The Gazette-Democrat

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Thursday, October 29, 2026 | **Anna, Illinois** | **$1.00** | **Volume 179, Number 44**

Troop 44 scouts honored



Troop 44 held a Court of Honor on Oct 19 where scouts received the following ranks and awards.

Terry Kariolit received his Archery and Swimming merit badges.

David Cook received his Fly Fishing and Search and Rescue merit badges.

Isabel Cook received her Cooking merit badge and Scout Rank.

Jaxon Coonce received his Scout rank.

Frank Gaddis received his Archery, Cooking, and Kayaking merit badges.

Jack Gaddis received his Archery, Pioneering and Wilderness Survival merit badges

Aldi Gerard received his Second Class rank and Shotgun Shooting, Swimming, Space Exploration and Automotive Maintenance merit badges.

Vodra Gerard received his First Class rank and Art, Canoeing, Environmental Science, Pulp and Paper and Automotive Maintenance merit badges.

Wyatt Hoffman received American Indian Culture, Metalwork Rifle Shooting and Signs, Signals and Codes merit badges.

Troop 44 meets Monday nights at 7 p.m. in Mount Moriah Lutheran church in Anna. Troop members come from all around the area. Young people ages 11-17 are welcome to attend a meeting and see what it's about.

SIU Law School, Illinois Supreme Court partner in creating Housing Justice Clinic

A BY PETE ROSENBERY
SIU UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

collaboration between Southern Illinois University Simmons Law School and the Illinois Supreme Court will expand access to legal representation for people facing housing-related issues while giving law students valuable hands-on experience.

Through the recently approved Housing Justice Clinic initiative, students will learn to handle cases involving matters such as evictions and foreclosures. Under the supervision of licensed attorneys, they will provide critical legal services to low-income residents in Southern Illinois who might otherwise be unable to obtain legal representation.

The Illinois Supreme Court's initiative creates clinics at SIU, the University of Illinois College of Law and Northern Illinois University College of Law.

"I could not be more inspired by this opportunity or excited about its impact on our law school and the region," Hannah Brenner Johnson, Simmons Law School dean, said. "It will provide meaningful opportunities for our students to gain critical skills that will serve them well as they enter the legal profession. At the same time, it will allow us to help those in our community who may not otherwise have access to an attorney to assist with their housing-related legal needs."

Brenner Johnson anticipates SIU's clinic will be operational for the fall 2027 semester.

Unique program

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice P. Scott Neville Jr. announced the Housing Justice Clinic initiative in early October. When he did, he noted the need for such clinics and the dearth of attorneys with this focus in areas of the state.

"Today, throughout Illinois, people enter our courthouses with serious problems. They may be about to lose their home. Families may be in trouble. Livelihoods may be at stake," he said. "Despite having a valid claim or defense, they may have no idea how to assert it. We sometimes talk about access to justice as though opening the courthouse doors solves the problem. It doesn't. A person can walk through those doors and still have no idea what to do next. That is where lawyers come in."

Neville added there are not enough lawyers to assist people faced with housing issues, a situation the clinics are meant to rectify.

"The need is there, but we do not have enough lawyers to meet it," he said. "In much of Illinois, the problem is finding a lawyer at all. Even where lawyers are nearby, legal representation remains out of reach for many residents. Imagine what these clinics will mean for people who otherwise might have nowhere to turn. A home, after all, is where a family gathers, where children sleep, where daily life unfolds."



PHOTO BY UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF LAW

SIU Simmons Law School Dean Hannah Brenner Johnson, left, with (from left) Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., Cassandra Hill, dean, Northern Illinois University College of Law and Jamelle Sharpe, dean, University of Illinois College of Law.

The Illinois Supreme Court has secured funding for each of the clinics, each of which will provide a clinical professor, staff attorney, law student intern and general operating expenses. There will be opportunities for collaboration among each of the schools, such as training pro bono attorneys and identifying areas for policy reform, but each clinic will operate independently.

Brenner Johnson said she is unaware of a similar collaborative training model like this in the country.

"The collaboration among our three schools is one of the most unique features of this project," she said. "We represent three of the four public law schools in Illinois, and we are all located in legal deserts where individuals have a difficult time accessing legal services."

The initiative will also afford meaningful opportunities to collaborate with legal services providers like Land of Lincoln and Prairie State Legal Services in each of the school's local communities, Brenner Johnson said.

An important addition

The new clinic "will add a vibrant component to our law school curriculum at Simmons Law School and continue to build our clinical program," Brenner Johnson said. The clinic will also "help ensure that people in our community do not appear in court or try to address their legal housing issues without representation."

Brenner Johnson said that access to justice is a "foundational principal" of the legal profession.

"Lawyers who provide pro bono service play a pivotal role in realizing this principle," she said. "The three housing justice clinics will, as part of their mission, train attorneys to provide free legal assistance in their communities. We will also work to instill in our students a commitment to pro bono service that they will embody throughout their careers."

Union County Weather Review

Temperatures for the period of Oct. 12-18 in the Union County area ranged from a high of 90 degrees to a low of 33. Precipitation totaled 0.79 of an inch.

Following are highlights for the period as recorded by local weather observer Dana Cross near Jonesboro.

- Monday, Oct. 12: high 89, low 56.
- Tuesday, Oct. 13: high 90, low 58.
- Wednesday, Oct. 14: high 82, low 70. 0.59 of an inch of rain.
- Thursday, Oct. 15: high 89, low 71. 0.03 of an inch of rain.
- Friday, Oct. 16: high 75, low 49. 0.17 of an inch of rain.
- Saturday, Oct. 17: high 60, low 38.
- Sunday, Oct. 18: high 67, low 33.

JONESBORO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

On October 25, guest speaker, Josh Franklin, pastor for The Vine, brought the message during morning worship. His message addressed wisdom and asked the question, "Will you trust God and live like you believe it?" We must pay attention where our decisions are taking us. They will lead us to blessing our destruction. Wisdom is trusting God enough to let His Word determine the direction of our lives. His text was found in the third and fourth chapters of Proverbs.

Music Director, Dee Rose, led the worship accompanied by Debbie York on the piano, and the Praise Team: Isabel, Lucas, and Megan Tehandón, Connor Benbrook and Kerry Shipley. Kim Benefield sang a special song, "I Asked the Lord to Comfort Me."

Our service was sent via transmitter station 87.9 FM for those who want to listen via the radio. The service was also live streamed on Facebook, so if you missed it, you still have an opportunity to view it. Please check our Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, for the latest videos and info on church events.

This week's activities include our Men and Ladies Bible Studies on Monday, October 25, at 6 p.m. Men meet at the church, ladies will meet at the home of Sheila Aldridge. Our children's program, "Dig In," will meet Wednesday, October 28, from 6-8 p.m. for children ages 3 through 6th grade. There will be a Trunk or Treat, Saturday, October 31, from 5-7 p.m. for children through 6th grade.

Happy birthday to Stacy Freeman, born October 26, and Janet Wallenmeyer, October 31.

Currently, our regular schedule for worship at Jonesboro First Baptist includes Sunday School classes on Sundays at 9 a.m.; Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m.; Sunday evening worship at 6 p.m. Youth for 6th-12th grades meet also on Sundays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. Both our Dig-In Children's program and our Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

ANNA CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Loving as Jesus Loved…..Giving as Jesus Gave…..Ephesians 5:25

OCTOBER 25, 2026

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m.on October 25, 2026. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team.

A gift card was presented to Pastor Wright from the church by Jim Hammer in honor of Pastor Appreciation month.

The message "The Book Of Judges: When A Generation Forgets God" was brought by Pastor Wright from Judges 2:10–19 and Judges 21:25 sharing that we should be a generation that faithfully lives for God today and points others toward Him tomorrow.

Communion was served at the closing of the morning worship service

Celebrating a birthday this week is: 28th Dale Millis

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 1, 2026 Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship Service 10:35 a.m. followed by a Pastor Appreciation Potluck.

No Evening Service

WEDNESDAY – NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Wednesday Night Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Youth Group in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.

You may contact the church by calling the church office at 618-833-6702 and leaving a message if necessary or by calling Pastor Wright at 618-534-7103

CAMP GROUND CHURCH

Bro. Easton's sermon October 18 was "Purpose in the Pain" with his main scripture Acts 2:22-24.

We wonder why bad things have to happen in our lives, especially if we are doing God's will. Often, we tend to think that if we have a problem, it is God punishing us. But God is the master of the "storms"; we can have comfort and peace in our "storm" because God is in control. Even when we fall away from God, He still has His eye on us.

God loves us in spite of our weaknesses and failures. If we allow His Spirit to fill us, we will not be victims, but rather victorious. The apostle Paul called his suffering as sharing in Jesus's glory.

Jesus was constantly being attacked, why should we thing we would be exempted from suffering just because we are a Christian. Jesus promises that His grace is sufficient for us. Christ's crucifixion and death was His way of saving us. We were the purpose for His pain.

Bro. Easton's sermon the 25th was "A Blessed Reunion" with his main scripture selection Acts 1:1-11.

This scripture is a summary of the events between Christ's resurrection and His ascension back to His Father in Heaven.

During those forty days, Christ continued to teach His disciples and to remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit had filled them.

Even the disciples, who had experienced Jesus first hand, still had issues and doubt. They were still expecting Jesus to restore the nation of Israel. Like the disciples, we often have doubt or lack of understanding. We just need to be still and listen to God and seek His will.

When Christ ascended to Heaven right before the eyes of His disciples, angels assured them that Jesus will come back. Think how awesome our reunion in Heaven will be! In the words of the old hymn "When we see all get to Heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!"

Olivia Painter rang the bell beginning Worship.

Our lead elder for November is Rachael Bonner.

Having birthdays since our last column have been Karen Vaughn and Phillip Brown the 16th, and David Miller, the 25th.

Congratulations to Don and Mary Jones whose wedding anniversary was October 24.

We invite you to join us each and every Sunday as we gather to study and Worship. At 9:15, we enjoy coffee and fellowship preceding Bible Study at 9:30 followed by Worship at 10:30. We are located at the intersection of Camp Ground Road and Tunnel Lane east of Anna, north of Route 146.

