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Thursday
July 16, 2026
Vol. 14 No. 24

The Weekly Post

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Generous donation makes a splash in Princeville

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Weekly Post

PRINCEVILLE – A group dedicated to reopening the Princeville Aquatic Center has received a significant financial boost.

A recent donation of \$200,000 almost doubled what the Princeville Aquatic Center Board had raised over the past two years. As of last week, the overall total from about 100 donors was just less than \$315,000, about \$110,000 shy of the fundraising goal, according to Jake Wilson, the board treasurer.

“I would say fundraising efforts had definitely been kind of slower than we initially hoped, but they’re not bad by any means,” Wilson said. “We appreciate every single person or business who have donated. This (donation) launched us forward a lot faster than we probably were anticipating.”

The donor wants to remain anonymous. Wilson said the donor is from the Princeville community. The board found out in April that the donation was possible, but legalities prevented public revelation until last week.

“Shocked, to say the least,” Wilson said about the reaction. “I had goosebumps. We were so thrilled about the donor’s generosity.”

The village operated the three-pool complex but closed it after the 2022 season because of escalating expenses. According to the village, the complex was projected to be more than \$100,000 in the red to enter the 2023 summer season.

Later that year, local residents formed a not-for-profit organization.

Continued on Page 5



The Princeville Aquatics Center closed after the 2022 season because of escalating expenses. A group dedicated to reopening the complex recently received a \$200,000 donation to boost its fundraising efforts..

Elmwood approves pay raises

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Weekly Post

ELMWOOD – After much deliberation, the Elmwood City Council has approved municipal-employee pay raises of various amounts and percentages.

Some employees went from hourly pay to salaried pay. Some received a merit raise in addition to a cost-of-living raise. Others received no merit raise, just a cost-of-living one. Job duties and responsibilities account for most of the variations, according to Mayor Andrew Almasi.

The council debated pay raises extensively when it met in open

Continued on Page 5

WIND RACKS KICKAPOO



Though the funnel cloud pictured above near Kickapoo never touched down as an official tornado on July 10, high winds did damage to trees, fences and other structures. One aluminum shed (above left) wound up in the parking lot at the Fast Stop gas station in Edwards and a fence in Kickapoo was damaged. Photos by Zach Henry, Victoria Schick and Katie Zinser Barnewolt.

New owners buy Elmwood movie theater

The business landscape is evolving quickly on the south two blocks of Elmwood’s West Main Street.

The latest change is at The Palace Theatre. **Jeremy and Katherine Landes** of Battle Ground, Wash., last Friday purchased the venerable business from a group of local investors who had run The Palace for the past decade.

What brings someone from the state of Washington to central Illinois?

Well, Jeremy Landes is a videographer and has been volunteering this summer as a ticket-taker at an independent theater in his home state. Landes said he and his family, which in-

Continued on Page 4



Jeff LAMPE

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Grading scale remains for Billtown schools

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Weekly Post
WILLIAMSFIELD — The Wililamsfield School District grading scale will remain unchanged for now.

School Board members took no action Monday night regarding a proposal to change the accelerated scale the district now uses. Advocates noted the district that joins forces with Billtown to field sports teams, Oneida-based ROWVA, has a more lenient scale.

It can be easier for students to become ineligible academically for athletics at Williamsfield than at ROWVA, based on their respective grading scales. That argument wasn't compelling enough for Williamsfield board members to authorize a change.

"Why should we lower the standard?" Board Pres-

ident Chad Goff said. "I think that us lowering the standard just so a kid can get a qualifying grade to play sports is not how we should look at it."

According to the Williamsfield scale, scores between 92% and 100% warrant an A, 83-91% a B, 74-82% a C and 65-73% a D. Scores of 64% or lower are given an F. The ROWVA scale works on 10% cutoffs: 90-100% is an A, 80-89% is a B, etc.

Williamsfield Superintendent David Mills said there probably wouldn't be much of a letter-grade difference for most students regardless of which scale is used, based on academic research.

"There are no inherent benefits to doing it," Mills said. "Grades are generally spread among percentages equally. It's a non-difference and it's simply chang-

ing something to change something.

"We don't have anywhere near consensus to change the policy."

Board Member Jenny Smith argued for grading-scale harmony between ROWVA and Williamsfield. She said she would lose her mind if her child was ineligible with a grade higher than an eligible ROWVA student.

Colleague Brittany Byrd suggested the school keep track of ineligible students over the 2026-27 academic term and revisit the issue next year. Mills indicated he had no current data regarding ineligibility.

"If it was five kids, that's not crazy," he said. "But if it's 25 kids, that's a problem. ... If we have a lot of students in that 55-65 range, those are kids we should be looking to help. Let's get their grades up, not bring the bar down."

Mills also suggested the board consider adopting a weighted grading scale, for students taking college-credit and honors courses.

Among other action items, the board accepted the resignation of one of its members, Wes Wrage. The board is to appoint a replacement next month. The

district has received three applications, according to Mills.

Board members are to meet at 5 p.m. July 27 to conduct interviews with the applicants. Whoever is selected is to fill the opening until after the consolidated election next April.

The board also approved registration fees for the upcoming school year. A \$30 per-sport participation fee for grade-school and high school students was implemented. The fee is capped at \$100 per family.

Updates to the 2026-27 ROWVA-Williamsfield co-op handbook were authorized. The major change, according to Mills, was to not offer track and field to 6th-grade students. Unusually high 6th-grade interest last year prompted an expansion. The program is to be reevaluated each year.

The board also requested a waiver from the Illinois General Assembly regarding a 41% increase in administrative costs between the 2025 and 2026 fiscal years. It's related to Mills succeeding Rolf Sivertsen, who as an interim superintendent worked only part time and was compensated accordingly.

Edward Jones



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

THE WEEK AHEAD

Hot Picks Ahead

• **Harvest Home** – A Harvest Home fundraiser dinner will be held today, July 16, at the Yates City Community Center, 4:30-6:30 p.m. The menu includes chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, a roll, dessert and a drink. \$13.

• **School Supply Giveaway** – The Friends of the Pantry have moved up their annual school-supply giveaway to July 20 from 5-6:30 p.m. at Brimfield Union Church.

• **Band Concert** – The Elmwood Municipal Band will play Sunday, July 19, at 7 p.m. in Central Park. Concerts continue every Sunday through the summer.

The Weekly Post Seven-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly Sunny	Storms	Storms	Partly Sunny	Storms	Partly Sunny	Partly Sunny
94 75 SW 5 mph	91 72 SW 5 mph	90 72 W 10 mph	90 69 NNE 9 mph	87 67 NE 9 mph	85 65 E 9 mph	84 65 E 9 mph

This Week's Events

• **VBS** – Elmwood United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School is July 21-23 from 6-8 p.m. nightly based on the theme of Crafting God's Creation. Register July 21 at the church.

– Brimfield E Free Church has its VBS July 27-30 from 6:15-8 p.m. for children in Pre-K through 6th grade. Theme is an Irish adventure through Psalm 23. Call (309) 446-3571.

• **Family Farm Day** – The Princeville Heritage Museum offers a day focused on farming and families on July 24, 2-8 p.m., featuring antique tractors, kids activities, a food truck, blacksmithing demonstrations, story time and more.

• **Plant History** – Explore 250 years of American history through the lens of plants, gardens and environmental action on July 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Brimfield Public Library. Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle presents the free program for ages 18 and up.

Future Events

• **Diabetes Cruise In** – The 20th annual Brimfield Super Cruise In for Diabetes will be Aug. 1 from 3-8 p.m. downtown and features food and drinks, raffle drawings, a silent and virtual auction, live music, a dunk tank and kids activities in the American Legion.

• **Garden Club** – Lillie M. Evans Library in Princeville has its monthly garden meeting Aug. 6 at 5:30 p.m.

• **Cruise-In** – The Canton Gear Jammers have a cruise-in at Elmwood's Central Park from 5-7 p.m. on Aug. 12.

• **Old Settlers Days** – Brimfield has its Old Settlers Days on Aug. 13-15 downtown. Carnival rides, food, live music and more.

• **Crochet Group** – Morrison & Mary Wiley Library in Elmwood hosts a crochet group every Monday, 10 a.m. to noon. Crafters can bring projects.

Publicize Your Event

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

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The Weekly Post is published every Thursday (except for two weeks, one which has passed and 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.

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- Paul Ryan

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LAMPE: H&H partners with California firm

Continued from Page 1

cludes two teenage children, have been looking for a theater to purchase. A visit to Elmwood convinced the family to pursue The Palace, though they do not intend to relocate to Illinois.

"I grew up watching movies in a few beautiful cinemas and others where your shoes stuck to the floor. We would not have dared to invest in this business so far from our home without the leadership of manager Shelly Brodine," Landes said. "We've already been approached about hosting live-music events, and if a new church ever wanted to rent the auditorium for Sunday services, we want to be open to that type of partnership."

That said, Landes is also well aware of the current state of the movie industry.

"We've looked at profit-and-loss statements for the theater since 2023, and they have not been positive. With so many people relying on their phones or Netflix to watch videos and movies, buying a 113-year-old theater can seem very foolish to friends and relatives," Landes stated. "I don't predict a quick financial success now that we're becoming stewards of this business. But we also see great potential to devote this space for the continued benefit for the families and children in the region."

Brodine will continue as manager. Landes said he also plans to continue running as many first-run movies as possible, with selections geared toward families and children.

