



# Which of the remaining unbeatens takes over No. 1?

SPORTS, 1B

SERVING THE LOGAN COUNTY AREA SINCE 1856

# The Courier

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# Loud sounds have hidden health risks



When using power tools, lawn equipment or other machinery, wear properly fitted earplugs or earmuffs from the start, rather than waiting until the noise becomes uncomfortable. PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

## Noise pollution a serious but often forgotten hazard

Laura Coco  
San Diego State University | THE CONVERSATION

The human body is remarkably good at getting used to the environment around it. You've probably experienced this if you've ever gone to a matinee and emerged from the dark theater into sunshine. Your eyes sting, so you squint and shield your face until they adjust to the bright sunlight. • In the same way, the body can grow accustomed to constant noise. With repeated exposure to traffic, leaf blowers, construction, loud music, crowded restaurants, fitness classes and sporting events, you can become accustomed to loud environments. Over time, what once seemed unusually loud may barely register.

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Hearing damage is only part of the story. Noise acts as a stressor, activating the autonomic nervous and endocrine systems and affecting heart rate, blood pressure and other physiological processes.

## Expert: Why IL gas prices are up 40 percent

Tom Ackerman  
Springfield State Journal-Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

If you think gas prices have gone up compared to this time last year in Illinois, you'd be correct.

Illinois residents are paying 40% more for gasoline than it was a year ago.

That's \$1.367 more than last year, according to a state-by-state map from Patrick De Haan, who is the head petroleum analyst at GasBuddy/PDI Technologies.

A year ago, Illinoisans were paying \$3.374 per gallon, while as of late September 2026, Illinoisans were paying \$4.741 at the pump.

### Diesel prices in Illinois

Diesel prices have increased much more than regular gas prices. The price increased by 80.7% since last year, which is an increase of \$3.025 per gallon.

The price a year ago was \$3.749. As of Sept. 29, the diesel price jumped to \$6.774 per gallon.

### Why the increase?

The SJ-R spoke with De Haan about factors impacting prices in Illinois.

All states are seeing higher prices tags, but in Illinois, part of the reason prices shot up so significantly a couple weeks ago is because a refinery in Joliet is getting back online. Floodwater had overwhelmed a pump in mid-September.

Other impacts, De Haan said, are the geopolitical tensions – the U.S. attacking Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which is now starting to see a little more product and oil flow through it, he said on Oct. 2.

“More specific, though to the price of diesel; Ukraine's attacks on Russian oil refineries have curtailed Russia's ability to export diesel. And so that has as an impact for both gas and diesel, but much more on diesel than gasoline,” De Haan said.

Asked about why some states have higher prices than others, De Haan said a lot of it has to do with their gasoline taxes and the regulatory environment.

“The west coast, California has a

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# Two homes surpass \$1M mark in Springfield area

Claire Grant  
Springfield State Journal-Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – Homes in Sangamon County continue to sell at a quick rate.

The county remains a deep seller's market, usually being sold within two

weeks of being listed, regardless of the price tag.

Several homes sold for top dollar in the month of August, including two homes selling for more than \$1 million.

Here's a look at the 10 most expensive homes sold in the Springfield area in August.

### 10. 5037 Wesley Chapel Road, New Berlin

**Price:** \$585,000  
**Date:** Aug. 24  
**Size:** 4,057 square feet  
**Description:** Built on five acres of land, this New Berlin home was built in

1987 but has several upgrades, including new cabinets with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and electric fixtures throughout the home. The home has four bedrooms and three bathrooms. Outside, there's a patio

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