"By Every Word"

The days are shorter; there is more darkness. But Christ is "…the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12

The Church of Christ

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State of Illinois offers assistance for Medicare

BY GEOF SKINNER

The Medicare open enrollment period started Thursday, Oct. 15. Older adults who may be looking to change their existing Medicare plan can receive free, personalized assistance through the Illinois Department on Aging's, IDoA, Senior Health Insurance Program, SHIP.

During open enrollment, which runs through Dec. 7, people who are already enrolled in Medicare have the opportunity to review their current coverage and switch to a different plan for the following year.

To make this process easier for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers, Illinois' SHIP program offers statewide health insurance counseling services through a network of 300 sites and 1,000 trained and certified counselors. Illinois has trained 200 new SHIP counselors over the past year, and all counselors have received additional training on how to assist you during open enrollment.

SHIP counselors can answer questions about Medicare, Medicare Advantage plans such as HMOs and PPOs, Medicare Part D drug plans, Medicare Supplement policies, Retiree Group Insurance, and other health insurances. All services are free, and SHIP counselors do not sell or solicit any type of insurance.

Aside from open enrollment assistance, SHIP counselors can also help soon-to-be eligible individuals with Medicare sign-up questions. To find a SHIP counselor, call the statewide Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 or email AGING.SHIP@illinois.gov.

For general information about the SHIP program, visit https://ilaging.illinois.gov/ship.html. Details about Medicare plans can be compared online at https://www.medicare.gov/.

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Notice is hereby given that the office of Vienna City Clerk will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon) beginning November 16, 2026 through November 23, 2026 for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions or certificates for the Consolidated Election to be held on April 6, 2027, for the following offices: Alderman Ward I, Alderman Ward II, and Alderman Ward III. City Hall will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on the last day to file, November 23, 2026

Vienna City Clerk, Aleatha Wright

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Hebrews 12

The Chastening of the Lord

121 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."[1] 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined-and everyone undergoes discipline-then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! 10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Warning against Rejecting God's Grace

12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 "Make level paths for your feet,"[2] so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. 14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. 17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death."[3] 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."[4] 22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. 25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."[5] 27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken-that is, created things-so that what cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."[6]

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NEWS FROM VIENNA, ILLINOIS



Vienna High School podcasting and live broadcasting students

They Are Talking. Are You Listening?

Better than Detention Podcast and Eagles Sports Broadcasting

Vienna High School podcasting students have been hitting the school year in full force with the Better than Detention (www.viennahs.com/podcast) podcast. Like many of the classes offered through Vienna High School's Career-Connected and Life Readiness Program, the podcasting students are able to participate in the age-old practice of learning through doing. Under the direction of Craig Bradley, the Radio/Podcasting/Astronomy instructor, these students are learning the life-long skills of asking questions and communicating in both an interesting and educational manner. You can catch up and listen to new episodes through this link: Better than Detention (www.viennahs.com/podcast).

As a part of his strategy to build upon the podcasting class, Bradley has his students covering a multitude of the sports events that Vienna High School athletes compete in. Most recently Dawson Haynes and Carter Whitehead did a great job of commentating the Vienna-Goreville volleyball game on October 13th. You can tune into the broadcasts LIVE at www.viennahs.com/live.

Dawson Haynes shared, "We may be stuck in the basement but it's Better than Detention!"

Mr. Bradley shared, "I treat the students as if they are in a real world radio or TV station with assignments that are sometimes planned and often on the spur of the moment, much like life is. They do their own preparation and have to do their production to put their materials on Spotify and our other platforms.There are jobs out there for what we do if they are willing to learn. I've got a great group of students, give us a listen and see for yourself!"

Superintendent, Dr. Joshua Stafford shared, "Our podcasting and live broadcast students have hosted everyone from legislators and state agency leaders from around the state to peer students to teachers and numerous other regional personalities. Their casts are always interesting. Additionally, their live commentary on Eagles Athletic's make the video broadcasts come alive. Be sure and tune in to both of these venues and enjoy"

The Better than Detention podcast is sponsored by Vienna Diner



Charlotte Dixon and Debbie Atchley

Vienna High Recognizes Cafeteria Staff For National School Lunch Week

Vienna High School is recognizing cafeteria staff Charlotte Dixon and Debbie Atchley for National School Lunch Week, in appreciation of their work preparing and serving meals to students.

Established in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, National School Lunch Week highlights the importance of school meal programs and the role they play in supporting students' health and well-being.

The National School Lunch Program serves nearly 30 million children across the country each school day. School meals are designed to provide students with nutritious options, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and milk, helping students meet their nutritional needs throughout the school day.

At Vienna High School, Dixon and Atchley help ensure students have access to meals during the school day. Their work is an important part of the daily school routine, supporting students beyond the classroom.

"Much like our kitchens at home, the school kitchen becomes the central place for conversation, gathering, and just being human. It is more than simply serving lunch. Charlotte and Debbie make sure that students are cared for on numerous fronts. From greeting students in the breakfastline, to starting off the day, to noting when students might need extra help, they are student centered. And while schools exist to ensure that students get a quality education, education is hard pressed to occur if students are hungry making school kitchens a vital part of the school system," said Superintendent Dr. Joshua Stafford.

VIENNA HIGH ASTROMONY NOTES

Vienna High School astronomy students have been exploring how scientists study our galaxy using radio telescopes. Each class built its own telescope using cardboard and aluminum foil, then used it to take readings of hydrogen clouds in the Milky Way.

Students are learning about the 21-centimeter hydrogen line and how changes in its frequency can help scientists determine whether objects in space are moving toward or away from us. This phenomenon, known as blueshift and redshift, gives astronomers valuable information about the motion of objects across the universe. From building their own equipment to collecting data, our students are getting hands-on experience with the science used to explore what lies beyond our planet!

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE By Dixie Terry

Halloween is just around the corner, so beware, or the goblins will get you, if you don't watch out!

Some other days to recognize this week are: National Love A Cat Day--Oct. 29. Frankenstein Day--Oct. 30. Door Bell Day--Oct. 31.

Brian Bailey of Vienna will present a demonstration of "grave dowsing" on Friday, Oct. 30 at 2pm at the Herrin City Cemetery. This is free and open to the public, sponsored by the Herrin Public Library. And, always brings out a crowd!

A free family event will be held at "The Oasis" at the re-imagined former mall at Marion. Lots of treats and family fun are prommised.

Take a hike at the Max Creek in Johnson County for a vortex experience on Oct. 31 at 6:30pm. Meet at the end of Taylor Ridge Lane for an exciting evening, sponsored by the River to River Trail Society. This is intended for experienced hikers in very good health . Please leave your canine friends at home is requested.

A Trunk or Treat event will be held at The Potter's House Christian Center on DeYoung Street in Marion on Halloween night at 6pm and is free to one and all.

The Downtown Trail of Treats will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31, 11am-1pm on Tower Square Plaza in Marion.

The Full Moon arrived on Monday Oct. 26. Some Native American tribes called it the Full Hunters' Moon. It is also known as the Full Falling Leaves Moon and the Fall Migration Moon.

The Johnson County Home and Community Education (HCE) of the U. of I. Extension held its annual Internationaol Night on Oct. 13, recognizing The Dominican Republic. Members prepared dishes for the potluck dinner, using recipes from the booklet prepared by the HCE board, such as Arroz con Leche (rice pudding). A program was given on the island that has produced many baseball players for our country's teams.

These folks will be blowing out candles and turning another year older. Happy Birthday to you! Oct. 22--Kari Hammond! Oct. 23--Adam Kirby, Myrtle Kelley,Jamie Bailey, Kyle Kellums, Donna Hancock! Oct. 24--Leslie Wright, Bob Funkhouser! Oct. 25--Helen Hancock, Diane Kirby, Kevin Retz, Tara Peas, Susan Lamb! Oct.

26--Jeff Merrow, Dustin Robertson, Max Falmier, Cody Maze! Oct. 27--Rich Schuhardt, Nicholas Bowns,Debbie Howard, Mike Whitehead, Payton Sopczak! Oct. 28--Terry Lambert, Nancy Davis, Wendy Sadcewiez! Oct. 29--Jane Butzler, Katelyn Bailey, Debbie Housewright, Lauren McCree, Jean Todd! Oct. 30--Tricia Bailey, Andrew Pearson, Trenton Potocki, Betty Yandell! Oct. 31--Marilyn Tite, Kim Manier! May you all have many more!

Congratulations to these couples who are celebrating their wedding anniversary! Doug and Angela Dunn on Oct. 24! Lonnie and Kathy Hinton on Oct. 26!

Coming up on Nov. 15-16 will be the annual Autumn Fest and craft show at John A. Logan College.

"Frozen" will be presented onstagre at Shawnee Community College on Nov. 5-7 at 7pm. This will feature local students performing.

The Tunnel Hill Ten-Mile Run will get underway on Nov. 7 at the Vienna City Park.

The U. of I.Extension will hold a Holiday Wreath Workshop on Dec. 5, at 10-11:30am and at 1-2:30pm at the Extension Building on East Main Street in Vienna.

A "Happy Holiday" event will take place on Dec. 19, 11am to 6pm in downtown Goreville, with vendors, entertainment, food, and more. Come on down and join in the fun!

A Live Nativity tour will get underway at the Vienna Ctiy Park on Sunday, Dec. 5, 5:30-8pm. Drive through and experience the miracle of the first Christmas. Free food and live music will be presented.

Grange Hall Freewill Baptist Church will provide volunteers at the Goreville Ministerial Alliance Thrift Shop on Oct. 27-29-31. Shopping hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 9am-4pm and on Saturday, 9am-noon. Lots of Thanksgiving decor and Fall and Winter clothing are available at budget prices. Stop in!

Vienna High School recognized Charlotte Dixon and Debbie Atehley on Oct. 20, in appreciation of their skills and time at the school cafeteria, to celebrate National School Lunch Week.