Among the changes he has made already is offering free admission through May 2027 for all 4th graders, if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. Showtimes are also expanding and Landes is adding

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daily matinees. He also welcomes creative volunteers who might be interested in dressing as movie characters to attend showings.

"We've enjoyed a kind welcome from several leaders of the town, and we hope to give back with generosity," Landes said.

• • •

Another longtime Main Street fixture that has seen major changes of late is H&H Industries, Inc. - the 60-year-old Elmwood-based lighting business built by **Al Howerton** and his father, **Harvey**.

Earlier this spring, H&H entered a partnership with California-based Premium Quality Lighting. The agreement will allow H&H to maintain its Elmwood office and will provide better stability for the company and its employees, said **Rick Howerton**.

"PQL has been a recognized provider of innovative, environmentally friendly lighting products since 1989, and together we are able to offer an ever broader range of dependable, energy-efficient products tailored to your needs," Rick Howerton said.

And while you may have seen work trucks around the area with a PQL logo on them, there will be no sign changes on the front of the

building at 110 W. Main St. H&H will also still maintain its website (www.lightsbyhh.com).

"We didn't want to leave Elmwood. This gives our people a lot more opportunity for growth," said Howerton, who was president at H&H and is now PQL's business development manager for central Illinois.

His brother, **Jared Howerton**, 55, formerly the H&H chief financial officer, is operations manager for PQL Illinois. Jared said H&H is part of PQL's Midwest Region and is in the process of moving new inventory into the H&H warehouse from other service and distribution centers.

Rick Howerton, 58, said jobs for 10-12 employees in the office, lighting-maintenance division and sales department will also remain.

Andy Sreden started PQL in 1985 out of his garage and has grown the business to 150 employees, five distribution centers across the U.S. and a manufacturing plant in Mexico.

• • •

Parting shot: With the recent change in ownership of the Whitney & Potts, Ltd., law firm, that means three out of the five Elmwood businesses I look at ever day from my desk have undergone major changes in the past few months. The good news is that they are all still open. Great news, really.

The longer I watch the comings and goings of our small town, the clearer it is how critical small businesses are to the health of our community - and to all our neighboring communities. While it is cliché to say we should support our small businesses, the words all too often fall on ears deafened by a few dollars.

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PRINCEVILLE: Seeks grant opportunities

Continued from Page 1

tion that in 2024 assumed ownership of the complex from the village.

According to Wilson, the pools are in good physical shape. No leaks have been detected. But other equipment, including pumps, will need replacement. Some demolition had taken place before the organization took control.

The \$425,000 fundraising goal was adjusted recently, based on current construction estimates. There is some financial wiggle room, according to Wilson, who said materials and labor costs are increasing because of inflation.

Wilson also said the board still is trying to determine how much

money it might need to operate a re-opened complex.

“We do know the village was reporting they were operating at a loss,” he said. “That was one of the big reasons they had closed the pool. We do respect their decision to make that call, but our focus is moving forward, not looking at the past.”

Grant opportunities through state and federal agencies, private foundations and corporate partners are being sought.

“We’ve made tremendous progress, and we’re excited about where we are today,” Board President Lindsay Hartzler stated in a news release. “At the same time, we know there is still work ahead.”

Regarding a timetable for a potential aquatic-center reopening, Wilson said he’d like to see that happen by next year, ideally, but he can’t guarantee it. What he can guarantee is a good-faith effort to restore what for a quarter-century was a focal point of Princeville summers.

“I grew up swimming in this pool and I remember all the fun times I had,” Wilson said. “I want that for today’s kids. ... In a few years I’m hoping we’re sitting outside on the pool deck enjoying the weather and watching the kids play. We’re hoping to make it a sustainable endeavor for the community.”

ELMWOOD: Two positions now salaried

Continued from Page 1

session in June. On July 7, council members spent more than an hour in closed session discussing raises before they returned to open session and authorized them. Almasi suggested the extended considerations were necessary.

“I think it was just to assure the public that what we’re paying is warranted and beneficial,” Almasi said immediately after the meeting.

City Clerk Bethany Lovingood and Kaitlyn Wagner, the building-codes and permitting administrator, no longer are to be paid hourly. Lovingood, who had been making \$22.26 an hour, is to earn \$60,000 a year. Wagner will go from almost \$18 an hour to \$40,000 annually.

The pay format for Lovingood and Wagner was changed because the council wanted certainty budget-wise regarding their total salary and to limit overtime, according to Almasi.

Pay for Economic De-

velopment Director/Zoning Administrator Amy Davis was set at \$45,000 annually, up from about \$42,000. Almasi said Davis took a 25% pay cut last year when she reduced her working hours and Wagner assumed some of her duties.

All three public-works employees received a 3% cost-of-living hike. Additional merit raises for Jordan Wagner, John Traver and Superintendent Dan Bybee were 5%, 2% and 1.25%, respectively. Bybee had been earning \$40.35 per hour, Traver \$22.26 and Wagner \$25.43.

“They’re skilled labor,” Almasi said. “We want to try to make (pay) competitive and reflect what they actually do.”

The three full-time Elmwood police officers each received a 3% cost-of-living raise. Chief Aaron Bean had been making \$31.16 hourly, Officer Mike Darrah \$28.94 and Officer Dorian Utsinger \$26.71. They didn’t receive merit raises this year because the city

intends to purchase a new police vehicle.

“We met with them and I can’t say they were happy, but they at least understood,” Almasi said.

City officials grappled with how Elmwood employees’ pay compares to similar communities, according to the mayor.

“People still want to know exactly how it measures up,” Almasi said. “The clerk in a smaller town or bigger town, do they do more duties or less? That makes it hard. We’re not sure exactly how to quantify that, other than to stay generally competitive.”

In other business, the council gave preliminary approval to a \$2,018,000 bid from Leander Construction Inc. of Canton for a long-planned renovation of municipal wastewater lagoons in Sweetwater

Park. The two-phase project is expected to take place in the autumns of 2026 and 2027.

The city received two bids for the job, according to Scott DeSplinter, a manager for Springfield-based civil-engineering firm Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

Also authorized was an agreement with the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council to expand the Peoria Rural Enterprise Zone into Brimfield and other areas.

Elmwood is part of the enterprise zone, which is designed to stimulate economic growth through tax exemptions and abatements, among other tools. Public bodies already in the zone – which includes Chillicothe, Hanna City and Princeville, among other places – are to sign off on the expansion.

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All incoming kindergarten students entering the 2026-2027 school year must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2026 and are **required** to be screened prior to beginning school in the fall as part of the registration process.

Screenings will take place at Elmwood Elementary School on Thursday, July 30, 2026 and Monday, August 3, 2026 from 9:00am - 11:30am.

Please call the Elementary School office at 309-742-4261 to reserve a screening session for your student or visit our website at elmwood322.com.

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

Police reports

• **WILLIAMSFIELD** – A Williamsfield woman was accused of hitting her 15-year-old daughter, bloodying her lip and pulling her hair.

Amanda L. Josephson, 34, was arrested following the incident, which happened about 6:30 p.m. June 15 at a residence in the 600 block of N. Illinois Route 180, according to a Knox County Sheriff’s Office report. The child’s father, a 36-year-old Princeville man, alerted the sheriff’s office.

Josephson said she argued with her daughter but did not strike her, although another of her children refuted that. Josephson was accused of domestic battery and transported to the Knox County Jail in Galesburg, then to OSF Saint Mary Medical Center for evaluation.

The four juveniles at the residence were returned to the custody of their respective fathers, two children each. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services was notified.

• **KICKAPOO** – An apparent propane-gas explosion and subsequent fire destroyed a house northeast of Kickapoo, but the resident was unharmed.

The incident happened about noon June 11 in the 11400 block of N. Pauli Rd., a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report stated. The female resident said she was reading on her porch when she felt tornado-like winds and noticed the rear wall of the house had collapsed and a staircase was on fire.

Debris was scattered around the residence, including insulation thrown 300 feet away. The frame of the house was separated from the foundation by at least 6 inches. Gas pooling in the basement following a power outage probably caused the explosion, according to the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

Akron-Princeville, Brimfield, Dunlap and Limestone firefighters responded.

• **BRIMFIELD** – An overhead heater appeared to cause smoke inside a Brimfield business.

Smoke was emanating about 12:45 a.m. June 12 from two exhaust fans on the south side of Kress Corporation, 227 W. Illinois St., a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report stated. A security guard said everything was normal about 15 minutes earlier.

A fire-suppression system in the west painting chamber had been activated, although no fire was found. The heater above the paint chamber was active and registered a temperature of 1,200 degrees. No employees were present. It wasn’t clear why the heater was still operating.

Firefighters from the Akron-Princeville, Brimfield, Dunlap, Elmwood and Logan-Trivoli departments responded.

• **HANNA CITY** – A Hanna City man was accused of multiple crimes, including aggravated battery against someone at least 60 years of age.

Tad L. Burton, 53, was arrested June 23 regarding an incident that happened about 8:30 p.m. June 11 at Farmington and Taylor roads, ac-

cording to heavily redacted Peoria County Sheriff’s Office reports. A deputy was dispatched there because two males and a female were fighting in the roadway.

In addition to aggravated battery, Burton was accused of theft, disorderly conduct, criminal trespass to real property, criminal damage to property, battery and aggravated fleeing.

• **YATES CITY** – An apparent telephone scammer attempted to defraud a Yates City woman of almost \$1,000 in gift cards, according to authorities.

