



## Armour: Hard to see progress after USMNT's same old exit

SPORTS, 1B

# MCDONOUGH COUNTY The Voice

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Stan Courtney, photographed at his home on Lake Gillespie, was one of the foremost independent Bigfoot audio researchers in the U.S. He was featured on Animal Planet's "Finding Bigfoot." Courtney passed away June 18.

PROVIDED BY EVAN COURTNEY

## Illinois man's passionate pursuit of Bigfoot came 'with integrity'

Steven Spearie

Springfield State Journal-Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD — Evan Courtney said his father, Stan Courtney, was one of the foremost independent Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, audio researchers in North America.

He just didn't do a lot of arm-twisting about the subject.

"If you asked him (whether) Bigfoot existed, he would say that he wanted people to look at the evidence and come up with their own conclusions," Evan

Courtney, the executive pastor of The Fields Church in Mattoon told The State Journal-Register recently. "His life wasn't about convincing people. It was about documenting what he experienced and inviting people into a discussion about it."

Stan Courtney, whose day job was as a perfusionist (a specialized medical professional who manages the heart-lung machine during open heart surgery) at HSHS St. John's Hospital for more than three decades before retiring in 2007, died June 18.

He was 78 and had been in hospice

care in Mattoon, where moved to from near Lake Gillespie.

A memorial service was held in Piasa July 3.

He and his wife, Vickie, raised their three sons just north of Pawnee.

Evan Courtney said his father took a scientific approach to Bigfoot. He had a degree in biology from the University of Oregon and fought fires for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska for three years.

"Stan was never known for making sensational claims," his son said. "His

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## What drivers are paying for gas in Illinois as prices fall

Janis Reeser

Springfield State Journal-Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Average gasoline prices across Illinois dropped sharply over the past week, landing just under \$4 a gallon as broader national declines continue. According to a community announcement, the statewide average fell 12.5 cents to \$3.95 per gallon, reflecting continued easing in fuel costs despite ongoing global supply pressures.

The announcement shows prices are now 58.3 cents lower than a month ago but still 56.7 cents higher than the same time a year earlier. National trends tracked closely with state movement, with the U.S. average gasoline price decreasing 6.8 cents over the past week to \$3.71 per gallon.

Diesel prices also declined nationwide, falling 11.8 cents to \$4.758 per gallon, according to the announcement.

### Wide price gaps across Illinois stations

Gas prices vary widely across Illinois, highlighting differences by region and station. The lowest reported price was \$3.09 per gallon, while the highest reached \$5.99 per gallon — a gap of \$2.90 per gallon, according to the announcement.

In several nearby metro areas, prices dropped more steeply than the statewide average. Peoria fell 17.1 cents to \$3.94 per gallon, Champaign dropped 18.7 cents to \$3.67 per gallon and St. Louis declined 6.9 cents to \$3.63 per gallon.

### National trends point to easing summer prices

Across the country, gasoline prices have declined steadily in recent

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## Free ABBA tribute concert coming to Bishop Hill

Nida Tazeen

Galesburg Register-Mail  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Dancing Queen: An ABBA Salute will perform a free concert in Bishop Hill, Illinois, on July 12.

The concert is scheduled for 1 p.m. in the village park in Bishop Hill, Illinois, according to a community announce-

ment. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

Dancing Queen is known for its Las Vegas-style tribute to ABBA.

The show features a dynamic Agnetha and Frida duo, capturing the essence of the iconic pop band with a repertoire of more than 30 hits, including "Waterloo," "Mamma Mia," "SOS," "Knowing Me, Knowing You" and

"Voulez-Vous."

### Variety of food and drinks available

A variety of food and drinks will be available for purchase during the two-hour concert.

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It's no secret that gas prices are significantly higher than they were last July. ERWIN BOSMAN/PIXABAY



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