

Fall sports coming: A photographic look at the high school season ahead



PAGES C1, C3

Sugar cured...hickory smoked
the Old-Fashioned Way!



PAGE A14

Times Gone Buy: Advertising for meat through the decades

PAGE A14

SMALL BUSINESS

‘FEEDING OUR PEOPLE FIRST’



D. JACK ALKIRE, THE PANTAGRAPH

Lauren Reedy and her two sisters, Elise Panic and Corrie Scott, and mother, DeAnn Heck, have opened Farm Family Foods at 311 Main St. in Benson, fulfilling a a years-long dream to grow and feed their community.

Farm Family Foods now selling fresh local groceries in Woodford County

D. JACK ALKIRE
Daniel.Alkire@lee.net

BENSON — For the first time in decades, the old Family Foods building at 311 Front St. in Benson is selling groceries again.

It’s something locals like Noah O’Leary hadn’t dreamed of happening.

“It’s amazing. I never thought that anybody would do anything with this space,” the 23-year-old said. Now, he works at the store.

“I thought it was just going to be like one of the other buildings on Main Street.”

Like many small towns in rural America, Benson’s Main Street has several buildings that are abandoned and dilapidated, the façades of some crumbling.

But one building, known locally as Family Foods because of the hand-carved sign that hung there, has been restored — holes filled, joists rebuilt, sunken roof repaired, new sign hung — and, on June 27, Farm Family Foods opened its doors.

The opening is the culmination of years’ worth of work by three sisters, Lauren Reedy, Corrie Scott and Elise Panic, and their mother, DeAnn Heck.

“At the baseline of everything we do, we

IF YOU GO

What: Farm Family Foods

Where: 311 Front St., Benson

Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 8 a.m.-noon on Saturdays. The store is also open from 7 a.m.-noon every third Sunday of the month.


Phone: 309-388-3663

Web: facebook.com/farmfamilyfoods and farmfamilyfoods.com. Online orders can be placed at farmfamilyfoods.com/store.

wanted to be a local and community-first (store),” Scott said. “Like, that’s our goal.”

The small store has many of the elements of modern grocery stores, including dry and canned goods, bulk grains and beans, dairy fridges, frozen meats, fresh produce, soaps, detergents and paper products. It even has cold soda pop, candy and take-and-bake goods.

Please see **GROCERIES**, Page A5

 **MORE ONLINE:** For video at Farm Family Foods, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

6 inches here, just a sprinkle there?

FLICK LITE: Our latest listings, as offered by the readers and your own resident Lite Boy ...

Most amazing reign of rain
Where were you last Tuesday evening?



BILL FLICK

Areas in southeast Bloomington received a quarter inch of rain, according to reports, but north Normal and east sections of Bloomington got up to a reported 6 inches; in the Spring Ridge neighborhood, a reported near 7. Carlock got 3. Hudson 2. Other areas in southern McLean County ... none.

Can you imagine if in winter? Using the gauge that 1 inch of rain equals 12 inches of snow, southeast B-N would have gotten 3 inches of snow, manageable — and north Normal and east sections of Bloomington about 6 feet. OK, we’d still be digging out!

Please see **FLICK**, Page A5

ELECTION 2026

Krishnamoorthi forges local connections

Peoria native brings Senate campaign to Bloomington

BRENDEN MOORE
brenden.moore@lee.net

BLOOMINGTON — Wherever he goes, U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi tells his audience that it’s OK to skip his full 29-letter name and to “just call me Raja.”

“This is a true story, and I’ve said it before: When I first ran for office in Illinois, I said, ‘Hi, my name is Raja Krishnamoorthi,’” the Schaumburg Democrat recalled during a campaign stop in Bloomington. “And the person in Chicago looked right back at me and said, ‘Roger Christian Murphy, very nice to meet you.’ And then he said, ‘I didn’t know the Irish made it to India.’”

It’s an icebreaker Krishnamoorthi, 51, has used often to connect with voters as he crisscrosses the state campaigning for the Democratic nomination to the U.S. Senate seat held by retiring Sen. Dick Durbin.

The Peoria native, who’s represented Chicago’s northwest suburbs in the



Krishnamoorthi

Please see **KRISHNAMOORTHI**, Page A10

GET THE **FULL BENEFITS** OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

Activate your digital account to get updated stories, videos, and hundreds of additional puzzles and comics. Visit pantagraph.com/activate and download our app for the E-edition and breaking news on the go!

Weather
Partly sunny, less humid
High 82 • Low 66
FORECAST • B12

Inside

ADVICE	B11	PUZZLES	B10
OBITUARIES	A4	OPINION	B1-2
FLYING HORSE	A13	TV HIGHLIGHTS	B11