The incident was reported to the Knox County Sheriff’s Office at 4:15 p.m. June 11. The suspect, who was using an unknown number, identified himself as a member of the Yates City Police Department.

According to a sheriff’s-office report, the caller told the 75-year-old victim she was being investigated for money laundering. If she did not acquire \$919 in gift cards and send them to an undisclosed location in Texas, law enforcement would raid her residence.

The victim did not reveal personal information to the caller, except for the name of her bank. A deputy told the victim and her 46-year-old son law enforcement never would conduct business that way.

• **WEST PEORIA** – A Hanna City man escaped apparent injury from a two-vehicle crash west of West Peoria.

Wyatt Z. Stedman was driving a westbound 2019 F-550 truck shortly after 4:15 p.m. June 8 on Farmington Road when at Kickapoo Creek Road a northbound 2009 Chevrolet Cobalt struck it, a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report stated.

Noah R. Hoffman of Bartonville was the other driver. He said he wasn’t able to see westbound traffic because of turning vehicles. His vehicle sustained extensive damage to its front end, windshield and rear bumper.

An ambulance transported Hoffman to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, for treatment of minor injuries. The F-550 sustained damage to its driver’s-side front wheel and wheel well. Both vehicles were towed.

• **HANNA CITY** – Someone fraudulently purchased a \$32,000 pickup truck in a Hanna City-area man’s name, according to authorities.

The incident was reported about 9:30 p.m. June 6, a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report stated. The male victim, a resident of the 3600 block of N. McAllister Rd., reported the money was wired from Redbrand Credit Union in Bartonville to the unknown suspect.

A 2004 Chevrolet Silverado with Ohio registration was specified in the report, as was an auto dealer in Winchester, Va.

• **BRIMFIELD** – A Brimfield-area couple claimed to be the victim of deceptive practices regarding a telephone bill.

The residents of the 14200 block of W. Rockhill Rd. said they received a \$162 bill from Verizon for acquiring a new phone line, which they had not done, according to a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report. The incident was reported shortly before 1 p.m. June 6.

Listed on the bill were three phone numbers. The victims called them. Two were disconnected, but someone answered the third.

• **BRIMFIELD** – An East Peoria man was implicated in a hit-and-run accident in the parking lot of a Brimfield business.

A woman from Maquon said a 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan minivan struck the rear bumper of the 2007 Dodge Ram pickup truck she parked about 11:15 a.m. June 6 in the lot of Dollar General, 17511 W. U.S. Route 150, a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report stated. The van then accelerated quickly out of the lot.

Security video confirmed the victim’s account. A deputy tracked down the van driver, Joshua L. Luncsford, who said he was in a hurry and didn’t know he hit someone. Luncsford was cited for having no valid registration and for leaving the scene of an accident.

• **BRIMFIELD** – A case of predatory abuse of a child was reported in the Brimfield area.

The incident happened shortly before 2 p.m. June 5 at a residence on Pulsifer Road, according to a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report that was redacted almost entirely. The complainant was from Brimfield. One other Brimfield resident was listed, as were four from Washington.

Washington police were notified. So was the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

• **EDWARDS** – An Edwards man was involved in a two-vehicle wreck.

Joseph E. Smiles was driving an eastbound 2020 Ford Escape sport-utility vehicle at 9:30 a.m. June 5 on Illinois Route 8 when at Koerner Road a 2017 Dodge Journey SUV struck it, a Peoria County Sheriff’s Office report stated.

Violet R. Pollock of Bartonville was the other driver. She was attempting to turn east on Route 8 and said she didn’t see the Escape. No injury information was available, although damage to the vehicles exceeded \$1,500.

• **ELMWOOD** – Chief Aaron Bean reported the following Elmwood Police Department activity for June: 11 traffic stops, 14 warnings and 14 reports.

• **FARMINGTON** – Chief Chris Darsham reported the following Farmington Police Department activity for June: 275 business checks, 2,270 building checks, four crashes handled, one property crime, 26 traffic tickets issued, 22 ordinance violations, three crimes against people, nine miscellaneous, 65 traffic stops, five total arrests, 17 total reports, 332 total calls and 12 calls to assist other police departments.

• **WILLIAMSFIELD** – Chief James Robertson reported the following Williamsfield Police Department activity for June: two ordinance complaints, one ordinance-violation warning and an ATV/UTV complaint.

• **GALESBURG** – These were among calls to which the Knox County Sheriff’s Office responded between June 21-27: alarm, Dahinda; dog bite, LaFayette; damage, Yates City; ATV complaint, Yates City; fraud, Yates City.



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Farmington glad to avoid transport woes

By JEFF LAMPE
For The Weekly Post

FARMINGTON – While shortfalls in transportation funding have many school districts scrambling, Farmington CUSD 265 is in good shape in that department, according to school officials.

School Board Member Eric Stanley attributed much of that to Toby Val-las, the district’s assistant superintendent.

“We’d be in trouble if not for all his good changes,” Stanley said, noting the best move was taking over bus service in 2023 after ending an agree-ment with Illinois Central.

“We were able to save money and give drivers a huge pay raise by taking it in-house,” Stanley said.

Stanley’s comments came Monday after the board approved the pur-chase of a 2027 Bluebird 83-passenger diesel bus from Central State Bus

Sales for \$183,270.

The discussion came up in light of a possible in-crease of a Peoria County school sales tax from a half-penny to a full cent. Currently the tax generates \$270,552 for the Farming-ton district.

While doubling that total would help, Superinten-dent Zac Chatterton said the Peoria Public Schools Board of Education has tabled a decision on whether to support placing the tax increase on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Depending on how other county schools handle the issue, Chatterton said he may or may not present the board a resolution at its August meeting to support placing the resolution on the ballot.

“This could happen quickly but I don’t see it happening for the No-vember ballot,” he said.

In other business, the board approved its lone bid

for bread for Fiscal Year 2027 from Alpha Baking Co. Also approved was the lone bid for milk from Prairie Farms and a job de-scription for the new, yet-to-be-filled salaried administrative position of director of Farmington Academy, the district’s new internal alternative-education program.

In personnel, the board approved the following hirings: Jake Behrens (high school music and chorus), Kayla Elam (HS English), Lynsey Vermillion (café worker and junior-high cheerleading), Dalton Wills (JH baseball assis-tant), Lisa Uptmor (fresh-man volleyball), Michael Suau (JH band sponsor), Jessica Kilper (JH student council) and Jeff Otto (HS girls basketball). The board accepted the resignation of Susan Gibbs as a class sponsor.

The board also approved the following volunteer

coaches, listed by sport: boys basketball – Tim Melz and Tyler Miller; football – Jeff Flater and Taylor Hornung; music – Laurel Key, Rachel Suau, Brady Nickel, Jojo Rohrer, Anika Aslam, Maylee Huffman, Wes Anderson, Kelsey Hicks, Carson Moore, Zachary Hilligoss, Kelly and Nick Jarosz, Cara Fletcher, Sara Walsh, Noah Berkshier, Tammy Weaver and Danielle Rohrer; bass fishing – John Grabel, Mark Balbinot, Jerry Welker, Gene and Nick Scapecchi, Austin Mottaz and Ben Johnson; softball – Dave Rose, Dave Howard, Jason Koenig and Lori Cave; cheerleading – Duane Carr; wrestling – Mat Huber, Kyle Peckham, Derek Schultz, John Ellis and Scott Showalter; jun-ior-high cheerleading – Melanie Ewalt; track – Lil-lyBeth Mendez, Jeff Weyers and Reed Wilson; girls basketball – Jessica Flora; baseball – Avery Dean; and volleyball – Madylin Hanlin.

Chatterton reported that the cost of health insurance for district employees and their dependents is increas-ing 18% for FY 2027, fol-lowing a roughly 16% increase last year. Farm-ington handles its health insurance through the Cen-tral Illinois Educators Trust, a consortium of 34 school districts.

The board also discussed changes to the 2026-27 school calendar that it will take up as an action item at its Aug. 10 meeting.





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BRIEFS

College honors

• Several local students were named to the Illinois State University Dean’s list (3.65 gpa or better) for the spring semester: Brimfield – **Zach Zimmerman**, **Cassie Lafollett**, **Nolan Collins**, **Delaney Helms**, **Ainsley Eichorn**, **Cohen Newman** and **Bailey Center**; Farmington – **Hunter Darsham** and **Maddie Helle**; Elmwood – **Cassidee Doubet**, **Christian Doubet**, **Madi Howard**, **Breanna German**, **Zach Howerton** and **Kaylin Williams**; Hanna City – **Mikai Maxison**, **Alisyn Eichorn**, **Riley Janson**, **Sami Janson**, **Emily Tibbs**, **Maccrae Barnett** and **Megan Ricketts**; Edwards – **Madalyn Clark**, **Payton Grutter**, **Valerie Jackson**, **Erin Dwyer**, **Jade Fulk**, **Erik Vazquez** and **Molly Bixby**; Dahinda – **Delaney Tra-phagan**, **Marin Shane**, **Isabella Nelson** and **Camden Schroeder**; Princeville – **Izzy Bird**, **Madie Earley** and **Jordan Johnson**; Yates City – **Melody Martin**.

