



Dreamstime/TNS

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**In today's paper**  
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**Jeff Jones, 1B**



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## Last two searchers credited for finding missing Swansea man

BY CAROLYN P. SMITH  
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**SWANSEA**  
Bill Crispin, the Swansea man missing for a week, was found alive Saturday morning after an extensive search led by local police and dedicated volunteers,

authorities said.  
Crispin, missing since Aug. 23, was located at the back of a cornfield across from Christ Church, according to Swansea Deputy Police Chief Keith Howard. A search party of 61 community members and 12 Missouri Valley Search and Rescue team members helped police

comb the area.  
“They went methodically through areas we couldn’t cover with drones, helicopters or airplanes,” Howard said. “At the very back of the cornfield, the volunteers found him.”  
Howard said the last two searchers to leave the cornfield checked the wood line and dis-

covered Crispin alive, hidden by thick brush. Crews had to use a machete to cut through and reach him.  
“His vitals were good. He was talking and blinking his eyes. Obviously, he was very weak—he’d been there about a week,” Howard said. Crispin was taken to a local hospital, where doc-



Bill Crispin

tors are caring for him.  
Howard, expressing gratitude for the community’s help, said, “It was the citizens who showed up who found him.

The community came through and located Mr. Crispin.”  
Crispin, who had left the Grand Manor Assisted Living Center on Frank Scott Parkway, was found lying in thick vines between trees, nearly invisible to passersby. Searchers had to

**SEE SEARCHERS, 2A**



JULIA RENDLEMAN For Capitol News Illinois

Cortnie Stewart, who suffered a traumatic brain injury in a 1997 car crash, looks up at her mother Judy Stegle at their home in Jonesboro, Illinois. A nearby nonprofit provided respite services to aid in her full-time care before closing as result of the budget impasse.

## State human services leaders fear fallout from federal cuts

BY CASEY TONER AND HANNAH MEISEL AND MOLLY PARKER  
*Capitol News Illinois & Illinois Answers Project*

**JONESBORO, ILL.**  
It was a bitterly cold evening on Jan. 19, 1997, when Judy Stegle and her husband, Mike, received the call that would upend their lives forever.  
Their 17-year-old daughter, Cortnie Stewart, a softball and

basketball standout at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School, a gifted painter with a spunky attitude, had taken the car without permission to drive to Harrisburg. She hit black ice and the car landed on her after she was thrown from the vehicle. When the ambulance arrived, she was unconscious.  
Cortnie woke up 13 days later in a hospital in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

“She opened her eyes and she saw me, and she started crying,” Judy Stegle said. “And they said, ‘Well, that’s great that she has emotions.’”  
But Cortnie had suffered extensive brain damage. She’d never speak again, or feed herself, or go to the bathroom without help. She would live, but she would need round-the-clock care for the rest of her life.

A few years later, the Stegles reached out to the Delta Center, which provided respite care services. That meant even just a few hours a week where someone from the Cairo-based nonprofit organization could step in for the Stegles. Enough time for Judy Stegle to run to the doctor, get her hair done, maybe grab a meal with her husband at the

**SEE LEADERS, 6A**

## Enyart criticizes possible National Guard in Chicago

BY WILL BAUER  
*St. Louis Public Radio*

The former leader of the Illinois National Guard is highly critical of the prospect of President Donald Trump ordering guard members to Chicago to control crime.  
Bill Enyart, former Adjutant General of Illinois and a former Democratic Congressman who lives in Belleville, said an order like that would not only be a “terrific misuse” of the guard but also poses serious legal concerns.  
“The core mission is the defense of the United States of America in battling overseas adversaries,” Enyart said of the National Guard. “It’s not in providing domestic law enforcement.”



Bill Enyart

Trump’s Border Czar, Tom Homan, said there will be a post-Labor Day deportation campaign in Chicago. The Chicago Sun-Times also reports a Naval station in the area could possibly house National Guard troops in September.  
*Enyart spoke recently with St. Louis Public Radio Metro East reporter Will Bauer. The following conversation has been edited for length and clarity.*  
**Bauer:** When you first heard that President Trump was planning to send National Guard troops to Chicago, what went through your mind?  
**Enyart:** The National Guard is not a law enforcement organization. It is a military reserve organization. The core mission is the defense of the United States of America in battling overseas adversaries. It’s not in providing domestic law enforcement.  
There is a secondary mission to the National Guard, and that is to provide a force for the governors of the states to use under the governor’s command and control for emergencies such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, blizzards. Occasionally, the governors also use us for, it’s called civil disturbance, or sometimes newspapers call it riot control. But it’s civil disturbance. But that’s pretty infrequent compared to all of our

**SEE ENYART, 7A**

## Coroner identifies man shot by O’Fallon police officer

BY CAROLYN P. SMITH  
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**O’FALLON**  
The identity of a knife-wielding man who was fatally shot by an O’Fallon police officer Friday night has been released by the St. Clair County coroner’s office.  
Police were dispatched to

the 6300 block of West Madison to investigate a report of a knife-wielding man. They arrived to two people covered in blood and running from him.  
Officers ordered the man to put his knife down and he refused. An officer then fatally shot the man, according to an Illinois State Police news release.


St. Clair County Coroner Calvin Dye Sr. identified the man as Matthew J. Blanke, 53, of the 600 block of West Madison, O’Fallon, which is near the site of the shooting.  
Blanke was pronounced dead at the scene at 8:07 p.m., Dye said.  
The two victims, who authorities did not identify, were taken to an area hospital with

non-life threatening cuts and stab wounds.  
The officer who shot and killed Blanke has not been identified. The officer was not injured.  
O’Fallon police said in a statement that, per state law and their department policy, Illinois State Police was called to investigate the shooting.  
All reports will be turned over to St. Clair County State’s Attorney Jim Gomric’s office to determine if any charges will be filed.  
No further information about the shooting was released.



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