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SPORTS, 1B

# GALESBURG The Register-Mail WEEKEND

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## Peoria Speedway faces uncertain future



In this Journal Star file photo, Brandon Dean stands at Peoria Speedway. PHOTOS BY MATT DAYHOFF/JOURNAL STAR FILE

## Illinois delays ban on credit card swipe fees again

**Claire Grant**  
Springfield State Journal-Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – Three years after Illinois lawmakers passed a bill ending “swipe fees” on taxes and tips, the state will be delaying implementing the bill another year.

Senate Bill 3645 further delays the implementation of the Interchange Fee Prohibition Act, which was slated to take effect on July first after opponents of the bill lost in court last year.

The bill will now take effect in July of 2027.

The bill dates back to 2023 and will require restaurants, vendors, any business which can receive tips and taxes to pay interchange fees on the pre-tax amount of purchases, with a new state cap on what businesses collect on sales tax.

As defined in the bill, an interchange fee is a charge or fee established by a card network for the purpose of compensating the bank for its involvement in an electronic transaction. The fee is levied as a way to protect businesses at the risk involved for using credit, compensation for the bank and maintenance to continue updating and protecting cards.

Merchants operating in Illinois currently have to pay a percentage ranging from one to three percent of the transaction as an interchange fee, including non-revenue generating tip and tax.

The idea is to give relief to small business owners and tipped workforce in the state.

If a bank or card issuer is found to violate the new bill, the fine is steep: processors will be subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 per electronic payment transaction and must refund the merchant the interchange fee calculated on the tax or gratuity amount relative to the electronic payment transaction.

See FEES, Page 2A

# FOR SALE

**Dave Eminian**  
Peoria Journal Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Peoria Speedway officials told spectators Saturday that weekly racing at the venerable quarter-mile dirt track was coming to an end under owner Brandon Dean.

Saturday’s race card was the last under Dean, who put the facility up for sale on Monday, June 1. Dean says if he can’t find a buyer, he’ll use the 50-acre property for non-racing events.

The Central Illinois Flea Market is a tenant at the Speedway and will continue to operate there.

See SPEEDWAY, Page 2A



In this file photo, owner Brandon Dean helps prep the track for racing at Peoria Speedway on Farmington Road.

## Monster pen pals connect King Elementary and GHS students

**Nida Tazeen**  
Galesburg Register-Mail  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A group of King Elementary students saw their imaginations come to life this spring through a unique collaboration with Galesburg Junior Senior High School art students.

The “Monster Pen Pal” project connected Mrs. Barker’s 4th-grade class with high school art students in Mrs. Frisque’s class, according to a community announcement.

The project began shortly after winter break and culminated with a “Monster Meet” at the high school, where elementary students met their pen pals and saw their monster designs brought to life.

From sketches to sculptures

The project started with a simple idea: elementary students would design original monsters, and high school students would create physical representations of those designs. The collaboration began with a letter exchange, followed by brainstorming and sketching sessions. High school students asked follow-up questions to ensure they captured every detail of the monsters.

The finished creations were showcased at the Galesburg Junior Senior High School art show, highlighting the students’ hard work and collaboration.

### A memorable experience

The project ended with a “Monster Meet,” where King Elementary students visited the high school to meet their pen

See PEN PALS, Page 2A



King Elementary students meet high school artists who brought their monster drawings to life in a months-long pen pal project on June 1.

PROVIDED BY GALESBURG CUSD

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