



NFL: Williams among the top QBs still in postseason

SPORTS, 1B

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Canadian farmers' strategies adapting to droughts, floods



FIGHTING THE CLIMATE

Adaptation practices – which tend to be costly and require cutting-edge technologies – have enabled many farmers to ride out a drought that began in 2020. PHOTOS BY ED WHITE/REUTERS

Ed White REUTERS

WAWANESA, Manitoba – When farmer Simon Ellis first drove his combine into his 2025 crop, he expected “catastrophic failure,” after a season of flooding followed by a long drought.

But instead of shriveled kernels, plump seeds of wheat, oats and soybeans poured into his combine.

Ellis, 38, a fourth-generation farmer in Wawanesa, Manitoba, credits investments in pricey systems including minimum and zero-till farming which help protect soil; tile drainage, an underground system to prevent flooding; slow-release fertilizer pellets, which are more effective; and advice from a professional agronomist on weedkillers.

“We are constantly making little tweaks,” he said. “That’s how we’re going to be able to keep fighting the changing climate.”

Across much of western Canada, farmers like Ellis have been turning out strikingly better crops despite hotter and drier conditions – far above what farmers in the region could have expected in better conditions years ago, according to Canadian government data, thanks in part to widespread embrace of climate adaptation strategies.

While greater yields in Canada and elsewhere are depressing global prices for grains, they are keeping many farmers in business.

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Komie Hossini of Bayer examines test plots of camelina, a drought-resistant oilseed, at his company’s research farm near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, on July 16, 2025.

Fundraiser set up for ICE agent who killed woman

Zach Roth
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent with Peoria ties who fatally shot a woman in Minneapolis last week had a GoFundMe page set up for him, with hundreds of thousands of dollars raised as of Tuesday.

Jonathan Ross, a 2001 graduate of Richwoods High School in Peoria, shot and killed Renee Good, 37, on Jan. 7 in the midst of immigration enforcement activity in Minneapolis.

A GoFundMe page set up in the name of Clyde Emmons had raised over \$625,000 as of Tuesday afternoon, surpassing its original goal of \$550,000. The goal on Tuesday had been raised to \$800,000, with donations continuing to come in. Emmons said he created the page in response to fundraisers for Good.

“I feel that the officer that was 1000 percent justified in the shooting deserves to have a go fund me,” Emmons said in the GoFundMe post. “Funds will go to help him.”

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People gather at a makeshift memorial for Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis on January 10, 2026. Good, 37, was shot and killed on Wednesday by Jonathan Ross, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement removal officer based in Minnesota. The shooting happened amid an immigration enforcement action. CODY SCANLAN/THE REGISTER

Here’s what IL lawmakers are focusing on as session resumes



The Illinois Senate got started on Jan. 13. The Illinois House of Representatives begins session on Jan. 20. Sessions wrap up in late May for both chambers. THOMAS J. TURNEY/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Tom Ackerman
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois lawmakers are heading into the second year of the 104th General Assembly in Illinois this week.

The Illinois Senate got started on Jan. 13. The Illinois House of Representatives begins session on Jan. 20.

Sessions wrap up in late May for both chambers.

Here’s a look at the year ahead in the statehouse.

In the Senate

Reached by the SJ-R, Illinois Senate

President Don Harmon said his priority at the beginning of any spring session is passing “another responsible, balanced budget.”

“The members will start to file their own bills and certainly we’ll try to work with them to help them accomplish the objectives that the folks who sent them to Springfield are counting on them to achieve, but I don’t think any broader caucus agenda has snapped into focus yet for me and for our top team. It’s about making sure we pass a responsible, balanced budget,” he said.

Shrinking federal support for programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, and child care, has created about a \$4 billion loss

for Illinois, Harmon said.

He added that lawmakers have been eyeing the national economy and watching revenue estimates as they prepare to pass the budget.

“This year, we’ve been predicting a more challenging year as the national economy cooled off. The revenue estimates have been largely uncharted. Some are performing better than we would have expected, which would normally be good for the budget, but every morning I wake up and wonder what hole Washington is going to blow in our budget today, and this morning it was a billion dollar hole in proposed cuts to

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