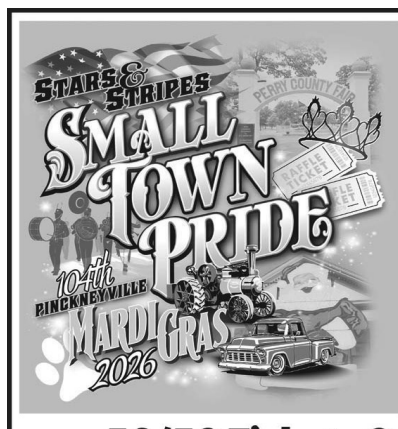
Our daughter, Pam Montgomery, has returned from a week in Orange Park, Florida, after returning with her daughter, Leah Sadlo,who had spent time in Southern Illinois, along with her 5-year-old daughter, Jemma. The three spent the night in Chattanooga and toured the Ruby Falls area, visiting an undrground cavern and taking the train to the top of Lookout Mountain for a breat-taking view They highly recommend stopping there to anyone driving to Florida.

Looking Back! In the Oct. 20, 1993, edition of the Goreville Gazette was this: "Like to be scard and help out the Lake Egypt Fire Depatment Auxiillary at the same time? Take a walk through their haunted house on Oct. 28, 6-10pm with all ages welcome, at the fire sttaion on Power Plant Road. For only $2, have a scary good time!"

Please call with your newsy items at 618-422-2086 or email to dixieterry85@yahoo.com.

Have a happy Halloween and all that the remainder of October has to offer.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR
RETIREMENT PLAN?
If you have questions about your pension, 401(k) or profit sharing plan, call the Illinois Pension Assistance Project at (888) 425-6067 to get free legal advice. Funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, IPAP staff provides free legal assistance to anyone with a question about their retirement plan.
CALL US TODAY 1.888.425.6067



The friendly little city
Pinckneyville!
Chamber of Commerce
October 31
Come Celebrate with Us!
50/50 Tickets Sales All Day
(Winning ticket will be drawn after Parade)
• 9 am -3 pm Vendor Fair • Food Court (Down Walnut St. and More!)
• 7 am - ? Car Show on Mulberry St.
•12:30 pm Marching Band Field Show at PCHS Football Field
And Lots More Activities and fun throughout the day and night!
7 pm - 104th Annual Mardi Gras Parade
"Celebrating 104 Years of Mardi Gras"
pinckneyville.com

Wine & Witches event to support Jonesboro Public Library



A little Halloween magic can go a long way toward making a difference in the community. Blue Sky Vineyard hosts the Wine & Witches fundraiser on Oct. 30, an evening of festive fun, wine and community spirit benefiting Jonesboro Public Library.

While guests can expect a memorable night filled with Halloween charm, the heart of the event is giving back. A portion of the proceeds from Wine & Witches will support Jonesboro Public Library, helping strengthen a community resource that provides opportunities for learning, discovery and connection.

In 2025, with the support of guests, Blue Sky Vineyard was able to donate $1,000 to Stinson Memorial Public Library. That contribution demonstrated how coming together for a fun local event can create a real and lasting impact. This year, Blue Sky Vineyard hopes to build on that spirit of generosity by bringing the community together once again in support of Jonesboro Public Library.

"Wine & Witches is about more than getting together for a fun night out," said Brandy Nance, Blue Sky Vineyard's Marketing & Event Director. "It's an opportunity for our community to come together, enjoy something a little different and support a local library that makes a difference in people's lives."

Shawnee Community College hosts high school students



Nearly 400 students from 12 area high schools visited Shawnee Community College's main campus near Ullin in early October for the college's annual SCC Day. The campus-wide event is designed to help juniors and seniors explore academic and career possibilities. SCC Day offered students a hands-on experience to learn about the college's diverse academic programs, career-training opportunities and campus life. Throughout the day, students engaged with faculty, toured classrooms and labs and participated in interactive demonstrations across multiple fields of study. The event also offered students an insight into college life, including student organizations, athletics and support services which are available to help them succeed. In many cases, SCC students provided instruction to the high school students during the event. (Shawnee Community College photo)

Entry deadline nearing for Veterans Day parade

BY GEOF SKINNER

Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post 3455 of Anna is making plans for this year's annual Veterans Day parade. The parade is set for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in Anna.

The theme for this year's parade is "Honoring All Who Served." Letters of invitation and application forms were recently mailed to last year's parade entrants.

The VFW is always looking for additional parade entrants to show their patriotism and respect to the nation's and community's veterans with their participation in this event.

Businesses, organizations, school bands and clubs, local clubs and groups which would like to be a part of the parade but did not receive an application can pick up one at the VFW post near during the post's regular business hours, which are scheduled from 3 to 10 p.m. Sunday through Saturday. The post is located at 70 VFW Ln., which is off old U.S. Route 51 between Anna and Cobden. The deadline for parade entry forms to be returned to the VFW is Nov. 4.

There will be complimentary chili and hot dogs served in the VFW hall to parade participants immediately following the parade. Certificates will be distributed to winning entries at that time as well.

NEWS NOTES

Items of interest from throughout Union County, from social media and beyond

BY GEOF SKINNER

Upcoming activities in the Union County area include this year's general election, Halloween trick-or-treating the end of daylight saving time…

***

If you have not already done so, be sure to vote in the 2026 general election on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

***

Once again, it's almost time to "fall back." Daylight saving time comes to an end early Sunday morning, Nov. 1. Remember to set your "time pieces" back one hour Saturday night.

***

Happy Halloween to all of our readers. Halloween is Saturday, Oct. 31. Local trick-or-treat hours include from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31 in the City of Anna, from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31 in Jonesboro, from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31, in Cobden (where trunk-or-treating will take place in the downtown park/downtown area) and from 5 until 7 p.m. in Dongola (where trunk-or-treating is planned in the downtown parking lot).

***

Motorists: be sure to watch out for trick-or-treaters on Halloween evening/night.

***

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council's haunted house is scheduled to be open from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday and from 6 to 11 p.m. on Halloween night. The arts council is located at 125 W. Davie St. in Anna. Admission is charged to visit the haunted house.

***

Trek n' Treat is planned from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, at Giant City State Park near Makanda. The free event, which is open to the public, will feature walks on the Arrowwood and Post Oak trails at the park, creature characters, treats and goodies. All ages are welcome.

***

An Oct. 22 update from the U.S. Drought Monitor showed all of Union, Jackson and Williamson counties were experiencing moderate drought conditions, as were most of Johnson County and a small part of Alexander County. Abnormally dry conditions were reported in a small part of Johnson County, most of Alexander County and all of Pulaski and Massac counties.

***

A Veterans Day assembly is set for 1 p.m. on Nov. 10 in the gymnasium at Shawnee Junior-Senior High School in Wolf Lake.

***

The Union County Ambulance Service is planning to sponsor a Stuff the Truck winter food drive from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 21 at the Kroger store in Anna. Nonperishable food items and monetary donations will be accepted. The food drive will support the Shawnee Development Council's food bank, which is located on the grounds of the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna.

***

Shawnee Community College is participating in the statewide Feed the Need Food Drive, which began Oct. 19 and continues through Nov. 30. Nonperishable food and other essential items will support Bernie's Place, which is the college's food pantry and snack locker.

***

Lick Creek School is planning to host a Fall Festival from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. The annual PTO fundraiser will feature a wide range of activities, including a haunted bus barn, a chance to kiss a mystery animal, a car smash, auctions, raffles and more. Food will be served. Funds raised at the festival will support classroom needs, field trips, family events and other activities.

***

Fifth and 6th grade students from Anna School District 37 learned about U.S. history during a school day program held as part of the recent Fort Massac Encampment in Metropolis. The events were at Fort Massac State Park.

***

Shawnee Hills Arts Council is planning to host auditions from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 26-27 for "A Tuna Christmas." The arts council is located at 125 W. Davie St. in Anna. The show features two leads who carry the adult production and slip into more than 20 characters. Performances are planned Dec. 11-13 as part of a holiday season event at the arts council.

***

The 24th annual Christmas Shop at the Union County Museum in Cobden is scheduled to open for the season on Nov. 7. The holiday season shop is scheduled to be open on Saturdays and Sundays (and Fridays, by chance) through Dec. 19. The Christmas Shop is a fundraiser for the Union County Historical and Genealogy Society.

***

Students from seven area high schools participated in last week's regional band festival at Shawnee Community College near Ullin. The students worked all day with the college's music instructor, Lee Van Alstine, to prepare for a concert titled "Something Wicked This Way Plays." The college shared that high schools which were represented included Anna-Jonesboro, Cobden, Egyptian (at Tamms), Gorevville, Massac County, Shawnee (at Wolf Lake) and Vienna.

***

Registration for Shawnee Community College's winter intersession spring semester was scheduled to start Oct. 26.

State police offer new FOID kiosk in Ullin

BY GEOF SKINNER

The Illinois State Police have opened a new Firearm Owners Identification, or FOID, kiosk in Southern Illinois. The kiosk is located at Illinois State Police Troop 10 headquarters at 1154 Shawnee College Rd. in Ullin.

The kiosk provides real-time, in-person assistance to Illinois residents who need help with their FOID cards and Concealed Carry Licenses, CCL. The newest kiosk was created to assist individuals who are experiencing difficulties with the online FOID and CCL website, or those without online access.

Regular hours at the Ullin headquarters are scheduled Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The state police offer other kiosks in Springfield, Du Quoin and Effingham. The Collinsville kiosk is temporarily closed until spring 2027 and a Lockport kiosk is expected to reopen this winter. Additional information about those locations can be found online at https://isp.illinois.gov/Foid.

Services provided at the kiosks include: Assistance with submitting name/address changes, renewals and new applications online. Taking a photo and uploading it to the application. Assistance with correcting rejected applications. Submitting Firearm Disposition Records, FDRs. Surrendering FOID/CCL cards when required.

A publicly accessible computer will be available to complete online applications and make updates to existing accounts.

Due to the extended time it takes for kiosk representatives to assist people with submitting applications online, customers may be asked to return at a different time.

New and current FOID and CCL card holders may continue to use the online ISP Firearms Services website (www.ISPFSB.com) to apply, update and renew their cards and licenses.

