



Locked-in Eagles, Bills remain on top

SPORTS, 1B

Rockford Register Star

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The former Singer Mental Health Center at 4402 N. Main St. is pictured Sept. 29 in Rockford.

PHOTOS BY KARA HAWLEY/ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

Come talk about the state of mental health

Jeff Kolkey
Rockford Register Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

ROCKFORD, IL — State funding could be used to demolish the former Singer Mental Health Center and prepare the property for redevelopment.

State Sen. Steve Stadelman, D-Loves Park, said a \$500 million “Surplus to Success” program was approved as part of the state’s budget. It targets five vacant, state-owned properties including Singer, 4402 N. Main St., and four others from across the state.

“Singer and these four other properties, the conditions have deteriorated so badly, it really presents an obstacle for redevelopment,” Stadelman said. “And so what the state did is to allocate \$500 million to get these properties shovel ready for potential redevelopment plans.”

The other four sites include the 160-acre Dwight Correctional Center; the

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The former Singer Mental Health Center at 4402 N. Main St. is pictured Sept. 29 in Rockford.

Polar vortex to hit in late autumn

Hannah Hudnall, John Tufts and Jade Jackson
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Temperatures are staying relatively warm throughout Illinois this week, despite fall officially starting Sept. 21. But residents in the state know that when the cold kicks off in Illinois, it comes with a vengeance.

The fluctuating weather has left many wondering how much warm weather we have left, and how long we have until the first frost of the season.

Here’s what you need to know

about seasonal predictions, expected first frosts and the upcoming polar vortex.

NOAA Climate Prediction Center’s seasonal outlook for Illinois

A seasonal temperature outlook map issued Sept. 18 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows Illinois leaning above normal temperatures for October through December.

The outlook predicts Illinois has equal chances for above or below nor-

mal precipitation over the next three months.

When will temperatures sink below freezing? Illinois average first frost dates

Records kept by the Illinois State Climatologist show that northern and eastern Illinois residents can expect their first freeze around Oct. 18, while those in central and southern Illinois can expect the freeze near Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, respectively.

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Students, seniors can wash clothes for free

Abreanna Blose
AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

Molina Healthcare of Illinois is offering free laundry services to students from Rockford Public School District 205 and Rockford area seniors in Rockford.

The Fresh for Learning program allows students to wash two baskets of laundry three days a week. Time slots for 15 students are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and registration is required. Registration closes daily at 3 p.m. according to a community announcement.

For seniors over 60, the Fresh for Seniors program provides an opportunity to wash and dry two loads of laundry every Wednesday. This program is available at the Mulford 5 Alarm Coin Laundry location, and no registration is required. Participants must show a photo ID to the laundromat attendant.

The programs aim to help seniors, students and their families maintain proper personal hygiene. Molina seeks to improve the overall health and well-being of Illinois residents through these initiatives.

The Fresh for Learning program is available at three 5 Alarm Coin Laundry locations: 3939 W. Riverside Blvd., 3110 S. Alpine Road and 290 N. Mulford Road. The program runs from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in October. Interested students can sign up online for their preferred location.

The Fresh for Seniors program is offered at the 290 N. Mulford Road location from 7 a.m. to noon Wednesdays in October.

Molina Healthcare is partnering with the Resident Officer Community Keepers Rockford Police Department, Inclusive Public Service Communities and 5 Alarm Coin Laundry to provide these services. The goal is to empower Rockford residents with the necessities they need to feel comfortable and confident, according to the announcement.

This story was created by reporter Abreanna Blose, ablose@gannett.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.

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