



## Toppmeyer: Here's why 24-team playoff is fool's gold

SPORTS, 1B

# Rockford Register Star

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## Civil rights veterans see familiar repression



Nathaniel Briggs, of Teaneck, New Jersey, whose family sued to challenge school segregation in South Carolina, saw firsthand how those in power could defy the courts in ways that undermine constitutional rights.

ANNE-MARIE CARUSO/NORTHJERSEY.COM STAFF FILE

### Crackdown on migrants evokes painful memories

**Hannan Adely**  
NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Federal immigration agents in military gear roam city streets, wielding tear gas, pepper spray and firearms against protesters. They forcibly enter homes to make warrantless arrests. Bystanders who record enforcement ac-

tions are swept up and detained. To veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, the scenes are painfully familiar, echoing the times they were beaten, harassed, detained and surveilled while fighting for their rights. "We know this kind of repression," said Lawrence Hamm, 71, founder and chair of People's Organization for Progress in Newark, New Jersey. "It was

used against us in the civil rights and Black Power movements." For Hamm, the sight of rifle-carrying officers on city streets evokes memories of 1967, when the National Guard was sent into Newark after White police officers detained and beat a Black taxi driver, igniting days of unrest. Guardsmen blocked streets with tanks, conducted searches and enforced a curfew. Twenty-six people were killed, most at

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## Tad More Tailoring earned Rockford's first B Corp status

**Nida Tazeen**  
Rockford Register Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Tad More Tailoring has become the first business in Rockford to achieve Certified B Corporation status. The company celebrated the milestone with a press conference, according to a community announcement. B Corp certification is awarded to companies that meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency. Certified B Corps are legally required to balance profit and purpose, ensuring their decisions positively impact workers, customers, communities and the planet. Fewer than 6,000 companies worldwide have achieved this designation.



Rockford's Tad More Tailoring secures B Corp status, highlighting its social and environmental impact. PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF ROCKFORD

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## Attorneys intervene in voter data suit

### Trump DOJ has sued states for registry access

**Peter Hancock**  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Eighteen former U.S. Department of Justice attorneys filed a brief in federal court this week opposing the Trump administration's lawsuit that seeks access to sensitive personal information about every registered voter in Illinois. In a friend-of-the-court brief filed March 2 in U.S. District Court in Springfield, the attorneys – including many who served in both Democratic and Republican administrations – argue the Department of Justice has no legal authority to demand the information. They also accuse the agency of concealing its real purpose for seeking the data, which they argue is "to enable the federal government to conduct its own list maintenance to discover whether noncitizens or undocumented immigrants are registered to vote."

'Holy trinity of identity theft'

Illinois is among 29 states and Washington, D.C., that are being sued

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## Area sees historically dry month

**Hannah Hudnall**  
Peoria Journal Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

February was one of the driest on record for much of Illinois, with most cities receiving less than an inch of total rainfall over the course of four weeks, according to the National Weather Service. The month also included several days of elevated fire danger as a result of drought conditions. Here's a look at where things stand as March kicks off. Last month was the driest February in Lincoln's history since records began in 1906. It was the second driest in Rockford, the third driest in Springfield and Chicago and the eighth driest in Peoria. Here's how much precipitation the following Illinois cities received in February 2026:

- Rockford: 0.12 inches
- Lincoln: 0.08 inches
- Peoria: 0.43 inches
- Springfield: 0.45 inches
- Galesburg: 0.3 inches

Precipitation was generally one-to-two inches below normal in most

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