Other FOID and CCL customer assistance options are available.

The state police advised that login assistance requests, including registration approval, existing user ID recovery and password reset assistance should be sent to ISP.askFOIDandCCL@illinois.gov. Those seeking assistance will be asked to provide as much information about themselves as possible, including their name, date of birth, address, FOID/CCL number, etc. in their email.

Additional information related to FOID and CCL processing is available by visiting https://isp.illinois.gov/Foid/Statistics.

Those seeking information related to revoked FOID cards and CCLs and denied FOID cards and CCL applications, customers are advised to contact the Firearms Record Challenge Unit at ISP.FRCU@illinois.gov for further information about the appeal process.

Other than accepting surrendered FOID and FOID/CCL combination cards and Firearm Disposition Records, representatives from the FOID Card Review Board will not be available at the kiosks to assist customers with their revoked cards and denied applications.

Send your news items to: news@annanews.com

Honor Rolls

JONESBORO

JONESBORO GRADE SCHOOL
2026-2027 First Quarter Honor Roll Students

EIGHTH GRADE HIGH HONORS
Jayden Benefield, Lawson Ury

EIGHTH GRADE HONORS
Charlie Barlow, Eli Cohen, Knox Harris, Jonah Miller, Ethan Jiter, Jonah Miller, Nolan Newberry, Conner Pind, Blake Sullivan, Creighton Todd, Connor Turpin, Madilyn Wilkins, Kaitlyn Zimmerman

SEVENTH GRADE HIGH HONORS
Zella Baggott, Landon Hill, Emma Lambdin, Dylan Walker, Samuel Warden

SEVENTH GRADE HONORS
Mahayla Dukes, Chase Heern, Jayda Mayes, Lilly Newberry, Adelle Sherrill, Bentley Tollison, R.J. Turner, Kamiya Velasquez, Nora Wheeler

SIXTH GRADE HIGH HONORS
Ella Bailey, Margaret Bailey, Kate Cohen, Cooper Dallas, Lily Dallas, Owen Jiter, Mariah Miller, Reata Wenger, Warner Wingate

SIXTH GRADE HONORS
Caliope Pind, Koralynn Treece, Kimber Webb, Cain Williams

FIFTH GRADE HIGH HONORS
Corbin Barbee, Lyza Farris, Kylie Fehrenbacher, Adam Gould, Ali Hutcheson, Paisley Keene, Owen Lambdin, Gracelynn Newberry, Madeline Ury

FIFTH GRADE HONORS
Payzlee Anderson, Savanna Coe, Adley Lewis, Meredith Pinnon, Zyeliana Richardson, Braelyn Russell, Maverick Williams

MERIDIAN

Meridian Jr High School
1st Quarter
A/B Honor Roll

7th Grade:

1. Bailey, Deshontee
2. Bell, Kenyah
3. Caballero, Ava
4. Hines, Amari
5. Hurt, Treajure
6. Jordan Jr., Marcus
7. Lowe, Peighton
8. Malley, Kaleb
9. Patterson, LeNajah

8th Grade:

1. Bailey, Deshon
2. Bailey, Deshonee
3. Bowden, Hannah
4. Dunstan, James
5. Farrell, Tyler
6. Frayser, Bryson
7. Maborn-Jones, KeMaiah
8. Mitchell, Trenton
9. Schoffner, JaKari
10. Travis, Abbagail
11. Wells, Khyla

Meridian High School
1st Quarter
A/B Honor Roll

9th Grade:

1. Anderson, Lea
2. Brown, Kashia
3. Cooper, Camiya
4. Giden, Avanna
5. Hughes, Matison
6. Patterson, LeJayah
7. Shaw, Summer
8. Williamson-Hill, Ayana
9. Woodworth, Angel

10th Grade:

1. Bowden, Samson
2. Green, Charles "Xavier"
3. Heisner, Alisha
4. Huddleston Jr, Marvin
5. Hyte, Lamoreon
6. Jones, Daylen
7. Martin, Kiarei
8. Smith, JaMya
9. Smith, Jordan
10. Waddy, Xavier
11. Woodworth, Alaynah

Meridian High School
1st Quarter
A/B Honor Roll

11th Grade:

1. Cleaves, Tyrese
2. Hunt, Chloe
3. Jackson, Ahmad
4. Nelson, Richard

12th Grade:

1. Adkinson, Christian
2. Blankenship, Makiyah
3. Dover, Madyson
4. Johnson, Amari
5. Whitaker, Kamauri

LICK CREEK

High Honor Roll

Student Name
Bass-Townsend, Randall Anne "Rae"
Cobb, Jolee Kate
Kelley, Bowen Robert
Morris, Elijah Alan
Shelton, Caroline Jo
Banks, Otto Wayne
Glays, William Ellis
Hall, Mallory Elizabeth
Hoehner, Bryson Wayne
Houseman, Miles Parker "Milo"
Johnson, Cole Aven
Coomer, Madelyn Jo
Moberley, Friedrich Wichmann
Cook, Bella Lynn
Glasco, Kooper DuWayne
Mendez Fabery, Isabella Marie
Pinnon, Hayes Matthew
Mendez Fabery, Rosaleigha Annabelle
Corbit, Ayla Kree
Corbit, Owen Cache
Houseman, Ryan Christopher
Newman, Jet Allen
Orange, Emelia C
Roach, Maggie Dawn
Count : 24

Honor Roll

Student Name
New, Holden Michael
Newman, Henry William
Schmidt, Oliver William
Bowen, William Scott
Bryan, Blakeley Ann-Marie
Evers, Abigail Rosalie Fern Marie
Newman, Hank Sawyer
Nice, Simon Peter
Wright, Rodney James "RJ"
Duty, Lawson Carter
Gerardi, Taylynn Faith
Schlenker, Emma Grace
Shipley, Brooklyn Rebecca
Hall, Elijah Alexander Dean
Miller, Jaden Jeffrey
New, Paisley Jae
Plott, Daniel Austin
Shelton, Benjamin Kyle
Colson, Angel Rose
Hanney, Serenity Lynn
Hoehner, Blakeley Nicole
Houseman, Elias Carter "Eli"
Moberley, Heinrich Wichmann
Baker, Taylor Marie
Cobb, Bentley Drew
Hileman, Alice Marie
McMahan, Kayleigh Elizabeth
Sadler, Matthew Gene
Short, Sofia Mae
Thorn, Abigail Renee
Count : 30

EGYPTIAN

Egyptian Community Unit School #5
Elementary – 1st Quarter
2026-2027
(October 2026)

High Honor Roll – (4.75 – 5.00)

Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Roland Henderson	Gabriel Barringer	Makenna Cole
	Annabeth Dale	Alaylah Goldsmith
	Lauren Taylor	

Honor Roll – (4.50 – 4.74)

Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Reid Behm	Benn Tylar	Zoie Enos
Daryiana Caldwell	Westyn Blaney	Caleb Hale
Layla Hudspeth	Caleb Burton	Za"Riah Lincoln
Darmez Nelson	Colton Butler	Kynleigh Miner
Gabriel Sims	Kolton Hale	Pais Lee Miner
		Genevieve Shackles
		Bryar Thomas
		Kinsley Tucker

What Is The Value Of A Community Newspaper?

What is the value of a community newspaper?

What does it bring to that community that no other institution can provide?

The local newspaper is a basic institution in any community, like the post office, the schools and the churches.

The local community newspaper, whether it be a 2,000 circulation weekly or a 50,000 circulation daily, serves to keep people connected to their community, by telling them what's happening with their neighbors, as well as the institution serving the community.

The publication of obituaries, birth announcements, weddings and other significant events in our lives remind us of poet John Donne's words, "no man is an island."

Community newspapers alert members of the community to problems needing attention.

The community newspaper facilitates the exchange of ideas and opinions through its editorial page and letters to the editor.

There are so many things of value community newspapers provide: the recording of local history and helping to maintain a healthy local economy through effective advertising for local businesses are just a few areas of value.

The community newspaper's value to its community is unquestioned.

– from Publishers Auxiliary, a publication of the National Newspaper Association

Red Cross: Blood and platelet donors needed now

The American Red Cross urges people to leave a lasting impact by giving blood or platelets now. Donors of all blood types, especially those with type O blood, are needed to keep the blood supply steady ahead of the holiday rush.

As we lean into fall activities, keeping blood and platelet donation appointments on the books is crucial to ensuring hospitals have the tools they need to care for patients this fall. In thanks, all who come to give Oct. 19-Nov. 22, 2026, will get up to $20 in Gift Cards - that's a $10 Amazon Gift Card by email and 500 bonus points, which can be redeemed for a $10 e-gift card through Blood Donor Rewards! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Maze for details.

Get into the spirit of saving lives. Visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App to schedule a donation appointment.

Empower your health

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. To help empower and educate our blood donors, in November, successful donations will once again get free A1C testing, commonly used to screen for prediabetes and diabetes. (One result per calendar year; do not fast before donating.) For additional information, see RedCrossBlood.org/Maze.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Nov. 1-15:

• Calvert City Civic Center, 991 E. 5th Ave., Calvert City, KY 42029
11/9/2026: 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

• First Baptist Church, 115 Second St., Fulton, KY 42041
11/10/2026: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

• Livingston Hospital Foundation Community Building, 131 Hospital Drive, Salem, KY 42078
11/11/2026: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

• Marshall County Technical Center, 341 High School Road, Benton, KY 42025
11/12/2026: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

• Paducah Blood Donation Center, 4635 Falconcrest Drive, Paducah, KY 42001
11/1/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
11/2/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
11/3/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
11/4/2026: 11 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.
11/5/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
11/6/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
11/8/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
11/9/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
11/10/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
11/11/2026: 11 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.
11/12/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
11/13/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
11/15/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

• Public Safety Building, 501 Adams St., Paducah, KY 42001
11/6/2026: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

• Saint William Catholic Church, 860 S. Main St., Marion, KY 42064
11/2/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

• St. Mary High School, 1243 Elmdale Road, Paducah, KY 42003
11/10/2026: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

• Woodmen Life, 1005 Poplar St., Benton, KY 42025
11/9/2026: 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Amplify your impact – volunteer!

