

How Ben Johnson turned the Chicago Bears around

PAGE B1



A list of colors trending in '26 to paint your home with

PAGE B5

Friday, February 6, 2026

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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT | LATHAM

DEVELOPERS TOUT DATA CENTER PLANS



DREW ZIMMERMAN, THE PANTAGRAPH

Roughly 100 people listen at a town hall about Hut 8's proposed data center near Latham on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at the Lincoln Banquet Center in Lincoln.

At town hall, Logan Co. residents wary of water, power use

DREW ZIMMERMAN
drew.zimmerman@lee.net

LINCOLN — Developers of a proposed 500-megawatt data center on 200 acres of agricultural land near Latham spoke of economic benefits, tax revenue and local job creation at a town hall meeting Thursday in Lincoln, but attendees were skeptical.

Representatives of Hut 8, a Miami-based digital infrastructure provider, were on hand to answer questions from roughly 100 people about the project, which is estimated to be a \$5 billion investment that could yield up to \$65 million in property tax revenue annually.

Members of the public questioned potential impact on water supplies, electricity and farmland as well as the overall benefit to residents of Latham.

Peter Goehausen, director of energy origination for Hut 8, said that over the last month, his company talked to a lot of people in the community, and while the region has some of the best farmland in America, the project can diversify some of the county's revenue away from its agricultural roots.

He also noted the loss of residents who have moved to Springfield and of local jobs.

"What we think we have is a pathway to bring some of it back," Goehausen said.

Local jobs

In addition to the property tax revenue,

Goehausen said his company has worked with UA Local 137 Plumbers and Steamfitters on a commitment to union labor for construction work, which is estimated to bring about 1,500 temporary jobs.

Another 200 full-time jobs ranging from engineering to information technology to security would then be created to keep the center operational, he said.

Although some residents were receptive to the prospect of additional jobs and property tax revenue, many were skeptical that utility rates wouldn't be affected. The suggestion that jobs would be created locally and not be filled by residents of Springfield and other communities outside Logan County was also challenged.

One resident from Mount Pulaski said that when prime agricultural farmland is taken out of production for a project like this, it could set a precedent for Logan County to use additional land.

Based on community feedback, Hut 8 representatives said they will work to provide additional data on property values in the area, potential noise levels and the potential benefits to the people of Latham, many of whom claimed that they would reap none of the financial benefits of the project.

Please see DATA CENTER, Page A2

NUCLEAR POLICY

50 years of arms control ends

Final nuclear pact last in long line of Russia, US weapons treaties

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, KAMILA HRABCHUK AND EMMA BURROWS
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said Thursday it regretted the expiration of the last remaining nuclear arms pact between Russia and the United States that left no caps on the two largest atomic arsenals for the first time in more than a half-century.

Arms control experts say the termination of the New START Treaty could set the stage for an unconstrained nuclear arms race.

Russian President Vladimir Putin last year declared his readiness to stick to the treaty's limits for another year if Washington followed suit, but U.S. President Donald Trump didn't commit to extending it. He indicated he wants China to be a part of a new pact — something Beijing rebuffed.

Putin discussed the pact's expiration with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Wednesday, noting the U.S. failure to respond to his proposal to extend its limits and saying that Russia "will act in a balanced and responsible manner based on thorough analysis of the security situation," Kremlin adviser Yuri Ushakov said.

Please see NUCLEAR, Page A2

NFL | POLITICS

ICE concerns loom over Super Bowl

STEVEN SLOAN AND STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Don't tune into the Super Bowl hoping for a break from the tumultuous politics gripping the U.S.

The NFL is facing pressure ahead of Sunday's game between the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots to take a more explicit stance against the Trump administration's aggressive immigration enforcement. More than 184,000 people have signed a petition calling on the league to denounce the potential presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Super Bowl, which is being held at Levi's Stadium in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Meanwhile, anticipation is building around how Bad Bunny, the halftime show's Spanish-speaking headliner, will address the moment. He has criticized President Donald Trump on everything from his hurricane response

Please see SUPER BOWL, Page A3

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Inside			
ADVICE	B6	HOME	B5
OBITUARIES	A5	SPORTS	B1-B3
OPINION	A7	TV HIGHLIGHTS	B6

