



See the area’s boys and girls golf state qualifiers

SPORTS, 1B

THE STATE Journal Register

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026 | SJ-R.COM

THE OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN ILLINOIS | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Damage to Animal Protective League’s shelter building from a June 10 EF-1 tornado is pictured here Oct. 4. The shelter building, a former campground, and another building formerly used to spay and neuter cats and dogs, will be demolished. PHOTOS BY STEVEN SPEARIE/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Head of APL hoping to get staff back in one place

Group has been separated since June 10 tornado hit building

Steven Spearie
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD - Animal Protective League Executive Director Deana Corbin said she is looking to bring her team back together in one place after a June 10 EF-1 tornado tore the roofs off both its clinic and shelter buildings across from the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Corbin said she is hoping to finalize a schedule to demolish both of the building in the next couple of weeks. APL’s staff of 42 workers, Corbin said, is disbursed around the town, including the spay-neuter and foster care teams working out of Sangamon County Animal Control.

Corbin admitted, prior to the Blessing of the Animals at the 1001 Taintor Road facility Oct. 4, that the damage is “heartbreaking” to look at, “but I’m extremely blessed that no animals were lost. No people got hurt. We were able to salvage a lot of our cages and things out of (the shelter) building. It could’ve been so much worse.” Corbin and some of her staff have been working out of a mobile container office, like some temporary classroom buildings on school sites. The idea, Corbin told The State Journal-Register, is to bring out more of the mobile buildings or, in the alternative, go to a warehouse-type space in

See APL, Page 5A



Deana Corbin, executive director of Animal Protective League, addresses a crowd at the Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 4. APL still operates some of its services at 1001 Taintor Road, where a tornado ripped off roofs of both its shelter and clinic buildings June 10.

CWLP begins energy plan

Claire Grant
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – City Water, Light and Power have committed to an Integrated Resource Plan for the first time since 2020. While a step forward for CWLP, supporters of it are asking about a \$200,000 grant to get the project kickstarted - and are offering help to the grid provider who does not seem interested. Here’s what to know.

What is an IRP?

An Integrated Resource Plan, or IRP, is a long-term roadmap to meet future electricity requirements. As a city grows and years go on, so do laws and electricity demand to supply population shifts and trends. The steps are like the scientific method: defining the scope and process to test, input forecasts for future fuel prices and variables, develop several models of operation based on the information and test it, analyze the results of the created scenarios before finalizing a plan to go forward as a power supplier.

Why is it important?

The future of fuel and energy requirements has become a real concern for power grid suppliers amid data center expansion across the nation. On Aug. 25, CWLP presented the IRP to the Springfield City Council, outlining costs, like a request for proposals to identify a consultant to conduct the study. In the presentation, CWLP outlined two solar projects totaling 45 megawatts either in construction or to be completed by 2028. The upcoming plan must begin by 2027 under new law; the IRP after that

See CWLP, Page 2A

Two Illinois state fairs drew more than 1M visitors

Janis Reeser
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Illinois’ two state fairs drew more than 1 million visitors combined, with attendance topping that mark for a second consecutive year while both events posted record-setting milestones, according to a community announcement. Gov. JB Pritzker announced the attendance totals for the Illinois State Fair in Springfield and the Du Quoin State Fair in southern Illinois. The announcement said that the fairs remain among the Midwest’s most affordable, estimating a cost of \$145 for a family of four that

includes parking, admission, two ride passes and food. “Affordable family fun remains a priority, and we delivered on that again this year in both Springfield and Du Quoin,” Pritzker said in the announcement. “Beyond the entertainment value, both State Fairs positively impact Illinois’ economy and create opportunities to spotlight agriculture, our state’s number one industry.” The Springfield fair offered advance discount admission and parking booklets, \$2 admission on Tuesdays and free admission on select themed days for veterans, senior citizens, scouts, first responders and health care workers. Other promotions included discounted

food offerings, free and reduced-price concerts and 160 hours of free entertainment. Admission remained free at the Du Quoin fair, which also offered discounts on parking and carnival wristbands. **Springfield attendance reaches more than 714,000** The Illinois State Fair in Springfield recorded 714,231 visitors, the third-highest attendance total in the fair’s history. A new single-day attendance record of 103,850 visitors was set on Aug. 21. State officials credited promotions, entertainment offerings and a sold-out

Grandstand concert for the turnout. Grandstand ticket sales reached a record 72,143. Country performers Lainey Wilson and Ella Langley each sold 15,533 tickets, tying the all-time Grandstand record and surpassing the previous mark set by Megan Moroney. “Each year, our Grandstand line ups reflect the unique musical interests of our audience,” Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello II said in the announcement. “We work hard to provide a diverse and well-rounded concert experience. This year’s numbers reaffirm that the Illinois State Fair is a concert destination and a pow-

See FAIRS, Page 2A