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience.

Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vital role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals. For more information and to apply for either position, visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

Positive developments seen for future of Choate Center

BY GEOF SKINNER

Positive developments in an ongoing effort to retain mental health services in Southern Illinois have been announced by Union County State's Attorney Tyler Tripp.

In an Oct. 20 news release, Tripp announced that in response to his lawsuit seeking an injunction against closure and removal of access to inpatient treatment beds at the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna, the Illinois Department of Human Services, IDHS, under board staff guidance has formally requested to withdraw its certificate of need for closure application. The application was filed with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, IHFSRB.

The state's attorney said that IDHS now plans to reduce the number of mental health beds available at the Choate Center from 75 to 25 beds serving people with acute mental illness. IDHS maintains its plan to remove up to an additional 15 beds currently serving individuals with developmental disabilities at the Choate Center.

Tripp stated that while the change of direction is encouraging, he maintains that IDHS "must not reduce mental health services at Choate due to an overwhelming statewide demand for inpatient treatment and services for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled."

Tripp cited two key factors that require the maintaining of the current number of beds at Choate and an expansion of inpatient treatment beds statewide.

The first factor is the state backlog of individuals awaiting admission to inpatient treatment currently held in county jails despite court orders for transfer to IDHS. The second factor is the large population of individuals living with developmental disabilities in Illinois communities.

"Both groups of people are currently and have been served at Choate for decades," the state's attorney said. "Illinois communities rely on Choate being available to admit these individuals in times of crisis and need for treatment and services."

Tripp credits the change in direction announced by IDHS "in large part to the unification of countless people throughout the region relentlessly raising awareness of the need for services at Choate. This group includes Choate employees, elected officials, law enforcement, healthcare providers, staff, advocates and families of vulnerable individuals, among others, who continue the effort to keep Choate working for the mental health needs of Southern Illinois and beyond."

The state's attorney said he "hopes to see additional reconsideration of plans to reduce services at Choate."



FILE PHOTO

Support for the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna has been strong and vocal. Signs on display at the four-way stop in downtown Anna showed support for Choate and the center's workers.

Tripp said he intends to continue the mission of addressing Illinois' mental health crisis and shortage of treatment options for Illinois' most vulnerable individuals through the maintaining of services at the Choate Center.

Legislators issue statement

State Sen. Terri Bryant, R-Murphysboro, and State Sen. Paul Jacobs, R-Pomona, issued a joint statement following the announcement by IDHS about the future of the Choate Center. The statement was shared on social media:

"We appreciate that IDHS is recognizing the importance of maintaining mental health services at Choate rather than eliminating them. However, keeping just 25 of the facility's 75 psychiatric beds is still wholly inadequate and falls far short of meeting the mental health needs of Southern Illinois.

"SIU Medicine's own study recommended expanding psychiatric services at Choate, not cutting them. While this announcement is a step in the right direction, it is not enough. Southern Illinois families deserve access to mental health treatment close to home, and the dedicated employees at Choate deserve a commitment to preserving these important services."

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Rt. 13 at 1200 North Market, Marion, Illinois
618.997.9411
Teleflora

VILLAGE OF GOREVILLE, ILLINOIS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Cellular Water Meter System

The Village of Goreville, Illinois, is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of new cellular water meter system.
The proposed system must meet the following minimum requirements:
- Cellular communication for automatic remote meter reading.
- Mobile application capability.
- Remote access to meter readings, water consumption history, and available leak and abnormal usage alerts.
- Optional automatic water shutoff capability, allowing authorized personnel to remotely shut off and restore water service through the mobile application or software platform.
- Flush-mount water meter lids.
- All necessary meters, communication equipment, software, and components required for operation.
- Disclosure of all initial costs, installation charges, cellular service fees, software licensing fees, and annual recurring expenses.
- Manufacturer warranty, technical support, and estimated delivery schedule.

Bids shall include product specifications, itemized pricing, estimated annual operating costs, and delivery information.

Sealed bids shall be clearly marked **"SEALED BID – CELLULAR WATER METERS"** and delivered to:

Village of Goreville
Attn: Village Clerk
100 South Broadway
Goreville, Illinois 62939

Bid Deadline: November 12, 2026
Bid Opening: November 12, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Late submissions may be rejected. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informalities when legally permissible, and award the bid in accordance with applicable law and the best interests of the Village.

J.W. REYNOLDS MEMORIALS
WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD
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Anna 517 E. Vienna St., Suite A (618) 833-6014
Benton 1408 S. Main St. (618) 435-4199
Marion 1809 N. Court St. (618) 993-5511
Herrin 1116 N. Park Ave. (618) 942-2342
Mt. Vernon 2223 Broadway (618) 242-1305
Harrisburg 200 E. Poplar St. (618) 253-7355
McLeansboro 710 E. Randolph (618) 643-2825
Paducah KY 402 S. Third St. (270) 443-1550
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From lawnmower to combine: SIU students learn to harvest crops

BY BROOKE KELTNER
SIU UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Like farmers across the state, Southern Illinois University Carbondale is in the midst of harvesting its fall crops, including soybeans and corn. The annual ritual is not only necessary to maintain the farmland but is also helping teach generations of college students valuable lessons for their future careers.

One of those students is Hannah Humphreys, a sophomore in agricultural education. She works at SIU's Agronomy Center, home to about 70 acres of small and large research plots. She applied to work at the center as a way to gain hands-on experience for when she leads her own classroom.

"It's really cool to see some of my course work come to life," said Humphreys, who's also pursuing a minor in horticulture and endorsement in elementary education. "You can sit in the classroom and hear about this stuff all day, but when you come out here you get to see it being applied."

From lawnmower to combine

Since starting the job in May, Humphreys went from never riding a lawnmower, to mowing large swaths of grass around the center to now operating a combine – a piece of equipment that's weighed by the tons and so large it requires a ladder for the driver to enter its cabin.

"At first I was pretty intimidated because I get nervous just driving in traffic," said Humphreys of West Frankfort, Illinois. "Driving something this big isn't so bad once you get the hang of it and know what you're looking out for."

The skills needed to operate the combine go beyond simply driving the machinery but also include mastering how to set up the combine for different crops. Humphreys must properly select the front attachment needed for the combine, which varies depending on the crop being harvested. She must also determine the attachment's height and the correct speed for the machine, so it does not get jammed. In harvesting corn, Humphreys carefully aligned the noses of the combine attachment between the corn stalk rows before slowly making her way down the rows.

"The rollers pull the stalks in and the gathering chains bring the ears up," Humphreys said, in explaining how the machine works. "Then the separator gets the kernels off the cob by rubbing the kernels off the cob. The kernels go into a grain tank behind the driver's cabin and the combine shoots everything unused as "trash" out the back.

As the combine rolls down the rows, it kicks up dust and plant debris swirls in the air like a mini tornado. On the inside of the cabin, the machine roars and the seats shake. Humphreys only takes her eyes away from the windshield to look at a screen that displays real-time harvest data. That includes a map of the plots harvested, the plots that still need to be finished, the number of bushels harvested, along with the weight of the harvest and moisture levels.

Mistakes are learning opportunities

Chris Vick, director of University Farms, said student workers at the Agronomy Center learn more than just about harvesting crops. Those lessons include basic agronomy – or the science and technology of crop production and soil management – farming, planting and harvesting, and research, which is a main learning pillar.

"We help the researchers with their projects in whatever capacity they need us to, whether that's planting seeds, applying different types of pesticides at varying levels, or taking soil or water quality samples," Vick said. "One researcher out here is comparing different types of cover crops, so we will plant that for them when we finish harvesting. Many students who work here go on to work in labs or become professors."

The Agronomy Center is just one facet of University Farms, which has more than 600 acres of crop research and production, 120 acres of hay production, about 300 acres of pasture for animal centers and 1,000 acres of forest and watershed areas. Overall, dozens of student workers contribute to feeding and grooming livestock, cleaning out stalls, fixing equipment and other agriculture-related responsibilities.



PHOTO BY BROOKE KELTNER

SIU's Hannah Humphreys, who is pursuing a degree in agriculture education, is a student worker at the Agronomy Center. This fall, she went from learning to mow grass to harvesting crops in a combine. The sophomore believes learning new skills will benefit her future students after she graduates and leads her own classroom.

"We really rely on our student workers, and we couldn't do it without them," said Vick, who started as a student worker at University Farms himself in 1995 and worked his way up to his current position.

Over the years, he's met students too afraid to drive a combine – which he only encourages if the student feels comfortable – and has witnessed small crashes, bumps and scratches. For him, the best part of the job is seeing students learn from their mistakes and make progress just like the strides that Humphreys has made.

"The most rewarding part is the memories with the students and seeing them go on to work in the agriculture industry, or become professors, or even teachers," Vick said, referring to Humphreys. "She's going to be an agricultural teacher which influences a lot of kids for many years."

Inspiring the next generation

Humphreys experienced that influence firsthand from her own high school ag teacher, West Frankfort's Josh Billingsley, who also led the school's FFA.

"He very much encouraged me to try all ag-related things to see what area I would be interested in," Humphreys said. "That's why I chose to become an agricultural educator, so I can have that impact on my own students."

As a highly active member of her high school's FFA club, she attended many agriculture-related events hosted by SIU. When it came time to start applying for college two years ago, Humphreys' followed her heart and became a Saluki.

"I was on campus a lot and became familiar with all the opportunities that SIU offers, so it definitely made the choice easy when deciding," she said. "I'm also really close with my family and still live at home. I get to go home to my family every night and that's pretty cool. Not a lot of college students get to do that."

After graduating from SIU, Humphreys' goal is to stay close to her family in Southern Illinois and become a local agricultural teacher. If all goes to plan, she may have a full circle moment one day, bringing her own ag students to events on the campus of her alma mater.

Funding shortages and growing demand stall Illinois conservation efforts

After a temporary boost in state funding, the state's 97 soil and water conservation districts are back to operating on tighter budgets, leaving employees searching for other ways to help farmers protect their land.

