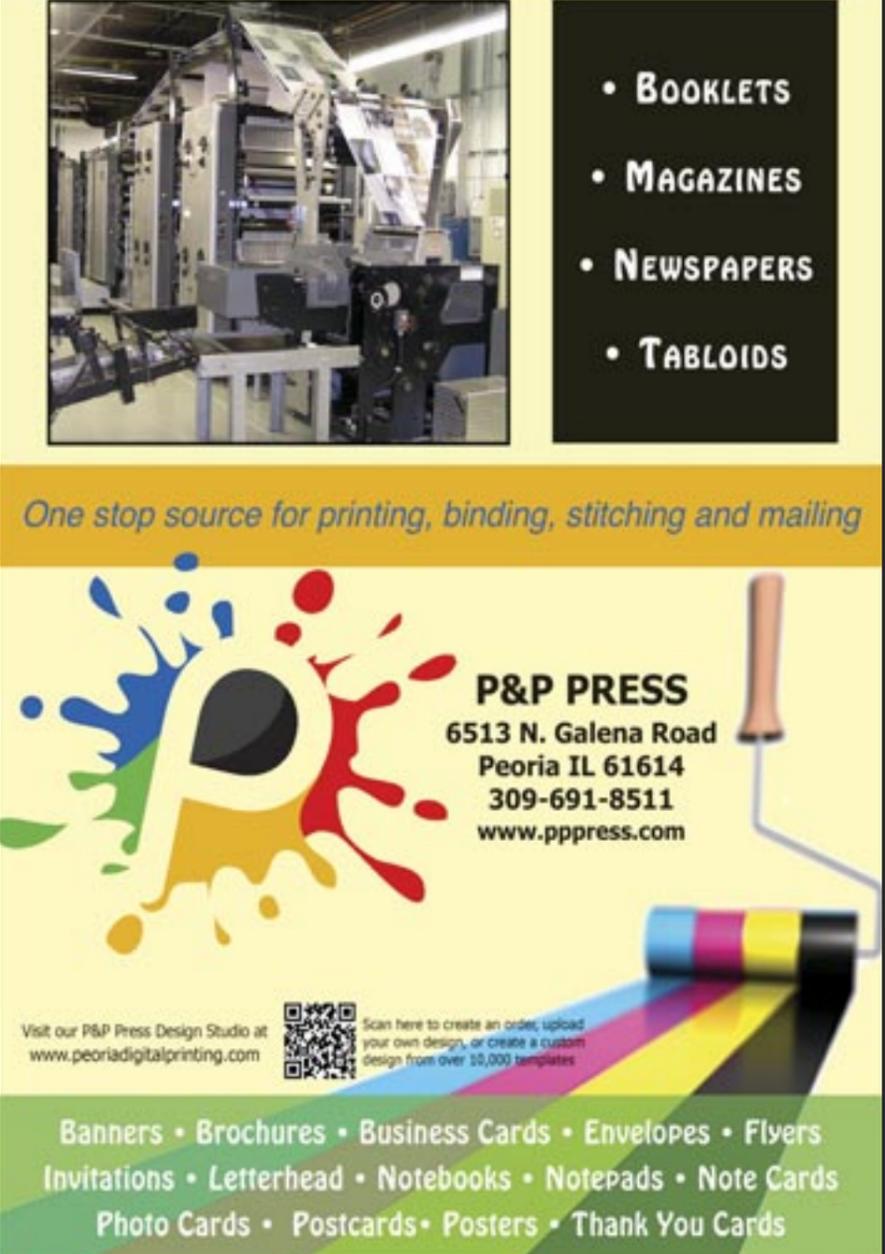


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Brimfield rallies

Softball team drops first but rebounds with win over PND

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Weekly Post

A pair of ninth-inning errors led to the first loss of the softball season for Brimfield-Elmwood, 1-0 March 20 to East Peoria.

Ashlyn Sweatt led off the inning with a single for visiting East Peoria. Following a pop out, Sweatt

advanced to second base on one error, then to third base and home on another. B-E (2-1) was retired in order in the bottom of the inning.

Sawyer Drury allowed four hits and struck out eight East Peoria batters. She also was 2-for-4 from the plate as B-E had only four hits against East Peoria pitcher Addison Duncheon, who struck out 12.

The Indians rebounded

for an 8-2 home victory Monday over Peoria Notre Dame. Teagan Drury, Josie Wiewel and Anja Nelson – the 7-8-9 batters in the B-E order – combined for five of the team’s 10 hits, four runs scored and three RBI.

Each of the three girls had an RBI in a five-run third, and leadoff batter

Sawyer Drury had a two-run triple. She had three RBI overall. Kendyl Binder had a two-run home run in the first.

Sawyer Drury got the complete-game win on the mound, allowing seven hits and fanning four.

B-E began its season with a 7-3 victory March 19 over Stanford Olympia, highlighted by a four-run fourth. Brooke Allen and Schyer Meinders each went



Sawyer Drury (above) had a strong start pitching and hitting for the Brimfield -Elmwood softball team, which opened with a 2-1 record. At left, Kendyl Binder had a two-run home run in a win on Monday. Photos by Brimfield/Elmwood Sports Shots.

3-for-4, and Nelson was 3-for-3. B-E had seven players who drove in one run each. Meinders struck out five in six innings for the victory.

The Indians have two more home games scheduled this week – today (March 26) against Sciota

West Prairie and Friday against Bushnell-Prairie City.

• **Princeville** – Tori Catton had four RBI for Princeville in an 18-0, four-inning victory Monday over Bushnell-Prairie City. Claire Sutherland was 3-for-4 and

Continued on Page 14

Chilly start for Farmers baseball

Farmington rallies for win after facing IVC, Limestone, EP

By ANDY LATORA
For The Weekly Post

Single-digit temperatures early last week made for a rough start to the prep baseball season.

As uncomfortable as that weather was, Farmington baseball opened its season with games against Chillicothe IVC on March 18, Limestone on March 20 and East Peoria on March 21.

Bronson Atchley struck out 10 batters, allowed five hits and three runs with five walks in a 3-0 loss to IVC in the Farmers’ opener.

Two days later in Bartonville, Limestone’s Cooper Clark delivered a walk-off RBI single in the bottom the eighth inning to give the Rockets a 7-6 victory over the Farmers. Farmington lefty Landon Crawford struck out 10 in

four innings, allowing three hits and one run with five walks.

Crawford, Farmington’s leadoff hitter, also went 2-for-4 and Tristan Hendy had two RBI.

On Saturday, East Peoria took a one-run lead in the bottom of the first then scored two times in the third, fourth and fifth innings in a 7-1 victory. Hendy went 2-for-2 with a triple and scored Farmington’s run in the sixth.

Farmington (1-3) had a chance to flex its muscle on Monday in a 17-4 victory over Delavan. Hendy fanned 12 in five innings, allowing four runs and two hits with two walks. Atchley went 4-for-5 with two RBI and three runs scored.

Brady Brewer was 3-for-4 with a double, two
Continued on Page 14

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