



Bears not viewing clash vs. floundering Browns as 'trap game'

SPORTS, 6A

SERVING THE LOGAN COUNTY AREA SINCE 1856

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'COMMUNITY OF HELPERS'



Marissa DeWeese of Springfield loads supplies into bags during a food/essentials drive for Springfield micropantries at Prevention First on Nov. 22. There are 35 or so micropantries in the area. PHOTOS BY STEVEN SPEARIE/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Volunteers say micropantries more essential than ever



The micropantry at First Presbyterian Church, 321 S. Seventh St., in downtown Springfield on Nov. 26, 2025. It is on the Capitol Avenue side of the church.

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – About a dozen or so workers sort canned vegetables, soups, pasta, peanut butter, sauces, cereals, drinks and cooking oils and toiletries and place the items into bags at the Prevention First building on Springfield's westside on a recent Saturday.

At a later appointed time, Marissa DeWeese said, suppliers and point persons for the three dozen or so micropantries in and around the Springfield area will pick up the bags. The micropantries, which burgeoned during the CO-

VID pandemic, operate on a simple premise: "Leave what you can, take what you want."

Because the micropantries are run by volunteers, drives like this one, put on by the Junior League of Springfield and the Springfield branch of the American Association of University Women, and others engineered by Springfield Civic Garden Club, are essential.

"We were doing (the drive) in December and last year we determined maybe we should do it right before Thanksgiving," DeWeese said. "The

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Top area homes sold in October

Properties feature pools, theater rooms and more

Claire Grant
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – October was an overly busy month for homebuyers in Sangamon County.

Every month, the Sangamon County Property Tax and Parcel group is updated with how many parcels were processed and sold. The list counts every type of land acquisition from farmland to commercial to residential and usually falls somewhere in the deep 200s category. In October of 2025 however, 385 listed sales for land took place across County lines, the bulk being housing.

Mid-October tends to present lower prices compared to peak summer months, when sales are usually at their highest due to weather and more tours for potential homes, according to Forbes.

Here are the top 10 most expensive homes sold in October in Sangamon County.

10. 2317 Mariners Point Lane, Springfield

Price: \$526,000

Date: Oct. 21

Size: 3,786 square feet

Description: This home is located by Lake Springfield and the Island Bay Yacht Club. Featuring four bedrooms and four bathrooms spanning this quiet cul-de-sac home, the first step

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A home at 2317 Mariners Point Lane in Springfield on Dec. 1. It sold for \$526,000 on Oct. 21. THOMAS J. TURNERY/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

SJ-R staff chime in on what makes the holidays memorable

Claire Grant, Steven Spearie and Tom Ackerman

Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

The holiday season is one that many people enjoy because it evokes togetherness, song, and gifts. But do you and your family have any traditions that are unique?

Here at The State Journal-Register, we wanted to share some of our own holiday traditions and what makes the holidays memorable to us when we clock out, put away the pen and notebook, and head home.

Happy holidays from the SJ-R!

Tom Ackerman

When I think about the holidays, what comes to mind is being outside as a boy. I think of my neighborhood that is covered in snow and the quiet that comes with winter. And I think of the warm glow from my house as I near it from playing outside. My fingers and cheeks are cold, but I feel at ease because all my family is around.

My brother might be inside, sleeping late with our dog, Sadie, or he might be playing a video game. Mom could be baking cookies or setting up her Christmas village, while a playlist of Christmas music sets the tone.

Dad may have just come in from shoveling the driveway – wearing his tan work boots and jeans, as if it were the required uniform. We might ice skate at the park later, where he would sport the same attire, plus a hockey stick.

I remember our neighbor who was a homey, friendly staple. Every year, she walked over, dressed very nicely and carrying a variety of cookies. Some of the cookies contained green dye, which were delicious but had questionable effects on digestion.

At the annual tree lighting in town, Santa wished everyone a Merry Christmas from atop a driving firetruck – only

the microphone would cut out. People cheered as he said, "Merry....mas... Christma.."

Santa used to make his appearance from the roof of the tall, historic home there, but I heard they stopped that tradition because it was too icy and dangerous.

Claire Grant

When it comes to Christmas traditions with my family, I could share the tonal shift I usually associate with the holiday and how differently the two

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