For 20 years, Kara Downin has been puzzling out the perfect conservation program or partner for landowners in Knox County, Illinois, who come to her seeking help with their land.

As a resource conservationist at the county Soil and Water Conservation District, Downin's goal and passion is to protect natural resources and support the agricultural community as she advises landowners about the resources and programs best suited to their needs.

Soil and water conservation districts are quasi-governmental agencies, and all 97 in Illinois work with local landowners, assessing soil and water conditions, educating farmers about conservation practices, helping them connect to grant opportunities and providing expert advice about soil health and management.

"I like to call them the conservation delivery system," said Josh Curry, a farmer in Northwest Illinois. "That's what soil water conservation districts are."

These districts, and staff like Downin, also manage conservation programs for the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois branch of the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Soil and water conservation districts are kind of an unsung hero of what goes on in Illinois," said Democratic State Sen. Dave Koehler of Peoria. "Nobody really sees them, they're not front-page news, but what they do is essential to maintain the environmental health and the conditions for agriculture that this state desperately needs."

The work is critical and rooted in preventing another Dust Bowl. And yet, the offices are underfunded, understaffed and overworked.

The funding picture

In 1934, a dust storm carried soil from the Midwest to Washington, D.C., and the Atlantic coast, caused by the prolonged drought of the Dust Bowl era. In response, Congress passed the Soil Conservation Act in 1935, at the encouragement of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

North Carolina opened the first district in 1937 and by 1945, every state had offices.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture administers Illinois' districts, and the state primarily funds them through a grant from the Partners for Conservation Fund — with money for cost-share projects, like the state's cover crops incentive programs, and for office operations, which includes payroll and employee benefits.

The allocated money is then divided up among the 97 districts in the state.

The cost-share appropriation in the state budget for the 2027 fiscal year — which started July 1, 2026 and runs until June 30, 2027 — was $3 million. The money set aside for district office operations was $4.5 million.

But from fiscal years 2022-2024, funding for operations doubled to $8.5 million.

In that time, Downin's office in Knox County received about $82,000 a year, which Downin called "phenomenal."

"We were able to complete what we needed to complete and not be forced to look for outside sources of funding, which also comes with outside workload," she said.

Downin is one of two staffers at the Knox County district. After 2024, budget allocation to this office fell to where it was in 2021: the district received $45,000 in operations for the 2026 fiscal year.

"We are not expensive at all to operate," Downin said, because they work out of a federal office building and don't have to pay rent or utilities. "But, $45,000 certainly doesn't cover two people's salaries and benefits and stamps. It just doesn't."



PHOTO BY NIKOEL HYTREK, INVESTIGATE MIDWEST

Conservation advocates and workers pictured here with U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, D-Ill,. and farmer Josh Curry at a visit to Curry's newly started wetland in northwest Illinois on Aug. 7, 2026.

To raise extra money every year, most conservation districts sell fish for pond stocking, and native seeds, explained Eliot Clay, executive director of the *Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts. They aren't big money-makers – only generating $1,000 to $5,000 – but they've become local traditions.

"Districts have gotten creative in their own right to create local programs for tree sales or fish sales and things like that that have allowed them to have some extra income," he said. "But it's been a lot of people having to be scrappy to figure it out."

While funding following the Biden years (2022-2024) shrunk, the demands on the Knox County office have not. Downin and her colleague have enough work for three people, she said.

"We both work very hard to show that our soil and water board can afford to keep both of us with some basic benefits," she said.

To help meet demand for conservation projects and reduce its backlog, the Knox County district has an agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The agreement brings in additional funding but also adds to the staff's workload.

For that agreement, Downin works on contracts for the Conservation Reserve Program, which aren't part of her job description.

These agreements earn around $4 million for the whole state, according to Ashley Curran, the development director at the Association for Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The amount each district gets varies by workload and the expertise of their technical staff.

"We've added that because that'll give us a big shot in the arm," Downin said.

Why conservation matters

Extra work, limited funding and the high demand for conservation programs has created project backlogs in these districts. Backlogs mean fewer acres enrolled in conservation and farmers waiting longer to begin conservation projects.

Josh Curry, a farmer and the vice president of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Districts, has waited about four years for funding to build a wetland on his property.

Curry wants the wetland for its ability to filter nitrates out of water and act as a natural habitat for birds and insects.

"I think landowners get frustrated because they, you know, they want to do the project, but then it takes four or five, 10 years to get funded," he said in an interview with Investigate Midwest. "And they don't have the funds to do it privately."

Farmers also need the expertise and support of district staff to understand when projects are expected to turn a profit. Uncertainty about performance is often a barrier to landowners adopting conservation efforts. Research shows that it takes about three years for cover crops to replenish soil enough to return a profitable crop yield.

"It's a hard time right now to have extra costs," Curry said. "With negative margins, it's not a real easy time to try something new and unproven on your operation."

Government conservation programs can make those risks tolerable by sharing or covering the costs, and demand for these programs in Illinois is high, with hundreds of people applying every year.

The Department of Agriculture operates three:

Fall Covers for Spring Savings, also known as the Cover Crop Premium Discount Program, provides crop insurance premium discounts for cover crops. Created in 2019, the program selected 542 applications from the 659 it received in 2025, according to documents Investigative Midwest obtained through records requests.

Climate Smart Agriculture Program, which promotes no-till and strip-till practices, began in 2025. It received 1,488 applications and 1,280 were selected. The department expects to fund $22.6 million.

Created in 2025, I-COVER, or Infield Conservation for Operationalizing Vital Economic Resilience is a cost-share program for cover crops. A total of 86 applications have been selected to receive funds from the 552 applications submitted.

IDPH Marks Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 25-31

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is marking National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 25-31, 2026. This year's observance follows the state's move to implement universal lead testing, which took effect July 1, 2026. Each month in Illinois, hundreds of children around the state are found to have elevated levels of lead in their blood, which can lead to developmental and learning difficulties and other health issues.

"Universal lead testing is an essential tool for identifying and helping children who have been exposed to lead," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "It's equally important to identify and remove sources of lead exposure before a child is in harm's way. This week is all about reminding Illinoisans to take the steps to prevent lead poisoning and keep our children safe."

The most common source of exposure is from deteriorated lead-based paint, which was used in many homes built before 1978. Children can be exposed by swallowing or breathing in lead dust created by old paint that has peeled, cracked, or chipped, eating paint chips, or chewing on surfaces coated with lead-based paint, such as windowsills. If you live in a house built before 1978, a certified inspector or risk assessor can check your home for lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards. It's estimated that there are still well over one million homes in Illinois that contain lead-based paint.

Lead can also be found in drinking water. The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures.

Lead exposure can be significantly reduced by taking simple precautions around the house. These include the following:

Cleaning up paint chips and peeling paint

Washing floors, counter tops, and windowsills weekly with soap and water

Using proper safety measures when renovating or remodeling your house, like spraying down painted surfaces with water before scraping or sanding, and using plastic sheeting to capture any debris generated

Assuring that children and pregnant women do not enter a work area until renovations are complete and the area has been thoroughly cleaned

Washing a child's hands, mouth and face, and toys often

Having your water tested for lead. If lead is detected, allow the cold water to run for several minutes in the morning before using it for drinking, cooking, or mixing infant formula in case lead pipes or solder is present. Only use cold water for cooking

Lead can also be found in products made outside of the U.S., such as toys, pottery, and make-up. It can also be found in many home remedies or ceremonial powders

Removing shoes when coming indoors so lead from dust or soil is not tracked inside

Eating a well-balanced, low-fat diet that is high in calcium and iron, which can help reduce lead absorption

In addition, IDPH oversees the Comprehensive Lead Education, Reduction, and Window Replacement (CLEAR-Win) program. CLEAR-Win aims to assist residential property owners to reduce lead paint and leaded plumbing hazards in qualified homes throughout Illinois by way of window replacement and remediation of other sources of lead. More information on eligibility and the application process can be found at CLEAR-Win.

Illinois Lottery achieves record sales, generates funding for K-12 education

The Illinois Lottery has delivered another strong year of results, generating $3.87 billion in total sales. The Lottery continues to grow sales year-over-year with four of the past five years being record years.

The Lottery generated $804 million in proceeds for the State of Illinois — its fourth-best year for Net Income returns — resulting in $792 million in contributions to the Common School Fund to support K-12 public education and $12 million for local good causes.

The year's record sales demonstrate that Illinois Lottery players continue to support one of the state's most vital institutions: public education. Despite operating in one of the most competitive gaming markets in the country, the Illinois Lottery continues to generate sustainable funding for schools and the causes that matter most to Illinois families.

"Reaching record sales again is a tremendous achievement for the Illinois Lottery, and it reflects the trust our players put in us every day," said Harold Mays, Director of the Illinois Lottery. "We remain focused on giving our players fun, responsible ways to play while generating funding for K-12 education and the good causes we support."

During the 2026 fiscal year, the Illinois Lottery also achieved the highest level of responsible gaming from the World Lottery Association. By recertifying its responsible gaming program at Level 4 — the highest possible standard — the Illinois Lottery reaffirmed its commitment to player protection and responsible gaming practices.

Illinois Lottery players are also winning big, collecting more than $2.7 billion in prizes from nearly 107.5 million winning tickets. Of those wins, 147 lucky players won prizes of $1 million or more, including one Illinois iLottery player who won a $536 million Mega Millions® jackpot.

Illinois Lottery retailers also benefited from strong sales, receiving $176.5 million in commission and bonuses during fiscal year 2026 for selling lottery tickets.

"Achieving the Lottery's mission relies heavily on our retailers, who are both the face of the Lottery in their local communities and an important part of its economic engine," said Mays.

With Allwyn North America serving as the operating partner of the Illinois Lottery and its iLottery provider, the Lottery reached another digital milestone this year with record online sales of $757 million.

"Our record-breaking year underscores the strength of Allwyn's partnership with the Department of the Lottery," said Khalid Jones, CEO at Allwyn North America. "By continuing to invest in new games and a modern digital experience, we're giving players more ways to engage responsibly while growing the Lottery's ability to fund education across Illinois."

