

State Legislators To Have Jam-Packed Final 3 Weeks Of Session

Capital News Illinois

The calendar says May, but it didn't really feel like it at the Statehouse this week.

Both chambers canceled session on Friday despite the day being a deadline to move bills out of committee. Instead, many bills will continue to be advanced to the floor next week.

All it means is that lawmakers are going to have a jam-packed final three weeks of session after an overall quiet spring.

Aside from the wait on whether lawmakers will pass a bill to help the Bears stay in Illinois and some drama over constitutional amendments at the end of April, the second year of the 104th General Assembly hasn't produced a lot of major news. Some big ideas have

been discussed, but not many have surfaced as legislation.

Anything is possible over the final week of session, and oftentimes, the most consequential bills come to life just days before the May 31 adjournment.

The budget is one of those big-ticket items that is still being worked out, as we cover below. Lawmakers are also keeping an eye on school funding.

The state has slowly been increasing funding for K-12 schools under its evidence-based formula since 2017, but many districts and teachers unions say it isn't good enough. But the big question is whether the state can afford to increase funding by more than \$300 million each year. Peter Hancock followed that debate this week.

Marshall County Democrats Seeking Township Representatives

The Marshall County Democratic Organization is looking for residents to represent different townships and join an effort to have a Democratic party operating in Marshall County. Currently the chair and a core group of concerned citizens are working toward reactivating the Marshall County Democratic Committee with support of the State of Illinois Democratic Party. Two meetings have been held in Lacon so far

and there will be another general meeting in June (TBD).

If you are interested in learning more about what is being planned and how you might be able to contribute and participate please contact Donna Augustyn-Sloan, elected Marshall County Democratic Committee Chair at Marshall.co.il.democrats@gmail.com. Follow for news on fb page Marshall County Illinois Democrats.

As Illinoisans Lose Federal Food Assistance, Independent Grocers Face Debt, Store Closure

by Jenna Schweikertand/UIS Public Affairs Reporting (PAR)

As households across Illinois brace to lose their federal food assistance this month, grocery stores, especially independent grocers across the state, are preparing for the devastating effects of decreased spending.

For some independent grocers, whose profit margins average 2%, a decrease in consumer spending associated with cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Pro-

gram could lead to store closures.

Changes to SNAP from the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," also known as H.R.1, mean that thousands of Illinois households will lose access to their SNAP benefits in May if they did not fulfill new work requirements or submit for an exemption.

Grocery stores operate on some of the slimmest profit margins of any business because combined with high operating costs, they

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Marshall County Court News

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Randall Will Lohr and Kristine Louise Klieber. 5/4/26

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

Natalie N. Overocker (D). Daniel E. Shirley (P). 5/5/26 "dissolution of marriage/union"

FINES LEVIED

Carrie A. Johnson 9/22/25 by State Conservation "No harvest lic

for ginseng" 5/5/26 fine \$270.

Kylee C. Davis 3/10/26 by Lacon "fail to reduce speed" 5/5/26 fine \$251.

Amro M. Oweidat 3/4/26 by County Traffic "fail obey stop sign" 5/5/26 fine \$251.

Kaden M. Rutherford 4/2/26 by County Traffic "expiration of registration" 5/1/26 fine \$164.

LAND TRANSFERS

Toluca Coal Mine Association Holds 10th Annual Stepping Stones For Mother's Day Event

Artists of all ages gathered to celebrate creativity at the Toluca Coal Mine Association's 10th Annual Stepping Stones for Mother's Day event.

Children and adults alike took part in the hands-on activity, designing personalized stepping stones while enjoying a morning of creativity and community. Many participants created stones as gifts—mothers for their own mothers, some for daughters and granddaughters, and even a few for dads or to be placed in Toluca Coal Mine Park.

"It is so great to see the same kids come back year after year and watch their artistic skills grow," said Dennis Dahlbach, president of the Toluca Coal Mine Association.

The event continues to reflect the Association's guiding principle of the "3 F's": Free, Family, Fun - making it accessible and enjoyable for everyone in the community.

Visitors are encouraged to walk the wildflower path near the Jumbo at the State Historical Site to view a growing collection of stepping stones created by Toluca's up-and-coming artists, adding a personal and colorful touch to the park for all to enjoy.

Eastern Marshall County Emergency Services Activity Report

April 2026

Toluca-Rutland Fire Protection District Callout Summary

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Fire Alarm Investigations..... | 2 |
| EMS/1st Responder..... | 8 |
| Vehicle Accidents..... | 6 |
| Weather Watch..... | 1 |
| Structure Fire..... | 2 |
| Tree Fire..... | 1 |
| Search/Rescue..... | 1 |
| Total Calls..... | 21 (75 YTD) |

Wenona Fire Protection District Callout Summary

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Vehicle Accidents..... | 6 |
| Structure Fires..... | 2 |
| Medical/EMS Assist..... | 3 |
| Animal Rescue..... | 1 |
| Alarm Investigation..... | 1 |

EMC-EMS Callout Summary

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Total Calls..... | 55 (191 YTD) |
| Toluca-Rutland Fire District..... | 30 (133 YTD) |
| Wenona Fire District 23..... | (49 YTD) |

Fieldcrest Intermediate Recognizes Staff And Students Of The Month And Perfect Attendance



Perfect Attendance: Pictured left to right: Lillie King (5th grade), Arturo Chavez Leyva (3rd grade) and Mia McLean (4th grade).



Students of the month: Left to right: Elizabeth Derment (3rd grade), Thea Volker (4th grade) and Sophia Love (5th grade).



Staff of the Month left to right: Ms. Rapp, Mr. Heider, Mrs. Greskoviak

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <p>Monday, MAY 18 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.</p> | <h2>Liver & Onions</h2> | <h2>1/2 Dark Chicken</h2> <p>Salad, Potato & Spaghetti</p> | <p>Regular Menu Also Available (815) 452-2343 Toluca, IL</p> |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|

MONA'S POLENTA IS BACK!!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Italian Restaurant
Toluca, IL - Phone (815) 452-2303
Also Serving From Our Full Menu