



## 2 Bradley Braves honored on teams

SPORTS, 1B

# Journal Star

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## Pritzker mentioned in Epstein testimony

**Hannah Hudnall**  
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Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker was mentioned during former President Bill Clinton's testimony about Jeffrey Epstein last week.

Both Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton agreed to testify in person about the late sex offender after the House moved toward a vote to hold them in contempt of Congress.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform released footage of the two's testimonies on March 2.

### What did Bill Clinton say about JB Pritzker?

During his testimony, Bill Clinton was asked about 26 flights he took on planes "connected to Jeffrey Epstein," replying that many were taken on behalf of his charitable organization, the Clinton Foundation. He said at the time he

"had no idea of the crimes Epstein was committing."

When asked who he typically brought on such flights, he replied that he often brought people he worked with, Secret Service members and "people who volunteered to help us."

"For example, I think it was on one of these trips," Bill Clinton said. "I think that I had my first for the man who's now the governor of Illinois, JB Pritzker and his wife. They gave me, they helped me get started."

### Clinton, Pritzker staff speak out about Epstein testimony

Bill Clinton's Deputy Chief of Staff, Angel Ureña, later said on X that the former president was "simply giving an example" of the people he traveled with to see the Clinton Foundation's work.

"Governor Pritzker joined a Clinton Foundation trip in 2008," Ureña said. "Not on Epstein's plane. Not with

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## Trump criticizes top U.S. allies over war



President Donald Trump meets with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in the Oval Office on March 3, taking questions from reporters for the first time since the joint Israeli-U.S. strikes on Iran. ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

### Israel didn't force timing of attacks, president says

**Michael Loria, Zac Anderson, Jeanine Santucci, Francesca Chambers, Kim Hjelmgard, Michael Collins, Rebecca Morin and Medora Lee**  
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump slammed top U.S. allies, including the United Kingdom, as the war with Iran expands and warned Americans that they may have to deal with "a little high" oil prices as crude costs soared and the stock market tumbled.

"If we have a little high oil prices for a little while, but as soon as this ends those prices are gonna drop, I believe lower than even before," Trump said after taking questions from reporters in the Oval Office for the first time since the joint Israeli-U.S. strikes on Iran began.

U.S. and Israeli military forces attacked Iran on Feb. 28, killing Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Officials from the United States and Israel said they have launched more than 1,200 strikes aimed at destroying Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear development programs.

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A plume of smoke rises after a strike on Tehran, Iran, on March 3. Secretary of State Marco Rubio predicted "the hardest hits are yet to come" against Iran. ATTA KENARE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Peoria principal named finalist for award

**Cassidy Waigand**  
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A Peoria principal is one of seven finalists for the 2026 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Leadership.

Fabian Daniels, principal of Annie Jo Gordon Community Learning Center, was selected from a pool of nearly 100 nominees, according to Illinois nonprofit The Golden Apple Foundation.

Daniels, who has worked at the school for 25 years, became principal in 2013. The Golden Apple Foundation said she has fostered engagement and unity.

Under her leadership, chronic absenteeism has decreased and the school received an Illinois school designation of Commendable.

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## Shootings up, no homicides yet in Peoria

**Zach Roth**  
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Shootings in the city of Peoria have increased over the first two months of 2026 compared to last year, but the city has yet to see a homicide, according to data released Monday by the Peoria Police Department.

Police said that there had been seven shooting incidents in the first two months of 2026, slightly up from five between January and February 2025, an increase of 40% year-over-year. Despite this, the city has yet to see a homicide two months into the year, compared to a single homicide recorded during this same period last year.

The police department's data showed that there had been 847 rounds fired early in 2026, up 61% from the 526 rounds fired over the first two months of 2025. The city also recorded

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