• Several local students were named to the Western Illinois University Dean’s list (3.6 gpa or



Anna Weibel exhibited the Grand Champion Bred and Owned Percentage Simmental Heifer at the American Junior Simmental Association National Classic in Grand Island, Neb. The classification for the prized heifer meant it was bred and born on the Weibel family farm outside Yates City. Weibel also was named president of the organization, only the fifth Illinois native in the over 50 years of the organization.

better) for the spring semester. They are **Emma Seaborn** of Yates City, **Olivia Catton** and **Theodore Collins** of Brimfield, **Rachael Boushell** and **Abigail Bussey** of Edwards, **Ashlyn Slayton** of Elmwood and **Alexis Miller** of Trivoli.

Princeville native Ptak in exchange program

The U.S. Department of State and Cultural Vistas announced that Princeville native Megan Ptak is one of 65 Americans selected to study and work in Germany as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals.

Those chosen depart for Germany July 29 and return to the U.S. in June 2027. Participants come from a variety of career fields and from all over the U.S. This year about 420 vied for a spot in the program.

While in Germany, Ptak will attend a two-month intensive language course, study at a university and complete an internship.

Et cetera

• Pheasants Forever will sponsor a hunter-safety class July 30-31 from 5-10 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 420 E. Woertz Rd., Princeville. Participants must attend both nights. Dinner will be served both nights.

Register online at the DNR website (dnr.illinois.gov/safety.html). To register you must be 9 years old by Dec. 31.

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OBITUARIES

Marcia Lauber

PRINCEVILLE – Marcia Lauber, 75, of Princeville, passed away on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 7:54 a.m. at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria. Marcia was born on Nov. 30, 1950, in Rockford to Vernon Herbert and Anna Mae (Patton) Lelm. Marcia married Steven Lauber on Aug. 19, 1972; he survives.



Lauber

Also surviving, one daughter, Theresa (Kevin) Taylor; one son, Chuck Lauber; two grandsons, Tyler and Drew Lauber; one sister, Pamela (Craig) Miller; and one brother, Michael (Kathleen) Lelm. She was preceded in death by her parents; one sister, Cynthia Cornwell; and an infant child, Heather Ann.

Marcia lived a full life with many hobbies and responsibilities that she always met with openness, determination and love. Marcia enjoyed things such as crafts, shopping, decorating her home, family gatherings, cookouts, fish fries and attending her grandchildren's athletic events, where she could always be seen cheering them on. Marcia was raised in Peoria but later found herself on the farm, where she worked diligently as a farmer's wife and homemaker. Lastly, and above all, Marcia was a dedicated wife, mom and grandma and loved them all dearly.

A visitation will be held on Friday, July 17, 2026, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Golnick Family Funeral & Cremation Services (formerly Haskell) in Princeville. A celebration of her life will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 18, 2026, at Grecian Gardens, located in Chillicothe.

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

Lois M. Mitchell

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. – Lois Marie Mitchell passed away peacefully in her home with her family on July 8, 2026, in Fort Walton Beach. She was born Lois Marie Jenkins in Presque Isle, Maine, to Edward and Edith Jenkins on Nov. 14, 1931.



Mitchell

She trained to become a registered nurse at Eastern Maine General Hospital in Bangor. Upon graduation, she met and married Eugene Mitchell, who was stationed at Dow Air Force Base. For the last 74 years, the two of them have set up housekeeping in 14 of these United States, as well as Manila and Angeles, Philippines.

Over the years, she worked as a registered nurse in Denver, Cumberland, Md., and Lincoln. She liked working in the Illinois medium-security prison system most of all, because it was very challenging.

Lois was a faithful member of St. Simon's Episcopal Church in Fort Walton Beach. Her faith was central to her life and guided how she lived and cared for others. When living in Maryland she enjoyed bringing communion to people who were unable to attend services at Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

Lois did more than her share in raising their six children – all of whom have cut a wide swath en route to their successful retirements. She loved a good game of cards, and her daily cribbage game with Gene was a highlight. An avid sports fan, she cherished her many friends across the country and loved catching up over a cup of coffee whenever they visited.

Lois is survived by her husband and their six children, Douglas (Betty) Mitchell of Bellville, Texas, Darla (Richard) Ludolph of Wil-

liamsville, Gregory (Barbara) Mitchell of Gainesville, Ga., Donna (Bob) Shephard of Thornton, Colo., Wayne (Natalie) Mitchell of Weldon Spring, Mo., and Jack (Missy) Mitchell of Lebanon; 13 grandchildren, Jerri (Jack) Morrow, Virginia (Clayton) Pederson, Margaret (Shane) Swiatlowski, Nicole (Hunter) Kniffin, Laura (David) Wetherell, Sara (Will) Dyer, Matt (Katy) Mitchell, Josef (Kayble) Shimic, Darla (Mike) Okada, James (Sabrina) Shimic, Cody (Emily) Mitchell, Justin (Amy) Mitchell and Andrew (Natalie) Mitchell; 22 great-grandchildren, Samuel, Emmett, Helena, Skylar, Lucia, Kelsey, Miriam, Maggie, Liam, Evie, Silas, Jax, Lincoln, Naomi, Luna, Ryker, Midna, Laurelin, Eli, Jeremiah, Elanor and Jessica; and beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and by her dearly loved sister Jeanne Eaton.

Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Simon's on the Sound, 28 Miracle Strip Pkwy. SW, Fort Walton Beach, FL (stsimons-fwb.org) in loving memory of Lois Mitchell.

John W. Phillips

GLASFORD – John W. "Cowboy" Phillips, 80, of Glasford, passed away July 8, 2026, at his residence. He was born on Sept. 15, 1945, in Canton to Harold and Violet (Malmgren) Phillips.

He married Sharon Meyers in Peoria on June 26, 1965. She preceded him in death on April 25, 2019.

Surviving are three children, John W. (Kathy) Phillips of Hanna City, Amber R. (Jerry) Smithers of Mapleton and Jason A. (Lilia) Phillips of Alton; six grandchildren; and sisters-in-law Pam Locke and Linda Phillips.

He was a member of LaMarsh Baptist Church in Mapleton, where a funeral service will be held Friday, July 17, 2026, at noon with a visitation to be held two hours prior at the church.

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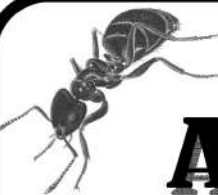
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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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Answers

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CryptoQuote

answer

Hard work without talent is a shame, but talent without hard work is a tragedy.

— Robert Half

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



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Farmers must have a solid estate plan

By KEVIN BROOKS
University of Illinois Extension

In the past decade, more attention has been given to estate planning for family farm businesses, as the average age of commercial farmers in Illinois is 60-plus and most landowners are 65 and older.

Farmers do not own the majority of farmland in the state – individuals, not corporate interests, own it. Studies show that fewer than 50% of farm families have an estate plan to manage succession and property transfer upon the owner’s death or incapacitation.

Furthermore, even fewer – less than 20% – have a written plan communicated to their heirs. This article is designed to help farm families develop a basic understanding of their estate-tax situation and why they should take steps to put a plan in place. The farmer or landowner should seek advice from a tax/legal professional.

As the farming industry in Illinois struggles with profitability, the lack of an effective estate plan may be the single biggest negative financial decision for farm families. It could have a profound effect on the family after the death of the farmer or farmland owner, both financially and emotionally. However, there are planning tools to help guide families along the path to creating a solid

estate plan. The hardest parts of building an estate plan are getting started and finishing.

Having worked professionally as a farm-trust officer, I can’t tell every family exactly what the perfect estate plan looks like, but I have a seasoned eye for identifying a bad plan.

Careful planning and difficult family conversations can prevent most pitfalls. Ultimately, you are in control. Only you understand your family well enough to make the right decisions. Unfortunately, many of the estate plans I’ve reviewed over the years are poor.

As the statistics show, most farm families are unable to overcome the difficulties of planning and either don’t plan at all or put together a poorly done plan that will cost the family a lot of money and permanently damage relationships. Most families want a good plan but fail to start, finish or put one together, leaving the family vulnerable.

A sound farm estate/suc-

cession plan is one of the biggest financial tools you can use to keep the family farm operating for generations. Illinois has an estate tax that can be a significant burden on the family.

Still, much of that burden can be reduced through effective planning by the owners, including the use of the \$4 million exemption. Currently, an Illinois estate valued at \$4 million owes no estate tax to the state, but many Illinois farms are worth more than this exempted level. Once the estate exceeds \$4 million, the entire estate could be taxed, starting with the first dollar.

A \$5 million estate could owe \$285,714 under the current state-tax law, which taxes an estate of \$5 million at close to 6%. The estate-tax rate in Illinois graduates to 16% at \$10.04 million. At present, there is a discussion in the state legislature to increase the exemption.

A husband and wife can effectively double the value of the exemption if estate-planning tools are imple-

mented in their strategy to lower the tax burden. One does not need to know the actual tools, as you can rely on your tax professional.

The Illinois estate tax is not portable between spouses, making it a strict use-it-or-lose-it scenario that requires a legal tax strategy to be put in place before the first spouse passes away.

Estate-planning tools available to owners include AB trusts, QTIP trusts or gifting. It would be beneficial to familiarize yourself with these tools and strategies before meeting with your tax adviser. Having a trusted tax professional by your side is vital to ensuring accuracy and maximizing your financial well-being.

