



Trump’s ground beef price plan faces pushback in GOP

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Rockford Register Star

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USPS issues final rule on mail-in voting



The U.S. Postal Service said it was issuing its rule so it could take immediate effect if a court lifted its injunctions on it. BENJAMIN FANJOY/GETTY IMAGES

Court order blocks it from taking effect

David Shepardson
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Postal Service published a final rule Aug. 21 to tighten requirements for mail-in voting ahead of the November congressional elections, despite a court order blocking the changes from taking effect. USPS said it was issuing its 95-page rule so it could take immediate effect if a court lifted its injunctions on it and be in

place for the upcoming election. Under the rule, USPS would not deliver ballots in states that do not comply with the rule’s new standards. USPS’ final rule requires states to provide lists of voters who received mailed ballots to the agency. Last week, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani in Boston blocked USPS from adopting those rules ordered by President Donald Trump ahead of the November elections that will decide con-

trol of Congress. Trump, a Republican, signed his executive order in March after years of calling for tighter rules on voting by mail and pushing the false claim that his 2020 election defeat was the result of widespread voter fraud. The rule, which was posted late Aug. 21, will be formally published Aug. 26. USPS will take no action to implement the order unless a court lifts the injunction. USPS referred questions to the White House. See USPS, Page 2A

Experts warn of ‘historic’ El Niño

How it could impact Illinois winter

Hannah Hudnall, Doyle Rice and Dinah Voyles Pulver
Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting a historically strong El Niño this year, reporting a more than 90% chance of a “very strong event” in the Northern Hemisphere this fall and winter. The NOAA added that there’s a 69% chance this fall of “a historic event” exceeding the strength of El Nino events dating back to 1950. Here’s how this could impact weather in Illinois.

What is El Niño?

El Niño is a natural warming of seawater in the Pacific Ocean that affects weather and climate patterns around the world. Impacts often include a boost of hurricanes in the Pacific basin and a spike in global temperatures, as well as droughts and flooding in many areas. The entire natural climate cycle is officially known as El Niño – Southern Oscillation, called ENSO by scientists. The cycle swings between warmer and cooler seawater in a region along the equator in the tropical Pacific. La Niña is marked by cooler-than-average ocean water in the region. See EL NIÑO, Page 2A

Pecatonica teen earns top Girl Scout honor

Nida Tazeen
Rockford Register Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Lily Nestler of Pecatonica was recognized by Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois for completing a habitat restoration project at Severson Dells Nature Center in Rockford as part of the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award. The award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, according to a community announcement. Nestler’s project focused on improving habitat conditions by removing invasive honeysuckle and garlic mustard at the nature center. Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois said

Nestler earned the Gold Award after identifying a community need and carrying out a project designed to create a lasting impact.

Habitat restoration project

The project took place at Severson Dells Nature Center in Rockford, where Nestler worked to remove invasive plant species that can affect native habitats and ecosystems. According to the announcement, the effort targeted honeysuckle and garlic mustard, two invasive plants commonly removed to support healthy natural areas.

Girl Scout Gold Award

The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes Girl Scouts who complete projects that address issues in their communities and demonstrate leadership. According to the announcement, Gold Award recipients work with community leaders and partners to develop solutions to local challenges while creating measurable and lasting change. This story was produced with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.



Lily Nestler of Pecatonica earned the Girl Scout Gold Award after helping restore habitat at Severson Dells Nature Center in Rockford. PROVIDED BY GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

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