



LOCAL

# 'HELIPORT OF THE YEAR'

Blessing Hospital's landing pad has been named the "Heliport of the Year" by the Illinois Department of Transportation. It's the second time the pad has been honored since it opened in 2000. ▶ PAGE 7A

## QUINCY

# HERALD-WHIG

[ THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014 ]

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50 cents

### CONSOLIDATION CONCERNS

# Quincy Compressor might close factory

## Prospect of losing jobs painful for 150-plus workers at plant

By **DOUG WILSON**  
Herald-Whig Senior Writer

Jerry Barnes, a Camp Point native who has worked at Quincy Compressor for 22 years,

was one of 154 employees who learned Wednesday that the factory may close in a year.

"It's not going to be good for the community or for the workers. It's been an excellent

place to work, and it's got good wages," Barnes said.

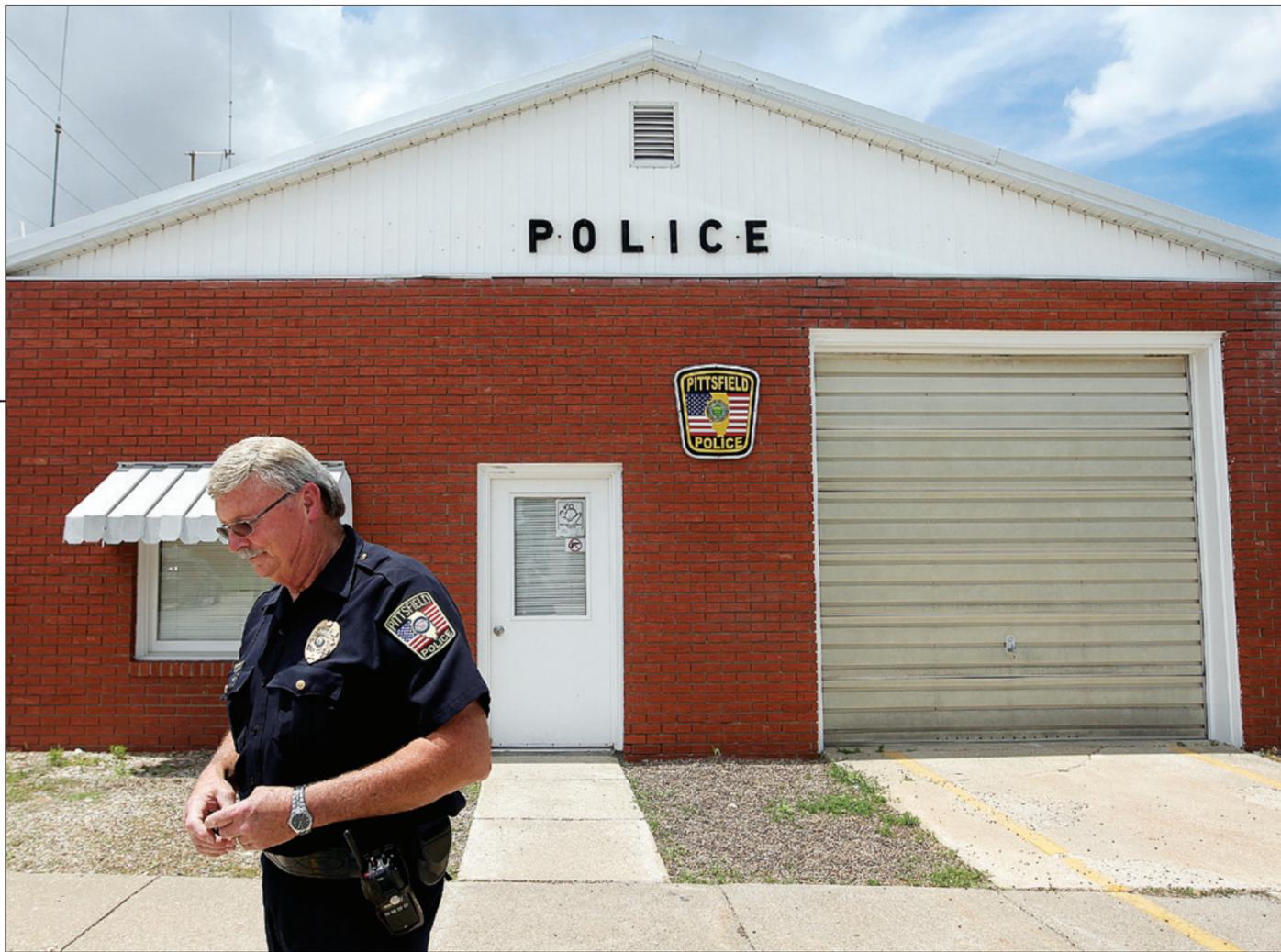
Officials at Quincy Compressor said in a news release