The Illinois Lottery's fiscal year 2026 runs from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The operating income figure of $804 million is still to be audited and confirmed. Audited full year lottery returns to the state will be published later in the year. For more information, please visit www.illinoislottery.com.

JB Pritzker, Governor — Raven A. DeVaughn, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Elected Officers;
All Directors of the Executive Code Departments;
All Presidents of Public Universities and Colleges;
All Chairpersons of Executive Boards, Bureaus, and Commissions;
All Officers in charge of the Property of the State of Illinois; and,
All Governing Bodies in the County of Surplus Properties locations

FROM: Raven A. DeVaughn, Director

DATE: October 31, 2026

SUBJECT: **Offering of State-Owned Surplus Property**

Each year all officers in charge of State of Illinois (State) real property are required to perform an inventory and determine if it is advantageous to the State to dispose of said property. Pursuant to 30 ILCS 605/7.1, State Property Control Act, the following properties have been declared **surplus.** These surplus properties are available for transfer to State Agencies and to governing bodies of the County, Cities, Villages, and incorporated Towns in the county where such surplus properties are located (together referred to as "Entities"):

Interested Agencies and Entities must submit a written response to Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) at the contact information provided below, requesting that control of the properties be transferred. The request must indicate the reason for transfer, the intended use of the properties and any relevant information. Written requests must be submitted to CMS within 30 days from the above date to be considered.

CMS may deny any or all such requests by a State Agency or Entities if CMS determines that it is more advantageous for the State to dispose of the surplus real property through a sale pursuant to 30 ILCS 605/7.1(d).

All requests and questions should be in writing and directed to Deputy Director Jennifer Haley, CMS Bureau of Property Management, 555 W. Monroe, 13th floor, Chicago, IL 60661 or via email at Jennifer.Haley@Illinois.gov.

Property Name	Address	City	Acres
DNR Mine Rescue Station	245 Buck St.	LaSalle	0.069
DOT Blue Water Ditch	US50/IL3	Cahokia	10.88
Singer Mental Health Center[1]	4402 N. Main St.	Rockford	99
Lincoln Developmental Center[1]	861 S. State St.	Lincoln	102
Jacksonville Developmental Center[1]	1201 S. Main St.	Jacksonville	93.621
Blodgett Land	Woodstock Township	Rushville	47.47
Choate Mental Health Center Land	650 State Pond Rd.	Anna	117
Galesburg Laboratory	2100 S. Lake Story Rd.	Galesburg	4.32
Dwight Correctional Center[1]	23813 E. 2100 N. Road	Dwight	160
Shapiro Developmental Center Land[1]	100 E. Jeffrey St.	Kankakee	86.475

[1] Property pending disposition due to the Site Readiness/Surplus to Success Program per 20 ILCS 405/405-217

Tuesday, Nov. 3, Election Day in Union County

Tuesday, Nov. 3, is Election Day. Polling places in Union County are scheduled to be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Candidates on the ballot

Union County voters will be helping to decide the outcomes of federal, state, local, regional superintendent of school and judicial elections. Here's a look at the ballot:

Federal Offices

For United States Senator: Juliana Stratton, Democratic. Don Tracy, Republican. Whitfield Harrington Jr., American Center Party.

State Offices

For governor and lieutenant governor: JB Pritzker/Christian Mitchell, Democratic. Darren Bailey/Aaron B. Del Mar, Republican. Collin Corbett/Carolyn Schofield, Independent.

For attorney general: Kwame Raoul, Democratic. Robert W. Fioretti, Republican.

For secretary of state: Alexi Giannoulias, Democratic. Diane M. Harris, Republican.

For comptroller: Margaret Croke, Democratic. Bryan Drew, Republican.

For treasurer: Michael W. Frerichs, Democratic. Max Solomon, Republican.

Legislative

For state senator, 59th Legislative District: Tamiko "T.C." Mueller, Democratic. Paul Jacobs, Republican.

For representative in the General Assembly, 118th Representative District: Homer "Chip" Markel, Democratic. Scott Doody, Republican.

County

For county clerk: Stephanie L. Cox, Republican.

For county treasurer: Leigh Burns, Republican.

For county sheriff: David Wilkins, Republican.

For county commissioner, Seat B: Lance Meisenheimer, Republican.

Democrats do not have candidates for any of the county offices.

Educational Service Region

For regional superintendent of schools (Alexander, Jackson, Perry, Pulaski and Union counties): Matthew Hickam, Republican.

For regional superintendent of schools (Franklin, Johnson, Massac and Williamson counties): Lorie LeQuatte, Republican.

Democrats do not have candidates for regional superintendent of schools.

Judicial District

For judge of the Appellate Court Fifth Judicial District: Amy E. Sholar, Republican. Democrats do not have a candidate.

Judicial Retention

Ballot for judicial candidates seeking retention in office: Voters are asked to vote yes or no whether each of the persons on the ballot shall be retained as judges.

Judge of the Appellate Court, Fifth Judicial District: John B. Barberis Jr.

Judge of the Circuit Court, First Judicial Circuit: William J. "Bill" Thurston.

Judge of the Circuit Court, First Judicial Circuit: Sarah K. Tripp.

Early, Grace Period Voting

Early voting at the Union County clerk's office in Jonesboro continues through Nov. 2. The clerk's office at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro is scheduled to be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. The office is scheduled to be open from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 31.

Grace period voting started continues through Tuesday, Nov. 3, during regular office hours and on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Precincts, Polling Places

Union County's polling places, by precincts, follow:

Anna 1, Anna 2: Main Street Center, 400 S. Main St., Anna. Anna 3, Anna 4: Anna City Hall, 103 Market St., Anna. Jonesboro 1, Jonesboro 2: Union County Courthouse, community room, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro. Cobden 1, Cobden 2: First Baptist Church, 200 S. Walker, Cobden.

Dongola: Dongola Community Center, 105 Oak St., Dongola. Alto Pass: Alto Pass Community Center, 19 Elm St., Alto Pass. Mill Creek: Mill Creek Church, 8525 State Route 127 S, Mill Creek. Balcom: Dongola Community Center, 105 Oak. St., Dongola.

Lick Creek: United Missionary Baptist Church, 125 United Missionary Ln., Buncombe. Stokes: United Missionary Baptist Church, 125 United Missionary Ln., Buncombe. Union: Wolf Lake Community Center, 4720 State Route 3 N, Wolf Lake.

SIU's journalism program hosts discussion on efforts to combat 'news deserts'

BY PETER ROSENBERY
SIU UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

A panel discussion next month at Southern Illinois University Carbondale will examine the nation's increasing number of news deserts — areas where there is limited or no local journalism — and the role of journalism schools in filling the void.

The discussion, "News Deserts:J-Schools As a Solution," features SIU Carbondale alumnus and 46-year veteran journalist Tim Atseff, along with Charlotte Thompson Suhler School of Journalism and Advertising faculty. The free, public discussion and reception is from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5 in SIU's Sharp Museum Auditorium. Atseff's exhibition, "Requiem for Newspapers," which serves as a memorial and eulogy for the decline of print newspapers, is in the museum's Mitchell Gallery through Dec. 11.

"With the unfortunate increase of news deserts, especially in rural areas, journalism schools will have to help fill that void with local news," said Jan Thompson, professor and director of SIU's journalism and advertising school. "The Charlotte Thompson Suhler School of Journalism and Advertising have always had a presence in the community, but we now recognize how vital our role has become and we are leaning into that responsibility."

In addition to Atseff, panelists include award-winning journalists:

William Freivogel, professor in journalism, mass communications and media arts.

Molly Parker-Stephens, assistant professor, journalism.

Julia Rendelman, assistant professor, journalism.

Jeff Sutker, assistant lecturer, journalism.

Thompson will serve as moderator.

Local newspapers disappearing

A 2026 "The State of Local News" report from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, shows nearly 40% of local U.S. print newspapers have closed and news deserts continue to grow. In Illinois, 30 small- to medium-sized newspapers closed between July 2025 and August 2026, according to a report on the state's news deserts.

A 1970 graduate from the university's School of Art with a major in painting, Atseff had a 46-year career in newspapers in his hometown of Syracuse, New York. He was an editorial cartoonist, a managing editor and a magazine editor. As editorial cartoonist for the Herald-Journal, Atseff's work of more than 1,500 cartoons with local, national and international themes appeared in several publications, including The New York Times, Washington Post and Boston Globe. He has also designed and edited six tabletop books.

Atseff said the discussion examines what is lost as local newspapers "disappear from the media landscape at the alarming rate of three per week and the sanguine recognition of what they brought to households throughout America." The panel will also discuss the lessons to be learned "as new delivery systems are developed," and answer questions such as, without local journalists, who will attend governmental meetings, ask questions and preserve the record?

"The question before the panel and the audience is whether a news desert needs to remain a desert, or will initiatives like those at SIU's J-School provide new forms of journalism that will be the sprouts that provide the path from remembrance to responsibility, human connection and well-informed communities?" Atseff said.

Journalism schools and their students play an integral role in combatting increasing news deserts, he said.

"All across the country, journalism schools and not-for-profits are trying to answer that question," Atseff said, noting that Thompson and SIU's Suhler School of Journalism and Advertising's faculty and students are taking the initiative that is deserving of support across the region.