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AREA CHURCHES

BRIMFIELD Baptist Church of Brimfield
Pastor Doug Seeley
321 S. Jefferson St. Brimfield (309) 678-2208
Sun. School: 9:30 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
Sunday Mass: 10:30 am
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

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
brimfieldunionchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 am

BIBLE TRIVIA
By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Mark (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What kind of physical problem did Timothy have of which Paul advised a little wine? Back, Stomach, Head, Legs
3. How many days was Jesus on earth after His resurrection? 3, 40, 100, 346
4. From Acts 8, who baptized the

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 Sun-day 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 Maquon UM Church page

EDWARDS

Ethiopian eunuch? Isaiah, James, Philip, Paul
5. What is the Hebrew word that’s usually translated as “blessing”? Berakah, Chosson, Chumash, Ducket
6. How old was Abraham when he died? 75, 175, 202, 256
ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Stomach, 3) 40, 4) Philip, 5) Berakah, 6) 175
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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 William Miller
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 William Miller
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
Sat. Mass: 4 pm
Sun. Mass: 9 am
Wed. & Fri. Mass: 6:45 am
Tues. & Thurs. Mass: 8 am
Wed. Confession: 7-8 pm

TRIVOLI Brunswick Community Church
4027 S. Stone School Rd, Trivoli
Pastor Terry England
Sunday School: 9:45 am
Sunday Worship: 10:45 am
Sunday Evening: 6:00 pm

Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7:00 pm (309) 403-4626

Zion-Penn Ridge Lutheran Church (LCMC)
18015 W. Smithville Rd., Trivoli
Pastor Mark Schoenhals
Pastor Jay Johnson (309) 696-1300
zionpennridgelutheranchurch@gmail.com
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am
4th Sunday of month Worship: 8 am with communion

WILLIAMSFIELD St. James Catholic Church
Father Deogratias Mpewo
214 N. State Route 180 Williamsfield (309) 446-3275
stjameswilliamsfield.org
Sun. Confession: 7-7:20 am
Sunday Mass: 7:30 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

LEGAL ADS - Call (309) 741-9790

CLAIM NOTICE

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

In Re ESTATE OF THEODORE G. MOTTAZ,

CC 2026-PR-0000132

Deceased.

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of THEODORE G. MOTTAZ on May 11, 2026. Letters of Office were issued by the above entitled Court to JANET R. MOTTAZ, of 708 North Fairgrounds Way, Elmwood, Illinois 61529, as Executor, whose attorneys of record are WHITNEY & POTTS, LTD., 118 West Main Street, P. O. Box 368, Elmwood, Illinois, 61529-0368. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Peoria County Courthouse, Peoria, Illinois, or with the representative or both on or before the 8th day of January, 2027, or if mailing or delivery of a Notice from the representative is required by Sec. 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that Notice. Every claim filed must be in writing and state sufficient information to notify the representative of the nature of the claim or other relief sought. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed and the claimant shall file with the Court, proof of any required mailing or delivery of copies. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/EFSPs-Page/ to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. DATED this 24th day of June, 2026.

JANET R. MOTTAZ, Executor of the Estate of THEODORE G. MOTTAZ, Deceased.

ASHLEE E. STABLER, Esq.
WHITNEY & POTTS, LTD.
Attorneys for Executor
118 West Main Street
P. O. Box 368
Elmwood, IL 61529-0368
Telephone: (309) 742-3611
ashlee@whitneyandpotts.com
Published 7/2, 7/9, 7/16/26

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY PEORIA, ILLINOIS

NewRez LLC
PLAINTIFF
Vs.
Rebecca Carr; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants
DEFENDANTS
No. 2026-FC-0000136
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:
Rebecca Carr
Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants
That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 11818 W Farmington Rd
Hanna City, IL 61536
and which said Mortgage was made by:
Rebecca Carr
the Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Peoria County, Illinois, as Document No. 2020018194; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.
NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Robert M. Spears
Peoria County Courthouse
324 Main Street, Room G-22
Peoria, IL 61602
on or before August 3, 2026, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(630) 794-5300
DuPage # 15170
Winnebago # 531
Our File No. 14-26-03046
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
I3289885
Published 7/2, 7/9, 7/16/26

TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF,
VS.
KATHLEEN L LUTZ A/K/A K LUTZ A/K/A L LUTZ KATHLEEN A/K/A KATHLEEN L TRAVIS-LUTZ A/K/A KATHLEEN LUTZ A/K/A KATHLEEN TRAVIS A/K/A KATHLEEN L TRAVIS; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEFENDANTS.
NO. 2024-FC-0000194
1215 NORTH JONES CIRCLE PEORIA, IL 61604
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on April 22, 2026, will on August 10, 2026, in ROOM 203 OF THE COURTHOUSE, 324 MAIN STREET, PEORIA, IL 61602, at 8:30 am, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Peoria, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:
EIGHTY-FIVE FEET OF EVEN WIDTH BY FULL LENGTH OF LOT OFF OF THE ENTIRE NORTH-WESTERLY SIDE OF LOT 82 IN WILDWOOD HEIGHTS SECOND DIVISION, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE WEST HALF OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 8 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; EXCEPT THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE SURFACE OF SAID LAND AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID COAL AND OTHER MINERALS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF PEORIA, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. ALSO, A PART OF LOT 81 IN WILDWOOD HEIGHTS, SECOND DIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE WEST HALF OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 8 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE MOST EASTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 81 IN WILDWOOD HEIGHTS, SECOND DIVISION AS

ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE WILLIAMSFIELD SANITARY DISTRICT, AN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2025 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2026 ORDINANCE NUMBER 25-01

BE IT ORDAINED by the Trustees of the Williamsfield Sanitary District, an Illinois Municipal Corporation:
That the following sums of money, as much thereof as may be authorized by law, and the same is hereby appropriated for all corporate purposes for the fiscal year beginning the first day of May, 2025, and ending on the 30th day of April, 2026; and the object and purposes for which said appropriations are made, and the amounts hereby appropriated for such purposes, are as follows:
FROM GENERAL CORPORATE TAXES AND REVENUE
General Administration
ILEPA Flowage Usury Fee \$ 2,500.00
Clerk's salary 600.00
Attorney's retainer 750.00
Supplies 400.00
Trustees' salaries 1,800.00
Publication expense 200.00
Audit fees 1,600.00
Contingencies 100.00
Insurance 2,500.00
Collection costs 4,100.00
Lagoon Testing 4,800.00
Utilities 6,500.00
Maintenance of lagoon 150,000.00
Total \$ 175,850.00
Appropriated for the foregoing expenses of General Administration from the tax for General Corporate Purposes:\$175,850.00
This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication according to law.
/S/ Willard E. Kimler
President
ATTEST:
/S/ Amanda Yerkey
Clerk
PASSED: 7-8-2025 APPROVED: 7-8-2025 CERTIFICATE
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF KNOX SS
VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSFIELD)
I, Amanda Yerkey, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I am the Clerk of the WILLIAMSFIELD SANITARY DISTRICT, and that I am the keeper of the records of said District, and that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Appropriation Ordinance passed and adopted by the President and Board of Trustees of said District at a meeting held July 8, 2025.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official hand this 8th day of July, 2025.
ATTEST:
/S/ Amanda Yerkey
Clerk
WILLIAMSFIELD SANITARY DISTRICT KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS
I hereby certify that the revenues, by source, shown for each fund of the district in the attached certified copy of the budget of the Williamsfield Sanitary District, County of Knox, for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026, are the revenues anticipated for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
/S/ Amanda Yerkey
Treasurer
Williamsfield Sanitary District
Knox County, Illinois
Date: July 8, 2025
Published 7/16/2026

THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE TRACT TO BE DESCRIBED; THENCE SOUTH 44 DEGREES 44' 23" WEST ALONG THE SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 81, A DISTANCE OF 125.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 45 DEGREES 12'-05" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 8.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 44 DEGREES 44' 23" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 115.17 FEET TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT- OF-WAY LINE OF JONES CIRCLE; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG THE SOUTHWESTLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF JONES CIRCLE ON A CURVE TO THE RIGHT HAVING A RADIUS OF 40 FEET FOR AN ARC DISTANCE OF 12.72 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 956 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS, AND EXCEPT THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS UNDERLYING THE SURFACE OF SAID LAND AND ALL RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID COAL AND OTHER MINERALS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF PEORIA, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. TAX NO. 17-03-327-021
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1215 North Jones Circle
Peoria, IL 61604
Description of Improvements: Tan Frame, single family home, attached garage
The Judgment amount was \$148,819.08.
Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.
The subject property is subject to

general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For information: Visit our website at http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com. Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP,

ORDINANCE No. 25 - 02 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE - 2025-2026

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE WILLIAMSFIELD SANITARY DISTRICT, AN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, THAT:
A tax for the following sums of money, as much thereof as may be authorized by law, to defray all expenses and liabilities of the WILLIAMSFIELD SANITARY DISTRICT, be and the same is hereby levied for the purposes specified against all taxable property in the WILLIAMSFIELD SANITARY DISTRICT for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of May, 2025, and ending on the 30th day of April, 2026.

