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## PLANTING SEEDS OF SUCCESS

Since 2004, Union Twp. man has won 304 ribbons at Bloomsburg Fair for vegetables, plants, fruits

By Hyun Soo Lee  
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PATTERSONVILLE — When he isn't busy working as a municipal official, Dave Briggs likes to spend much of his time gardening — and, by extension, competing at the Bloomsburg Fair.

Briggs, a Union Twp. supervisor, is proud to have earned numerous accolades for the vegetables, plants and fruit he grows in the backyard of his Pattersonville home. Since 2004, his produce has won him 300 ribbons in various categories at the fair, including 33 ribbons this year.

Grown on two 30-by-30-foot plots on his property, his colorful collection of goods has been a hit with fair judges. This year, 11 of his entries won first place in their respective categories, including Pascal celery, kale, lavender eggplant, the Home Garden Collection and Market Basket.

His 33 winning entries are currently displayed in the Agricultural Building at the Bloomsburg Fair, which runs through Saturday.

Briggs, 62, has been gardening since around 1990, a passion he shared with his now-deceased father, Calvin Briggs Sr.

"I never looked at it as a hobby," Briggs said. "I got into it, and I liked growing stuff. My dad always had a garden here."

It was in 2003 that he decided to try his hand at the Bloomsburg Fair competition. While browsing the exhibits at the fairgrounds, he saw a group of award-winning kohlrabi and thought they paled in comparison to his own.

"I said to (my friend), my kohlrabi look better than them," Briggs said. "And she said, 'Well, why don't you enter them next year?' That's what got me started."

The next year, Briggs submitted a few of his vegetables and ended up winning a couple of ribbons, including first place for an eggplant. Encouraged by that success, he continued competing over the years, winning more and more awards. With the exception of 2011 and 2020, when the fair was canceled, he has come home with ribbons every year.

Briggs' collection of ribbons is prominently displayed in his living room, filling up much of the space on the walls. Each year's batch of prizes, starting in 2004 — blue ribbons for first place, red for second, white for third — are framed in chronological order. As the years progress, his frames become fuller, with blue ribbons outnumbering the reds and whites.

His latest batch of ribbons



Briggs shows his extensive collection of ribbons from the Bloomsburg Fair at his home in Pattersonville.



Dave Briggs points out his purple bell peppers on Tuesday in his garden in Pattersonville. Since 2004, Briggs has won 304 ribbons for his fruits and veggies. PHOTOS BY MATTHEW PERSCHALL/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

brings his total count to 304 — 127 for first place, 114 for second and 63 for third.

Over his time growing and preparing produce, Briggs has studied what makes successful, winning entries in the eyes of Bloomsburg Fair officials. He knows that the judges value uniformity (if the entry requires multiples of a fruit or vegetable), as well as adherence to the correct size, shape and color.



Various vegetables Briggs chose not to enter into the Bloomsburg Fair.

### DALLAS ICE FACILITY

## 1 detainee killed, 2 others critically injured

By Jamie Stengle  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A shooter with a rifle opened fire from a nearby roof onto a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement location in Dallas on Wednesday, killing one detainee and wounding two others in a transport van before taking his own life, authorities said.

The suspect has been identified by a law enforcement official as 29-year-old Joshua Jahn. The official could not publicly disclose details of the investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The exact motivation for the attack was not immediately known. FBI Director Kash Patel posted a photo on social media that showed a bullet found at the scene with the

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## Trump touts unproven autism drug to surprise of many experts

Doctor who proposed it also caught off guard

Matthew Perrone  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — When President Donald Trump's administration announced it would repurpose an old, generic drug as a new treatment for autism, it came as a surprise to many experts — including the physician who suggested the idea to the nation's top health officials.

Dr. Richard Frye told The Associated Press that he'd been talking with federal regulators about developing his own customized version of the drug for children with autism, assuming more research would be required.

"So we were kinda surprised that they were just approving it right out of the gate without more studies or anything," said Frye, an Arizona-based child neurologist who has a book and online education business focused on the experimental treatment.

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