



State’s attorney was refused breathalyzer after DUI stop

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Menard County State’s Attorney Gwendolyn Thomas “could not stand on her own without holding on to (her) vehicle” and had “bloodshot and watery eyes,” according to an Oct. 24 Illinois State Police report obtained by The

State Journal-Register.
Thomas, 45, who lives in Ashland, was arrested and cited for driving under the influence of alcohol in the village of Tallula after she crashed her 2023 Ford Explorer into an evergreen tree.
Meanwhile, a new judge has been assigned to the case after the Resident Circuit Judge of Menard County, Michael L. Atterberry, recused himself. A special

prosecutor will handle the case.
Thomas also took out a stop sign at Illinois 123 and Main Street, proceeding through a grassy median. Thomas clipped a utility pole after uprooting the tree.
Teresa Holcomb, who lives in the 100 block of Elm Street near the crash scene, See THOMAS, Page 2A



An evergreen tree that was taken out in a crash on Illinois 123 and Main Street in the village of Tallula in Menard County on Oct. 24. STEVEN SPEARIE/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER



The exterior of Salt Fork Food Hub at 308 E. Adams St. on Oct. 25 in Springfield. CLAIRE GRANT/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

New shop has fresh produce, meat and more in Springfield

Claire Grant
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – A new shop for farmers from across Illinois to aggregate and sell their products all in one spot has opened up right in the heart of downtown.
If you’ve driven past downtown the last few weeks or stopped by the Old Capitol Farmer’s Market, you’ve probably seen a new face to the Adam’s Fam-

ily corridor: Salt Fork Food Works and Food Hub.
Here’s what to know about Springfield’s one day a week local grocer.
What can I buy at Salt Fork?
Strolling inside, the storefront has a weekly rotating ingredient supply of fresh breads, fruits, vegetables, eggs, cheese, dairy, meats and tasty treats like gelato or even pumpkin butter. The food hub operates as a way for farmers

to get their goods into a farmers market without being there in person.
The business relies on aggregating, or producers dropping off products to be sold fresh throughout the week, for Salt Fork to deliver inventory to clients.
Champaign-based owners Jeffrey and Lauren Brokish have partnered with The Farms of Illinois founder Clint Bland to bring together close to See SALT FORK, Page 3A

Ruling limits immigration agents’ tactics

Michael Loria
USA TODAY

CHICAGO – A federal judge presiding over a case regarding immigration agents’ use of force in Chicago placed sweeping limitations on their tactics, calling justifications for their use of chemical weapons and other force “simply not true.”
U.S. District Judge Sara L. Ellis’ ruling comes amid President Donald Trump’s immigration enforcement crackdown known as Operation Midway Blitz. Many Chicagoans have complained about federal authorities’ use of chemical agents and raids in residential areas. A group of journalists, clergy and protesters filed a lawsuit saying agents’ tactics scare people from exercising free speech rights.
Speaking from the bench, Ellis disparaged numerous examples government lawyers had cited of violence agents face. Federal officials say tactics such as chemical weapons are needed to handle “rioters” in Chicago.
“Describing neighborhood moms as professional agitators shows just how out of touch these agents are and how incredible their views are,” Ellis said. “Overall this calls into question everything the defendants say they’re doing and their characterization of events.”
Among requirements, Ellis’ order compels agents to issue warnings before using chemical weapons, limits their use of such force to extreme circumstances and compels them to use body-worn cameras.
The limitations are similar to ones detailed in a temporary restraining See ICE, Page 7A



HAPPY Thanks-Savings

NON-INSULATED GARAGE DOORS

STARTING AT 9x7 Door for \$1,006 16x7 Door for \$1,535

INSULATED GARAGE DOORS

STARTING AT 9x7 Door for \$1,130 16x7 Door for \$1,806

Professionally Installed By Our Certified Technicians!

Offer expires 11/30/25