FROM GENERAL CORPORATE TAXES AND REVENUE		
General Administration	Appropriated	Levied
ILEPA Flowage Usury Fee	\$ 2,500.00	
Clerk's salary	600.00	
Attorney's retainer	750.00	
Clerical supplies	400.00	
Trustees' salaries	1,800.00	
Publication expense	200.00	
Audit fees	1,600.00	
Contingencies	100.00	
Insurance	2,500.00	
Collection costs	4,100.00	
Lagoon Testing	4,800.00	
Utilities	6,500.00	
Maintenance of lagoon	150,000.00	
Total	\$175,850.00	\$4,620.39
CHLORINATION OF SEWAGE		
Maintenance of lagoon	\$150,000.00	\$1,673.08
TOTAL LEVIED AMOUNT		\$6,293.47

Appropriated for the foregoing expenses of General Administration from the tax for General Corporate Proposes \$175,850.00
Levied for the foregoing expenses of General Administration from the tax for General Corporate Proposes \$4,620.39
Levied for the maintenance of lagoon from the tax for Chlorination of Sewage \$1,673.08
This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval as required by law.
/S/ Willard E. Kimler
President
ATTEST:
/S/ Amanda Yerkey
Clerk
PASSED: 12-12-2025 APPROVED: 12-12-2025
FILED WITH COUNTY CLERK: CERTIFICATE
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF KNOX SS
I, Amanda Yerkey, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I am the Clerk of the WILLIAMSFIELD SANITARY DISTRICT, and that I am the keeper of the records of said District, and that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Levy Ordinance passed and adopted by the President and Board of Trustees of said District at a meeting held December 12, 2025.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official hand this 12th day of December, 2025.
ATTEST:
/S/ Amanda Yerkey
Sanitary District Clerk
CERTIFICATE
No notice was given with the understanding that the increase in levy would not exceed five percent (5%).
The undersigned, presiding officer of the Board of Trustees of the Williamsfield Sanitary District, hereby certify that I am the presiding officer of the Board of Trustees of the Williamsfield Sanitary District, and as such presiding officer I hereby certify that the levy ordinance, a copy of which is appended hereto, was adopted pursuant to, and in all respects in compliance with, the provisions of Section 4 through 7 of the "Truth in Taxation Act" and no notice was given with the understanding that the increase in levy would not exceed five percent (5%).
Date: December 12, 2025
/S/ Willard E. Kimler
Presiding Officer
Published 7/16/2026

CLAIM NOTICE

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

Estate of
MARK A. WINEFORDNER, deceased
No. 2026-PR-0000140
Notice is given of the death of MARK A. WINEFORDNER. Letters of Office were issued on July 8, 2026, to JAY D. WINEFORDNER, 328 S. Prospect St., Cambridge, IL 61238, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Michael Massie, Massie & Quick, LLC, P.O. Box 205, Galva, IL 61434.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Peoria County Circuit Clerk, 324 Main St. G22., Peoria, IL 61602, or with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of first publication, the BAR DATE, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed.
Massie & Quick, LLC
Attorneys for Estate
P.O. Box 205
Galva, IL 61434
Telephone: (309) 932-2168
Published 7/16, 7/23, 7/30/26

Plaintiff's Attorneys, 333 W Wacker Drive, Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60606-1220. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 24-19122IL
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLEC-

TOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.
Continued on Page 13

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

Orpheum Theatre schedule set

For The Weekly Post

GALESBURG – The Orpheum Theatre announced its schedule for the 2026-27 Orpheum Theatre Presents season. The performance schedule includes:

- Don Jovi, Thursday, Sept. 10 – A tribute band delivering arena-rock anthems of Bon Jovi.
- Robert Townsend: Living the Shuffle, Saturday, Oct. 3 – Hollywood actor Robert Townsend presents a one-man show about his journey through the entertainment industry.
- Rumors: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute, Thursday, Oct. 8.
- Crazy Train: America’s Ozzy Tribute, Thursday, Oct. 15.
- The Dolly Show, Thurs-

day, Oct. 22 – West End star Kelly O’Brien channels the iconic vocals, rhinestone style, and wit of Dolly Parton.

- Sesame Street Live: Elmo’s Got the Moves, Wednesday, Nov. 4.
- So Good: The Neil Diamond Experience, Sunday, Nov. 22.
- The Midtown Men: Holiday Hits, Thursday, Dec. 10 – Stars from the original Broadway cast of Jersey Boys reunite to ring in the season with 1960s rock ‘n’ roll flair and holiday classics.
- Decade of Decadence: ’80s Rock Tribute, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2027.
- Michael Cavanaugh: Music of Billy Joel & Elton John, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2027.

- Skerryvore, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2027.
- Heart By Heart, Friday, Feb. 19, 2027 – Features Steve Fossen (bassist) and Michael Derosier (drummer), original members of Heart.
- Alex Reymundo: Toxic MEXculinity, Saturday, Feb. 27, 2027.
- Commotion: A Tribute to the music of Creedence Clearwater Revival, Saturday, March 13, 2027.
- Rhinestone Cowgirls, Friday, March 19, 2027.
- Heartache Tonight: Tribute to The Eagles, Friday, April 23, 2027.
- Illusionist Rick Thomas, Saturday, May 22, 2027.

Learn more at galesburgorpheus.org or call (309) 342-2299.

YATES CITY PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE OPENING

The Village of Yates City is currently accepting applications for a Part-Time Public Works Employee to assist with the operation, maintenance, and improvement of Village infrastructure and public facilities. This position performs a variety of duties that may include:

- Mowing, weed trimming, and general grounds maintenance
- Street, sidewalk, and public property maintenance
- Assisting with water and wastewater treatment plant operations
- Operating and maintaining equipment and tools
- Assisting with infrastructure repairs and improvement projects
- Working with outside vendors and contractors as needed
- Performing general maintenance and other duties as assigned

The ideal candidate is dependable, self-motivated, enjoys working outdoors, and is willing to learn all aspects of public works operations. Good communication and interpersonal skills, basic computer knowledge, and the ability to work independently and as part of a team are preferred. Experience in public works, water or wastewater operations, equipment operation, or maintenance is beneficial but not required. Hours: 25 hours per week. Compensation: \$17.00-\$20.00 per hour, depending on qualifications, experience, and certifications. Benefits: This position is not eligible for benefits. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Please send application/resume and letter of interest to:
Village of Yates City • ATTN: Village Clerk
102 West Main Street • Yates City, Illinois 61572
or Email: yatescityclerk@gmail.com

LEGAL ADS - Call (309) 741-9790

Continued from Page 12
I3286382
Published 7/9, 7/16, 7/23/26

• • •

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Peoria Peoria, ILLINOIS

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC Plaintiff vs. BRADLEY A. HARTWIG; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 25 FC 263 CALENDAR

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on August 12, 2026, at the hour 9:00 a.m., Miller, Hall & Triggs, LLC, 416 Main Street, Suite 1125, Peoria, IL 61602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

ALL OF LOT FIFTY-FIVE (55) AND PART OF LOT FIFTY-SIX (56) COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 56 AND RUNNING THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 56 A DISTANCE OF 124.83 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 56; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALON THE WESTERLY LOT LINE OF SAID LOT 56 A DISTANCE OF 12.1 FEET; THENCE IN A NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ALL IN WESTAIR COURT, A SUBDIVISION IN THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 11 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, AS SHOWN BY THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "1" AT PAGE 89, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF PEORIA AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

P.I.N. 05-30-254-016.
Commonly known as 213 NORTH HAZEL STREET, CHILLICOTHE, IL 61523.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgement of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 25-381624 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3290011 Published 7/9, 7/16, 7/23/26

• • •

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

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Plaintiff, -v- JANET LYNN THIELEN N/K/A JANET LYNN WATTS, ALEX THIELEN, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT Defendant 2025 FC 0000211

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 11, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on August 13, 2026, at the Peoria County Courthouse, 324 Main Street, NE Jefferson St., Main Entrance, PEORIA, IL, 61602, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT 142 IN MARDELL MANOR SECTION FOUR, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER AND NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 23, AND A RE-SUBDIVISION OF PART OF LOT 94 IN MARDELL MANOR SECTION THREE, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER, NORTHEAST QUARTER AND SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 8 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, AS FILED IN BOOK "Z-1" OF PLATS, PAGE 76, PEORIA COUNTY RECORDS, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF PEORIA AND STATE OF ILLINOIS. EXCEPTING THEREFROM ALL COAL AND MINERAL RIGHTS.

Commonly known as 4813 WEST WANDA AVENUE, BARTONVILLE, IL 61607

Property Index No. 17-23-252-016

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$141,055.81.

Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the

close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 25 1698. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650

Chicago IL, 60602
312-541-9710
E-Mail: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com
Attorney File No. 25 1698
Case Number: 2025 FC 0000211

TJSC#: 46-1211
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any

information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2025 FC 0000211
I3290245
Published 7/9, 7/16, 7/23/26
• • •

Answers on Page 10

Super Crossword

CHARGING JOE

ACROSS

1 Reserves of stock

9 Person applying a mail stick-on

16 Understands

20 Actress Palicki of "Friday Night Lights"

21 Popcorn personage Redenbacher

22 Out of the wind, nautically

23 Start of a riddle

25 Watson of "Little Women"

26 Was bested

27 Rug threads

28 Emo of zany comedy

30 Crafty plans

34 Amaz of "I Love Lucy"

35 Have in mind

36 King, in Paris

37 Riddle, part 2

41 Unhappy

44 Almonds, e.g.

45 See

46 Jamaican music genre

47 Alpine climber's tool

49 Extra NFL periods

51 Actress Long of "Missing"

53 Nobelist Bohr

54 Riddle, part 3

60 "The Taking of — 123" (2009 film)

61 Check casher, e.g.

62 Pre-2001 space station

63 With 45-Across, informed on the latest

67 Lacking living organisms

69 Shampoo brand

71 Vidal — (shampoo brand)

73 Some till bills

74 Helium, e.g.

76 Dot in the ocean

78 Fife sound

79 Riddle, part 4

82 Pong producer

86 Tart's cousin

87 Capote, to his pals

88 "The First 48" network

89 Ricky Martin's old boy band

91 "Sir," in colonial India

95 "Hey there, tiger!"

