



Hard to see progress after USMNT's same old exit

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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

Pawnee man's passionate pursuit of Bigfoot came 'with integrity'

Steven Spearie

Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD, IL — 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

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Cuba zoo celebrates birth of Bengal tigers

Ayose Naranjo and Mario Fuentes

REUTERS

HAVANA — For Cuban zookeeper Ángel Cordero, the sight of four Bengal tiger cubs playing in a cage at the Cuban National Zoo is a small miracle on an island stifled by shortages of fuel, medicine and days-long power outages.

The birth of these endangered big cats — including an exceedingly rare white tiger — has revitalized a team of zoo workers, he said, who arrive daily to feed nearly a thousand animals.

"It's only the second time" white tigers have been born in Cuba, he said, gleaming with pride despite the heat and strain of dealing with ongoing challenges. "And I was there for it."

Cordero, who has worked at the zoo for 44 years, has witnessed decades of hardship on the island. But he describes the situation following the U.S. imposition of an oil blockade as an unprecedented challenge for the lion and tiger enclosures.

Workers require more than 5 gallons of diesel fuel daily to distribute food to the zoo's varied array of animals, including buffalo, zebras, rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses. They receive only 1.3 gallons daily, far short of what is needed for proper feeding and maintenance.

Juan Carlos Santos, the zoo director, told Reuters that despite the energy crisis, the animal population has remained stable thanks to the efforts of zoo workers and new partnerships with small, private businesses that contribute supplies to keep the animals alive.

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What drivers are paying for gas in Illinois as prices fall

Janis Reeser

Springfield State Journal-Register

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 state-

wide 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

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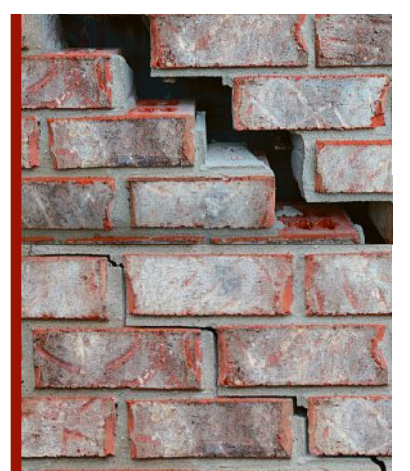


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