



Masen Johnson honors sister as Crimsons enter playoffs

SPORTS, 1B

THE STATE Journal Register

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | SJ-R.COM

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More than a building



The exterior of The Curve Inn in Southern View is seen on Feb. 20. The bar was engulfed in flames around 9 a.m. that morning. CLAIRE GRANT/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Show, stage gear up losses in recent Curve Inn fire

Steven Spearie

Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SOUTHERN VIEW – Hours after losing sound, lighting and stage equipment in a Feb. 20 fire at The Curve Inn in Southern View, Ric Major resigned himself to the hardest part.

The waiting.
“I really don’t know how it’s going to play out until the investigation is over,” Major told The State Journal-Register by phone. “I’m following Ami’s lead. She’s the reason I’m here and she’s the reason I did this for 15 years and she needs support now. Anything I can do to support her, that’s what I want to do.”

Since 2014, Major, who has been part of the music scene in Springfield for



Curve Inn owner Ami Merchant talks to Springfield Fire Battalion Chief Bart Zaborac at the scene of a two-alarm fire at the bar and restaurant. STEVEN SPEARIE/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

five-plus decades, has engineered shows, mostly area bands, exclusively for The Curve Inn and owner Ami Merchant. That’s when Major moved in a

stage deck and hung lights and speakers.

By his count, that’s 1,815 shows. The two-alarm fire broke out at the bar and restaurant on South Sixth Street just after 9 a.m. on Feb. 20.

Springfield Fire crews encountered heavy fire and smoke in the bar and restaurant’s beer garden, along with a partial roof collapse. Fire extended to the first floor of a two-story permanent building that dates from the 1930s. There was extensive smoke damage to the first and second floors to the bar.

Major said the only gear that made it through in a back closet were pieces of the stage and one speaker.

“For the most part, it’s just rubble,” he said.

Newer pieces of equipment he bought included Meyer speaker cabinets and a Yamaha console.

See FIRE, Page 2A



Moody



Gill

Moody tabbed for promotion

Current superintendent set to retire June 30

Steven Spearie

Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – A second member of the Springfield District 186 cabinet in the last two months has been picked to head a central Illinois school district.

Nicole Moody, the assistant superintendent of teaching, learning and school culture, will be the next superintendent of Decatur’s public schools, pending board approval on Feb. 24.

Moody has been in her current position since 2021 though she was a cabinet member before that.

On Feb. 2, Terrance Jordan, assistant superintendent of family, community, and school leadership for District 186, was officially approved by the Springfield board to succeed Jennifer Gill, who will retire at the end of her contract June 30.

Like Gill, Moody attended District 186 schools and taught and was an administrator in the district.

Moody also was an assistant to the Illinois State Superintendent.

Gill, taking part in the ribbon cutting at the new Duey Gym at Springfield High School on Feb. 21, said she was “incredibly happy” for Moody.

“I had the pleasure of walking beside her as a colleague for the last 20 years,” Gill said. “She is an incredibly hard working and dedicated person in all that she does. It’s actually a huge pride point to know that two people who were here in District 186 giving us their very best are now going to be leaders of their two respective districts.”

See SUPERINTENDENT, Page 2A

New food truck eyes spring opening in Springfield

Claire Grant

Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

A new food truck is rolling in to town this spring.

Husband-wife duo Richard and Krista Kinison plan on opening Rumble Road Kitchen.

An expected opening date for the food truck is slated on April 1.

The Kinison’s bring 15 years of restaurant management from Richard’s background in corporate kitchens, while Krista brings previous business management experience previously co-owning a pest control company.

Together, the couple were urged by their family to open their first business.

“It’s always been a dream of mine to open a food truck. We both enjoy cooking however I probably do more than my wife,” Kinison said. “I want to provide a more personalized experience than a corporate chain, a place where people matter more than saving a few cents.”

Kinison said he is blessed to have such a supporting wife, who is excited to be about and about to meet more members of the community and make a difference in Springfield through charity or other means associated with the food

See FOOD TRUCK, Page 2A



The Rumble Road Kitchen food truck is seen on Feb. 12 in Springfield. The food truck is expected to open in April. STEVEN SPEARIE/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

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Volume 195 | No. 89
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