97 Wee child

98 End of the riddle

102 Yoga chants

103 Loosen up

104 Tolkien trilogy initials

105 To some degree

109 Popular rum brand

111 Swindling guy

113 Really ruin

114 Scraped (out)

115 Riddle's answer

120 Give for a while

121 Determines the sum of

122 Thief's activity

123 Uno + dos

124 Some tax cheats

125 Lays out for proofing

DOWN

1 Cries loudly

2 Like a one-off committee

3 Fail suddenly

4 Purring baby

5 Precept

6 "Warzone" singer Yoko

7 Wildebeest

8 Narcissist's love

9 People crying loudly

10 Maple fluid

11 Greed for wealth

12 Russian-built fighter jets

13 Arafat's gp., once

14 Formed a secret union?

15 Ginger's trait

16 Scottish Celt

17 Suburb of Phoenix

18 Pertaining to time

19 Ocean coasts

24 "White Flag" singer of 2003

29 Have in mind

31 Tailless feline breed

32 Aussie bird

33 New Jersey's — Hall University owner Irwin

35 Smaller than large

38 Lens aperture setting

39 Russo of "The Intern"

40 Hi-tech movie effects

41 Hold to one's decision

42 Novelist Chinua

43 Buy and sell

48 Eldest of the Musketeers

50 Suddenly lose patience

52 Warts and all

55 Pal, in Peru

56 Song line

57 Kin of "Oyl"

58 Beautiful, in Bologna

59 Poetic Muse

63 Old Glory's land, informally

64 Really strong

65 City in Spain or Ohio

66 A short round of tennis

68 Al who drew the Yokums

70 For fear that

72 To the extent that

75 Bern's land, to the French

77 Australia Zoo

79 Not as messy

80 Harvest

81 "The Flight Attendant" star Kaley

82 Bandleer, informally

83 Drink infusing device

84 Cutoff cry from a film director

85 Long to undo

90 Out with one's sweetie

92 Hint-providing columnist

93 "My thoughts exactly"

94 Alternatives to GIFs or JPEGs

96 Hulk Hogan's 1980s org.

99 Isaac of sci-fi

100 Actress Drescher

101 Sings in the Alps, perhaps

106 Perez of film

107 Quaint reply of denial

108 Canoodles, in Cambridge

110 Determines the sum of

111 Street rep

112 Hawk's home

116 Plato's "H"

117 Hog's home

118 Vivacity

119 "Little" actress Issa

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

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Tiber Creek

welding

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Kevin McCarthy-Owner

517 N. Magnolia St. Elmwood 61529

Pages From The Past

Compiled by Andy Latora

Five Years Ago

- Less than 24 hours after four men escaped from the Fulton County Jail, three were in custody. And while Farmington police were called to Lewistown that evening to help with leads on all four escapees, they were most instrumental in apprehension of the second escapee, Jesse R. Davis.
- The Princeville Village Board voted to offer assistance to Edelstein in its efforts to receive a grant that would allow Edelstein to be added to the Princeville water system.
- The Farmington City Council approved a request from high school parents to sponsor an End Zone event at Jacobs Park following home football games. End Zone events will include a bonfire and refreshments.
- After spending more than 45 minutes of a meeting discussing whether to allow chickens and ducks within the city limits, the Elmwood City Council decided to create a committee to study the issue. It was the third time in less than a year that the council discussed allowing chickens in the city.

10 Years Ago

- Jerry Anderson, a sculptor from Kickapoo, recently unveiled his latest creation – a bald eagle with a 6-foot wingspan with many small and meticulous details, such as single feathers etched in the wood, claws drawn up close to the body and piercing eyes. The culmination of two years of work was carved from linden wood and is on display in Kickapoo.
- Farmington Central District Li-

15 Years Ago

- Air National Guard Airman 1st Class James C. Garber of Trivoli graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

25 Years Ago

- Steffanie Johnston, daughter of Chuck and Connie Johnston of Elmwood, received a silver key award in the Scholastic Art Awards of 2001.
- Princeville Heritage Days Princess Contest winners were Savannah Speckhart, who won among the older girls, and Savannah Gilkeson, who won among the younger girls.

55 Years Ago

- Sally Given, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Given of Princeville, graduated from the University of Illinois with high honors.

65 Years Ago

- Leo Gutshall of Farmington and Joe Cisel of Elmwood returned the first of the week from a Canadian fishing trip. They said weather was dry and warm and the fishing was not very fruitful.
- The new Trivoli post office was dedicated.
- Schubach and Streitmatter Gas Co. announced plans for an open house in Princeville. The new firm plans to distribute propane gas, Minneapolis-Moline

75 Years Ago

- Farmington insurance agent W.J. Hillman won an eight-day Minnesota fishing trip by showing a substantial increase in Farmers Auto Insurance sold during April and May as compared to 1950.

85 Years Ago

- The Bowman coal mine south of Yates City, which had been shut down for some time, was reopened under new management. Frank Allen and George McCray of Pekin are the new managers.

90 Years Ago

- Anton Kraft opened a new bakery in Princeville.

95 Years Ago

- Lorado Taft, world famous Chicago sculptor and Elmwood native, collapsed Tuesday night while lecturing at Ball Teacher College in Muncie, Ind.

105 Years Ago

- Walter Bridgestock, of Farmington and the Illinois Oil Company, is wearing his left arm in a sling, the result of a cut while driving his oil truck. A piece of the wrist bone is nicked out.
- Ernest Streitmatter built a new home in Princeville.

110 Years Ago

- The new Quality Store opened in Princeville. Members of the firm were John Friedman, Miss Mary Newton and Sylvester Harmon.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate

♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 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.

TDKY VXKE VUWTXNW

WDMCOW UR D RTDAC, HNW

WDMCOW VUWTXNW TDKY

VXKE UR D WKDPCYJ.

— KXHCKW TDMZ

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which 1997 film features a villain named Dr. Evil?

2. HISTORY: When was the Declaration of Independence officially signed?

3. GEOGRAPHY: The country of Eritrea is located on which continent?

4. TELEVISION: Which 1980s-90s sitcom includes a neighbor named Winnie Cooper?

5. U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Mall of America, the largest mall in the United States?

6. ANATOMY: What is the largest muscle in the human body?

7. SCIENCE: How much of Earth's water is saltwater?

8. MEASUREMENTS: How many ounces is 3/4 of a cup?

9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby goose called?

10. MUSIC: When was Taylor Swift's first album released?

Answers

1. "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery."

2. Signed on Aug. 2, 1776. Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

3. Africa.

4. "The Wonder Years."

5. Bloomington, Minnesota.

6. Gluteus maximus.

7. About 97%.

8. 6 ounces.

9. A gosling.

10. 2006.

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TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Minions & Monsters

2. Toy Story 5

3. Young Washington

4. Supergirl

5. Disclosure Day

6. Obsession

7. Backrooms

8. Jackass: Best and Last

9. Scary Movie

10. The Invite

2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Amber Waves

ALRIGHT, EAT UP, BOYS. I'VE GOT A NEW RECIPE MIX FOR YOU.

IT'S A COMBINATION OF ACORNS, ROOTS, OLD FRUIT AND CORN.

I EVEN TOSSED IN SOME OLD STRING BEAN CASSEROLE.

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

Funding equity remains elusive goal for Illinois schools

By **PETER HANCOCK**
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois has made progress in recent years boosting funding for schools that serve some of the state’s poorest communities and leveling some, but not all, of the wealth-based disparities in per-pupil instructional spending.

But as Illinois enters the 10th year of financing schools under the Evidence-Based Funding model – a formula adopted in 2017 that was supposed to improve the adequacy and equity of the state’s school finance system – wide disparities still exist in the property-tax system that funds more than half the cost of K-12 education.

An analysis of school-finance data by Capitol News Illinois covering the nine-year period from 2017 to 2025 shows homeowners in the lowest-wealth districts pay tax rates that are double those in the wealthiest districts.

The findings are largely consistent with those of other researchers who follow school-finance issues nationally.

“Given the design of EBF and the evidence basis on which it was built, this is about what I would

expect. I mean, it’s actually a little better than I would have expected,” Bruce Baker, a school-finance researcher at the University of Miami, said in an interview. “To a significant extent, it leveled out the resources, but it, by no stretch of the imagination, brought the state to equal educational opportunity.”

Evidence-Based Funding
The Evidence-Based Funding formula came about after years of negotiations among legislators and stakeholders who were searching for a way to reform what many considered to be the most inequitable school-funding system in the country.

“I have always talked about Pennsylvania and Illinois as being kind of the equity trainwreck states,” Baker said. “Connecticut has taken Illinois’ place in that role.”

At that time, according to State Report Card data, Illinois was spending about \$7 billion a year funding public schools, less than one-fourth of the total \$28.4 billion being spent by the state’s public schools. Federal funding provided another \$2.1 billion, or 7.5% of the total.

But more than two-thirds of the total, \$19.3

billion, came from local revenues, primarily property taxes.

Meanwhile, there were vast disparities across the state’s school systems, both in terms of the taxes they levied on property within their boundaries and the money they spent educating their students.

The aim of the new formula was to improve both the adequacy and equity of school funding in Illinois. That involved establishing an “adequacy target” for each district, using research-based evidence to estimate the cost of educating each student in a district.

