



Rams stay on top as Pats keep winning

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Veterans share stories at Monmouth College



Robert Goad, 99, and Ralph Whiteman, 98, chat following the Monmouth Veterans Day ceremony. Goad is a World War II veteran, and Whiteman, also a veteran, is a 1952 Monmouth graduate. PROVIDED BY MONMOUTH COLLEGE

Abreanna Blose
AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

Monmouth College hosted a Veterans Day event Nov. 11 featuring a panel of veterans sharing their experiences and insights. The event, held in the Veterans Memorial Great Room of the college’s Center for Science and Business, was emceed by Illinois State Rep. Dan Swanson. The Fighting Scots Marching Band played patriotic songs, setting a spirited tone for the evening.

World War II veteran shares his story

One of the highlights of the event was the presence of Robert Goad of Galesburg, a World War II veteran who is just days away from his 100th birthday. “I’m one of the last World War vets that I know of,” Goad said in the announcement. “We’re fading fast.” Goad shared his experiences of being stationed in the Philippines during the war, witnessing kamikaze attacks and serving as a cook on a hospital transport ship. He later returned to Galesburg and worked for the railroad for nearly 50

years. “A while back, I was asked, ‘If you had the chance, would you do it over again?’” Goad said. “I said, ‘Yes, sir, I would.’”

Panelists share their experiences

The panel also included Monmouth alumnus Ryan Bronaugh and current student Alfonso Mares. Bronaugh, a non-traditional student, shared that his military service took him to 32 countries.

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How to re-apply for SNAP in Illinois

Hannah Hudnall and Mary Walrath-Holdridge
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will have to reapply for benefits following the re-opening of the government in attempts to combat “fraud,” Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said. Rollins said SNAP, meant to be a nutrition lifeline for financially struggling households, was among the first priorities she targeted for review, citing concerns about eligibility and oversight in an interview with Newsmax on Nov. 13. “Make sure that everyone that’s taking a taxpayer-funded benefit through ... food stamps, that they literally are vulnerable and they can’t survive without it,” she said. But how do you reapply for benefits in Illinois? Here’s what we know.

What is SNAP?

SNAP, also known as food stamps, is a federal program that provides low-income families monthly benefits to afford healthy food. The program is typically run by state public assistance agencies through their local offices.

How rare is SNAP fraud?

During the Newsmax interview, Rollins claimed preliminary data from 29 states showed more than 186,000 “deceased” individuals are “receiving a check” through SNAP. However, benefits are distributed on electronic cards, not checks. Fraud happens in three primary ways, according to the USDA: applicants misrepresenting income or identity, retailers trading benefits for cash or unapproved items, or criminals stealing benefits by scanning or cloning EBT cards. The U.S. Congressional Research Service described SNAP fraud as “rare” in an April 7 report, saying available data and reports show a large

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‘Our Town’ production has community at its heart

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USA TODAY NETWORK

Monmouth College will stage Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town” from Nov. 21-23 at Wells Theater, according to a community announcement. “It’s one of the most important plays in American theatre history,” Todd Quick, Monmouth College theatre professor and director of the production, said in the announcement. The production, a collaboration between Monmouth College and the Buchanan Center for the Arts, is supported by the United Way of Greater Warren

County and the Galesburg Community Foundation. “Our Town,” a Pulitzer Prize-winning play written in 1938, follows the lives of the Webb and Gibbs families in the fictional town of Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire, from 1901 to 1913. The play explores universal themes of life, love and death. Robert Robison, a student from Island Lake, Illinois, plays one of the main characters, George Gibbs. “If I could only do one play for the rest of my life, it would be ‘Our Town,’” Robison said. “It’s my favorite play in the world.” Abby Zayas, a student from Normal,

Illinois, shares the role of stage manager with Monmouth resident Howard Moffet. Zayas, who is also the dramaturg for the production, had never seen “Our Town” on stage before, but has become a fan of the script. “I was familiar with it by proxy, and now I see why people love it so much,” Zayas said in the announcement. Quick believes the play’s universal plot will resonate with the Monmouth community. “I think we can all recognize our community in this play,” Quick said in the announcement. “We’re going to exploit that by working with the Warren County History Museum to add some

Monmouth-specific pieces to the lobby display. But even without that, people will see Monmouth in ‘Our Town.’” The play’s minimalist style, which was revolutionary in the 1930s, remains a significant aspect of the production. With only two platforms, a table and chairs and a ladder/trellis, the lack of props encourages the actors to focus on their performances. The production also emphasizes the importance of sound, with elements like a train whistle or the sound of a ball hitting a glove enhancing the storytelling.

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