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a used car

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Most Improved Player



E F F I N G H A M

DAILY NEWS

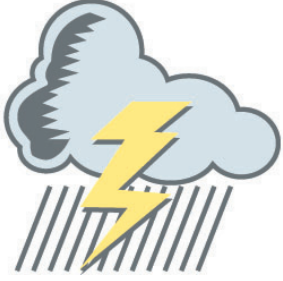
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THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

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WEATHER



Today: Warm; a thunder storm in spots in the morning with a high of 81 degrees and a low of 54 degrees.

Tomorrow: Partly sunny and very warm with a high of 81 degrees and a low of 50 degrees.

Full report, **Page A2**

ONLINE



EffinghamDailyNews.com and on social media

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HISTORY

Today is Thursday, April 16, the 106th day of 2026. There are 259 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 16, 2007, Seung-hui Cho, a 23-year-old Virginia Tech student, killed 32 people on the Virginia Tech campus before taking his own life. It remains the deadliest school shooting in US history.

On this date:

- In 1866, a crate of nitroglycerine that had been shipped from New York to California by way of Panama exploded in the Wells Fargo building in San Francisco, killing 14 people and shattering windows up to a half mile away. (The blast prompted passage of a federal law banning shipments of explosives on passenger vessels.)



GOOD DEEDS



Marie Adamick | Daily News

Tim Matlock with his equipment, including large trash bags, gloves, a wheelbarrow and a safety vest.

Effingham resident's clean-up efforts appreciated in community

MARIE ADAMICK
 DAILY NEWS

Effingham resident Tim Matlock has been picking up litter on Effingham's streets over the past few months. And people have noticed.

Matlock first posted to the "Effingham Insider" Facebook group on March 22 about his clean-ups beneath the Fayette Avenue underpass and U.S. Route 40 between Effingham and Teutopolis. Each time he checked the two posts, they had gained another few-dozen likes. His two posts have garnered over 1,200.

Community members flooded the post with "thank-you" comments and how the city should be paying him for his work. Someone else asked if he had Venmo to send him tips.

"Once it hit about 300 [likes], I went out and hit another spot. I posted another one. They just kept getting likes, so I just kept going with it," said Matlock. "Nobody's cleaned it up for years, so I went in and did it. And everybody was pretty happy with it."

The equipment that Matlock uses – including a wheelbarrow, trash can, trash bags and gloves – stays in his truck. So if Matlock drives past a spot with a lot of litter, he can pull over and clean it up.

See **CLEAN-UP** on A2



Photo courtesy Timothy Matlock

The area between Walmart and the strip mall that Tim Matlock cleaned up on Easter.



Cathy Griffith | Daily News

From left, Effingham County State's Attorney Aaron Jones answers questions about data centers and solar farms, as Effingham County Chief Deputy Travis Buhnerkempe, County Clerk Michelle Kollmann and County Board member Norbert Soitwedel listen.

Resident questions county officials on data centers, solar farms

CATHY GRIFFITH
 DAILY NEWS

EFFINGHAM — While the state legislature considers data center regulations, an Effingham County resident questioned officials about how locals will be informed if a new center plans to open nearby.

On Monday, Mary Ann Hoeffliger asked the Effingham County Board Administrative Committee if the public would be notified about potential sites and details for proposed data centers.

"Obviously, there are a lot of people watching data centers for good reason," said Hoeffliger.

Effingham County Board Chairman Joshua Douthit said there would be a public hearing, although that would be late in the application process. Still, he pointed out that it would be a way to disclose the proposed data center's location to the public. He added that the application would also be posted on the county's website.

The County Board oversees only unincorporated areas of the county, such as Heartville and Funkhouser. Those areas are outside the zoning jurisdiction of any city or village. Gail Technology, for example, is building a data center and solar power array on the north side of Effingham. The Bannockburn-based company's project is at 15244 E. 1700th Ave. There was a public hearing before the Effingham City Council, which later approved the special use permit the project requires.

Hoeffliger asked county officials if they could hold the public hearings at a more convenient time for the public, instead of in the afternoon. Douthit said the hearing officer and attorney representing the county would set the hearing schedule.

See **COUNTY** on A7

Effingham's newest way to interact with visitors

MARIE ADAMICK
 DAILY NEWS

Effingham Tourism Director Jodi Thoele recently informed the city council of a potential partnership with Bandwango – a digital passport company – for future visitors to the city.

By partnering with Bandwango, Thoele would help create digital passports that could be personalized and accumulate themed itineraries, discounts and promotional incentives.

"We see it as a way to track our visitors. We see it as a way to interact with them, and also as a way to highlight a lot of our local stuff," said Thoele.

Thoele plans to partner with local businesses and hotels in the area to help advertise the unique experiences.

"It'll be a way for us to kind of be on the frontlines without us actually being there," said Thoele.

In other news, the city conducted a water-rates study that occurs every four years to identify retail and wholesale rates. The study projects the city's operations costs, maintenance costs, salaries, capital projects and more.

This year, the study predicts that the retail rate will increase 2% every year for the next four years – com-

See **COUNCIL** on A2



Marie Adamick | Daily News

Effingham Tourism Director Jodi Thoele discusses the potential partnership with Bandwango during the April 7 city council meeting to enhance city visitors' experiences, while Mayor Mike Schutzbach (left) and City Attorney Tracy Willenborg (right) take notes.

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