The formula was predicated on the idea that some students are more expensive to educate than others. That meant the adequacy target had to account for such things as the poverty rate within a district, the percentage of its students from non-English speaking backgrounds, the number of students receiving special-education services and regional cost-of-living differences, among other factors.

“A district that’s 60% to 70% kids from low-income households, 20 to 30% non-English speaking kids, that school or district might

need 40%, 50% or even 100% more in spending per pupil than a district that has no kids from low-income families and no kids who are English learners,” Baker said. “The per-pupil spending really needs to be differentiated based on the costs to achieve common outcomes.”

The law then called for increasing state funding each year by at least \$300 million and earmarking the bulk of that money for the districts furthest below their adequacy target, with the goal of eventually getting all districts up to at least 90% of adequacy.

It also called for funding \$50 million each year in property-tax-relief grants to reduce levies in certain high-tax districts. Districts are awarded grants based on a formula spelled out in statute. Districts are expected to use the grant funds to abate taxes they would otherwise levy.

At Gov. JB Pritzker’s urging, lawmakers did not fund the grants in the fiscal year that just ended June 30 but instead passed a bill calling for the Illinois State Board of Education’s Professional Review Panel to file a report assessing the impact of the program.

That report was released

in March. It found that from 2015 through 2023, total property-tax collections grew in almost every district in the state, although the growth was slightly lower in districts that had received the grants than those that did not.

Lawmakers renewed the grant program for the fiscal year that began July 1 but extended the period in which districts must use the funds to abate taxes to three years.

In the years since the EBF formula was adopted, overall annual state funding for schools has increased more than \$3 billion, to an estimated \$10.8 billion in the fiscal year that just began.

Out of 850 elementary, high school and unit school districts in the state, according to ISBE’s EBF distribution data, the number of districts that are

funded at or above 90% of their adequacy target has grown from 194 in fiscal year 2018 to 313 in 2026.

But after nine years under the EBF model, that still leaves 537 districts, 63% of the total, funded at less than 90% of adequacy. ISBE reported during this year’s budgeting process that it would take an additional \$3 billion to get all districts up to at least 90% of adequacy.

But an analysis of school-finance data covering the first eight years of the EBF formula shows the state has made only modest progress to improve the equity of its school-finance system, either in terms of the taxes people pay to fund their local schools and the amount of resources those districts devote to classroom instruction.



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Elmwood C.U.S.D. #322 REGISTRATION FOR NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS 2026-2027

BEGIN/END DATES: Monday, July 6th 8:00 AM – Friday, July 31st at midnight
Please access your TeacherEase account to complete the registration process. In-person registration will be on Thursday, July 23rd from 10:00am to 2:30pm in the elementary office or 2:30pm to 7:00pm in the high school lower commons. (A separate packet will be sent out by the school nurse the first full week of school for any required forms - medical or otherwise)

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

Wednesday, August 12th: Backpack Night for PreK-12 6:00-7:30PM
Wednesday, August 12th: 7th Grade Orientation at 6:30PM
Thursday, August 13th: First Day of School - 8:10AM – 2:15PM

PHYSICALS / DENTAL EXAMS / IMMUNIZATIONS

***All student health & immunization records must be on file before the start of school.**
Examinations: Students entering Kindergarten, 6th and 9th Grades must have a new physical exam on file in the school office before being allowed to start school. Students entering Kindergarten, 2nd, 6th, and 9th grades are required to have a dental examination. Students enrolling in Kindergarten or upon first entry into an Illinois school beyond Kindergarten (i.e., grades 1-12) are required to have an eye exam. **Please Note:** It is also recommended that children entering Kindergarten or Preschool for the first time be lead tested.
Immunizations: One chickenpox/varicella vaccination is required for Pre-School and proof of having had two chickenpox/varicella vaccinations is required for students entering Kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades or a letter from their physician stating they’ve had the chicken pox. All students entering 6th grade are required to have proof of completion of the Hepatitis B series shots. All students entering, transferring, or advancing into 6th through 12th grades will be required to show proof of receipt of one dose of DTap vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) and proof of receipt of two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, Rubella). All students entering 6th & 7th grades will be required to show proof of one dose of Meningococcal Meningitis vaccine given on or after their 11th birthday. All students entering 12th grade will be required to show proof of two Meningococcal Meningitis vaccines with the second dose being given on or after their 16th birthday. (Only one dose is needed IF the student’s first dose was given at age sixteen years or later).

FEES & INFORMATION

Registration: Kindergarten students must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2026, in order to enroll and will be screened as part of the registration process. To reserve a screening date for your child, please call 309-742-4261. All Kindergarten and newly enrolled students must bring a certified copy of live birth when registering. All students will need to bring their social security number with them when registering.

Book Rental & Technology Fees:
\$110.00 – K-6
\$125.00 – 7-8
\$150.00 – 9-12
\$25.00 – K-12 (Tech. Ins.)

Additional Fees:
\$150.00 – Driver’s Education
\$35.00 – Art Class
\$25.00 – Foods Class

Sports Fees:
HS - \$50/sport (max per athlete \$70)
JH - \$40/sport (max per athlete \$50)
5th/6th grades - \$40/sport
(\$120 max sports fee per family)

Lunch Prices:
\$2.85 – K-6
\$3.10 – 7-12
(Free/reduced lunch applications available at registration)

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Elmwood 2026 Fall Sports Start Dates

A Junior High Fall Sports Parent/Guardian Meeting will be held on Friday, July 31st at 5:45 pm in the HS Auditorium. Please plan to attend!

- *Elmwood Junior High Softball** - 1st practice Monday, July 27th; Sweetwater Park; 5:00-7:00 pm.
- *Elmwood Junior High Baseball** - 1st practice Monday, August 3rd; Sweetwater Park; 3:45-5:45 pm.
- *Elmwood Junior High Cross Country** - 1st practice Monday, August 3rd; Elmwood JH; 8:00-9:15 am.
- *Elmwood Junior High Girls Basketball** - 1st practice Monday, September 14th; Elem. Gym; 5:00-7:00 pm
- *Elmwood/Brimfield Trojan Football** - 1st practice - Wednesday, August 15th; 4:00-7:00 pm. Parent meeting Sunday, August 2nd 7:30pm; EHS Auditorium.
- *E/B High School Spirit Squad** - 1st practice Monday, August 3rd; HS Commons; 9:00 am - noon.
- *E/B High School Boys and Girls Cross Country** - 1st practice Monday, August 10th; EHS; 6:30 am. Parent meeting Monday, August 10th at 6:45 pm; Elmwood HS Gym.
- *Elmwood High School Volleyball** - 1st practice Monday, August 10th; HS Gym; 4:00-7:00 pm. Parent meeting Monday, August 10th at 7:00 pm; Elmwood HS Gym.
- *Elmwood Boys/Girls Golf** - 1st practice Monday, August 10th; Maple Lane Country Club; 8:00 am. Parent meeting August 10th; 7:00pm; Elmwood HS Commons.

Every Junior High and High School athlete must have an updated physical on file at their school to be able to participate in the first practice.

Athletic Activity Fees

- HS football, cross country, basketball, track, volleyball, baseball, softball, golf, cheerleading, spirit squad, dance:
Per sport \$50 ~ Max per individual \$70
- JH basketball, volleyball, cross country, track, baseball and softball, cheerleading: Per sport \$40 ~ Max per individual \$50
• 5th & 6th - grade basketball: Per sport \$40

****The athletic activity fee is a maximum of \$120 per family, whether athletes are in HS, JH, or 5th & 6th grade.**

Weekly Post Sports

Otto named Farmers girls coach

By JEFF LAMPE
For The Weekly Post

FARMINGTON – During the search for a new girls basketball coach this year, Athletic Director Jeff Otto came to a realization. He missed coaching.

That will change this fall, when Otto will take over as head girls basketball coach at Farmington. He was officially approved for the job Monday by the School Board.



Otto compiled a record of 145-68 in eight seasons as boys basketball coach at Farmington before taking over as athletic director in 2021. Prior to that he went 65-96 in six seasons as head boys coach at Canton.

“I feel like I still have a lot of things I can give back to the kids and to the younger coaches I’m going to mentor,” Otto said. “I’m excited and I think the kids are excited.”

Otto said there were internal and external applicants to replace Donovan Benson, who had a record

of 15-45 in two seasons as girls coach.

But Otto indicated the internal candidates, while promising, could benefit from more experience. Two of those are Judd Anderson and Addi Pickens, who helped Otto this summer along with veteran coach Jodi Rathbun.

Led by seniors Lindsey Schreiber and Avery Blunier, Farmington had a good summer, Otto said, noting there is also talent in the underclass ranks.

He heads into this season

optimistic about improving on the 41-126 record the girls program has compiled in the past six seasons.

“I will say the girls we have right now are great. They’re hungry for somebody to come in and teach them,” Otto said. “We had a pretty good summer and there’s some excitement there.”

“What we need to make sure we do is to start from the bottom and develop our vision and make sure everyone is in line with it, from Bidy Ball on up.”

**AT THE MOOSE LODGE THIS WEEK!**

July 16	Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30pm Jackpot \$28,402.50 (Tickets available all week) Loaded Baked Potato 5:30-7:30pm
July 17	Fried Chicken 5-7pm
July 18	9:30 Auction - Breakfast & Lunch Served
July 20	Cheeseburger & Apps. 5-7pm Bingo 6:30pm (doors open at 5pm) \$8 Pizza Every Tuesday Free Pool & Juke Box Every Wednesday
UPCOMING	
July 24	Live Music with Captain Geech 7:30pm

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