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A worker for Quincy Compressor completes his shift on Wednesday at the factory on Wismann Lane in Quincy. The company is considering closing the plant and consolidating operations at the company's site in Bay Minette, Ala. (H-W Photo/Phil Carlson)

### PITTSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Pittsfield Police Chief Dennis Jennings walks across Monroe Street in Pittsfield to eat at the Pike County Sheriff's Department cafeteria. Jennings is retiring this week after being in law enforcement for 35 years. (H-W Photo/Steve Bohnstedt)

# SMOOTH TRANSITION

## Retiring police chief to be replaced by veteran of Illinois State Police

By **DEBORAH GERTZ HUSAR**  
Herald-Whig Staff Writer

PITTSFIELD, Ill. — Dennis Jennings didn't set out to have a career in law enforcement, but after 35 years with the Pittsfield Police Department, he's convinced he made the right choice.

Jennings retires as the city's police chief this week, and his replacement, Kenny Yelliott, is coming out of retirement after a 30-year career in law enforcement.

Retired since 2009 from the Illinois State Police, Yelliott "just thought it was time to do something different" in the community where he's lived since 1979 and raised a family.

"I have a vested interest in the community," Yelliott said. "My experience has been in criminal investigation. I think I can make some contributions here."

Yelliott plans to set goals in cooperation with the department's officers to upgrade equipment and to improve criminal investigations, and in cooperation with the West Central Illinois Task Force for training to deal with methamphetamine labs.

"We're going to be busy," Yelliott said.

Yelliott worked with Jennings for the past three weeks to ensure a smooth transition into the new job. Yelliott resigned from his First

Ward alderman seat to take on the chief's job.

Jennings, who was born in Pittsfield and lived in the community since he was a junior high school student, thought about joining his father's business after high school.

"My father ran the Standard station here in town. I always was a mechanic. I always enjoyed cars," he said.

However, getting to know one of his father's friends, Police Chief Cliff Wilder, inspired a career in law enforcement.

Jennings joined the department in May 1979 as a patrolman, eventually became assistant chief and then chief seven years ago.

"I wouldn't say I enjoyed every bit of it, but it was very interesting," Jennings said. "There's nothing boring about it."

Yelliott began his law enforcement career in 1979 with the Pike County Sheriff's Department. He served as a dispatcher, jailer and deputy sheriff, then worked with the Secretary of State for a year as an investigator before joining the Illinois State Police in 1984.

He worked as a trooper for a year, then as a special agent working undercover in criminal cases, before serving as district commander

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### ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# Budget, capital bill wait for votes

By **DOUG WILSON**  
Herald-Whig Senior Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Illinois lawmakers face two big tasks in a \$37.5 billion budget and a capital construction program that need to be approved before the Legislature adjourns Saturday.

The Senate appears ready to take up the budget that the House approved Tuesday. Although the Illinois Constitution requires a balanced budget, the spending plan contains "a fiscal cliff" after House Democrats lacked the votes to make Illinois' temporary income tax increase permanent — a move that would have given the state another \$1.8 billion to work with in the coming year.

"It's a budget that acknowledges that there are big unanswered questions that this Legislature has to deal with," said Sen. Daniel Biss, D-Evanston. "I think we all understand the Legislature isn't ready to finalize all the hard decisions, so we're doing the best we can. ... But anybody who doesn't think there aren't very tough decisions coming down the road is absolutely fooling themselves."

Sen. John Sullivan, D-Rushville, believes the budget has the support it needs for passage in the Senate.

"It is certainly far from perfect," he said.

He said part of the tough decisions that will have to be made on how to conclude the budget year will occur after the November election. Gov. Pat Quinn, the Democratic nominee, and Bruce Rauner,

See **VOTES**, Page 3A

THURSDAY

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24-HOUR FORECAST

WGEM TONIGHT AT 6

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Tonight ... Partly cloudy, light wind, 20 percent chance of rain, low in the mid-60s. Friday ... Partly cloudy, light wind, 30 percent chance of rain, high in the mid-80s. ▶ PAGE 6B



VALUABLE HEALTH CARE

Did you know the school nurse in your district could actually be saving you money on medical bills? Find out why this is true and if local school officials agree with this assessment.