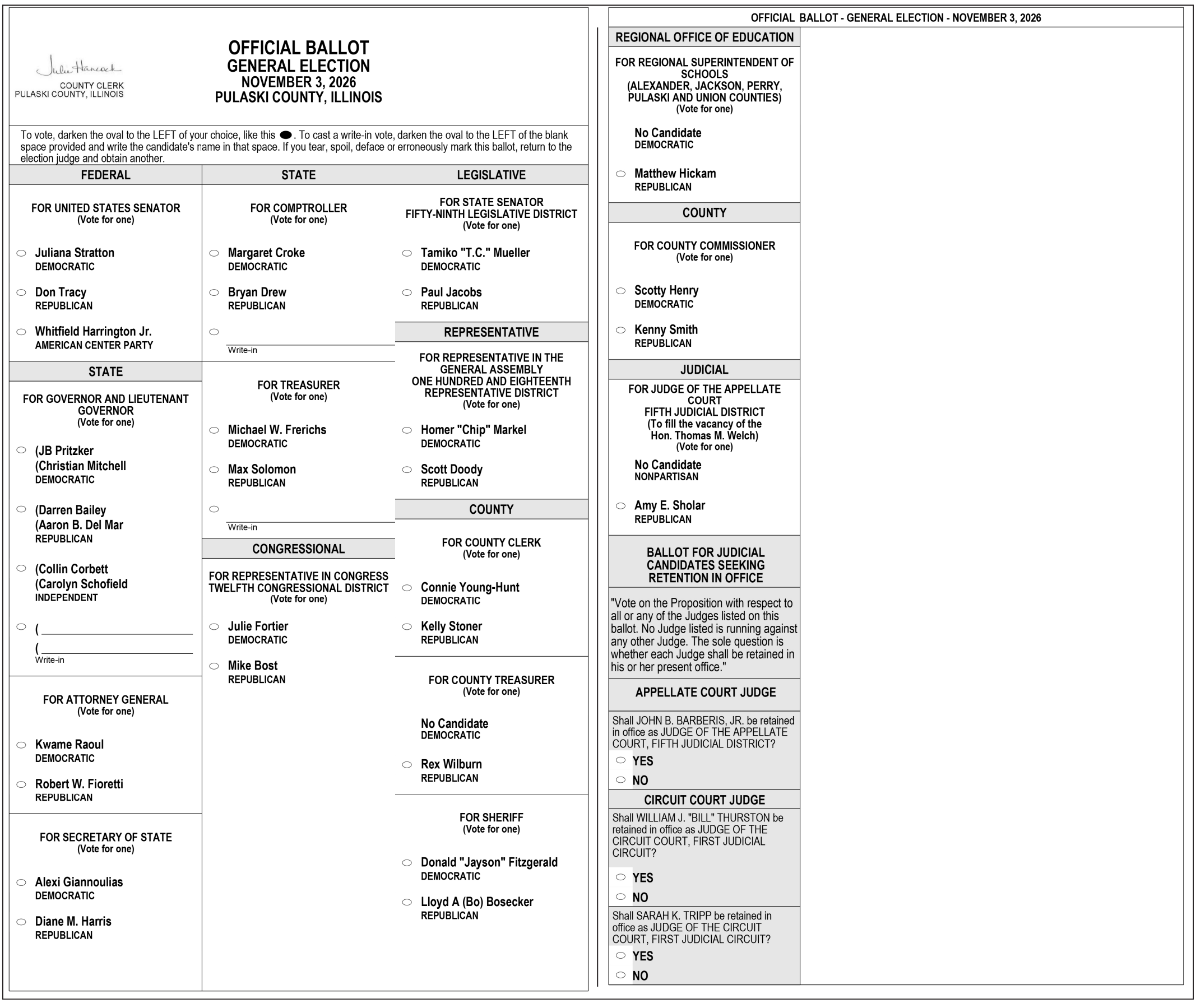
SIU's efforts

Thompson points several initiatives underway within the journalism school to help fill some of the local reporting void. In addition to the Daily Egyptian, students can work in the Saluki Local Reporting Lab producing stories throughout the region, and the non-profit Capitol News Illinois. Earlier this month, Southern Illinois Source, in partnership with the journalism school, was launched as part of a $100,000 grant from the Illinois Press Foundation. The initiative will allow students and freelance journalists to cover local news, which will be shared via Capitol News Illinois with local media outlets.

Museum exhibition

For more information on the exhibition, contact T. Lance, the museum's curator of exhibits, at 618-453-5388 or t.lance@siu.edu or visit museum.siu.edu. Sharp Museum hours are noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday. The museum is closed Sunday and Monday, and during all SIU breaks and holidays.

As with all exhibitions, the artwork represents the viewpoints of its creators, not SIU. SIU complies with the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act and State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.



Julie Hancock
COUNTY CLERK
PULASKI COUNTY, ILLINOIS

OFFICIAL BALLOT
GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3, 2026
PULASKI COUNTY, ILLINOIS

To vote, darken the oval to the LEFT of your choice, like this ⬬. To cast a write-in vote, darken the oval to the LEFT of the blank space provided and write the candidate's name in that space. If you tear, spoil, deface or erroneously mark this ballot, return to the election judge and obtain another.

FEDERAL

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Juliana Stratton — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Don Tracy — REPUBLICAN
- ⬭ Whitfield Harrington Jr. — AMERICAN CENTER PARTY

STATE

FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for one)
- ⬭ (JB Pritzker (Christian Mitchell — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ (Darren Bailey (Aaron B. Del Mar — REPUBLICAN
- ⬭ (Collin Corbett (Carolyn Schofield — INDEPENDENT
- ⬭ (_____ (_____ Write-in

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Kwame Raoul — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Robert W. Fioretti — REPUBLICAN

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Alexi Giannoulias — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Diane M. Harris — REPUBLICAN

STATE

FOR COMPTROLLER (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Margaret Croke — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Bryan Drew — REPUBLICAN
- ⬭ _____ Write-in

FOR TREASURER (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Michael W. Frerichs — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Max Solomon — REPUBLICAN
- ⬭ _____ Write-in

CONGRESSIONAL

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS TWELFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Julie Fortier — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Mike Bost — REPUBLICAN

LEGISLATIVE

FOR STATE SENATOR FIFTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Tamiko "T.C." Mueller — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Paul Jacobs — REPUBLICAN

REPRESENTATIVE

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Homer "Chip" Markel — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Scott Doody — REPUBLICAN

COUNTY

FOR COUNTY CLERK (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Connie Young-Hunt — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Kelly Stoner — REPUBLICAN

FOR COUNTY TREASURER (Vote for one)
- No Candidate — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Rex Wilburn — REPUBLICAN

FOR SHERIFF (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Donald "Jayson" Fitzgerald — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Lloyd A (Bo) Bosecker — REPUBLICAN

OFFICIAL BALLOT - GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 3, 2026

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (ALEXANDER, JACKSON, PERRY, PULASKI AND UNION COUNTIES) (Vote for one)
- No Candidate — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Matthew Hickam — REPUBLICAN

COUNTY

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER (Vote for one)
- ⬭ Scotty Henry — DEMOCRATIC
- ⬭ Kenny Smith — REPUBLICAN

JUDICIAL

FOR JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT (To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Thomas M. Welch) (Vote for one)
- No Candidate — NONPARTISAN
- ⬭ Amy E. Sholar — REPUBLICAN

BALLOT FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES SEEKING RETENTION IN OFFICE

"Vote on the Proposition with respect to all or any of the Judges listed on this ballot. No Judge listed is running against any other Judge. The sole question is whether each Judge shall be retained in his or her present office."

APPELLATE COURT JUDGE

Shall JOHN B. BARBERIS, JR. be retained in office as JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT, FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT?
- ⬭ YES
- ⬭ NO

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Shall WILLIAM J. "BILL" THURSTON be retained in office as JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT?
- ⬭ YES
- ⬭ NO

Shall SARAH K. TRIPP be retained in office as JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT?
- ⬭ YES
- ⬭ NO

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HELP WANTED

Shawnee Community College is looking for full and part-time Custodian for their Ullin Campus and The Massac County Extension Center. For more information, please Call 618-634-3200 Ext. 3436

Anna First Baptist Church is looking for a Part-time Custodian – 20 hours per week, Monday through Thursday. If interested, applications can be picked up at the church office located at 409 Morgan Street in Anna.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – 2006 Jeep, red 2-door, 6 cylinder engine, auto-transmission, like new, $16,000.00 Ph. 618-318-1152.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:
That on Nov 23, 2026 a sale will be held at Goddard's Auto Body, Inc. to sell the following articles to enforce a lien existing under the laws of the State of Illinois against such articles for labor, services, skill or material expended upon a storage furnished for such articles at the request of the following designated persons, unless such articles are redeemed within thirty days of the publication of this notice.
Name of person:
Tracy L Bramlett
414 E Davie St Apt 303
Anna , IL 62906
2000 Saturn SL1
VIN#1G8ZG528XYZ142215
Amount of Lien: $1,950.00
8221-970624

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:
That on Nov 23, 2026 a sale will be held at Goddard's Auto Body, Inc. to sell the following articles to enforce a lien existing under the laws of the State of Illinois against such articles for labor, services, skill or material expended upon a storage furnished for such articles at the request of the following designated persons, unless such articles are redeemed within thirty days of the publication of this notice.
Name:
Kimberly C. Yarmy
719 34th Street
Cario, IL 62914
Lienholder:
Midwest Acceptance
PO Box 9
Valley Park, MO 63088
2004 Acura MDX
VIN#: 2HNYD18684H557482
Amount of Lien: $1,750.00
8221-970621

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:
That on Nov 23, 2026 a sale will be held at Goddard's Auto Body, Inc. to sell the following articles to enforce a lien existing under the laws of the State of Illinois against such articles for labor, services, skill or material expended upon a storage furnished for such articles at the request of the following designated persons, unless such articles are redeemed within thirty days of the publication of this notice.
Name of person:
Brittany L Hopfer
2005 W Gray Drive Apt B
Carbondale, IL 62901
2009 Dodge Journey
VIN#3D4GG57V09T205328
Amount of Lien: $1,572.00
8221-970622

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:
That on Nov 23, 2026 a sale will be held at Goddard's Auto Body, Inc. to sell the following articles to enforce a lien existing under the laws of the State of Illinois against such articles for labor, services, skill or material expended upon a storage furnished for such articles at the request of the following designated persons, unless such articles are redeemed within thirty days of the publication of this notice.
Name of person:
Nicole M Duncan
205 Locust Street
Vienna, IL 62995
Lienholder:
Best Buy Auto Sales, Inc.
214 Health Department Rd
Murphysboro, IL 62966
2014 Chev Malibu
VIN#1G11A5SL6EF291865
Amount of Lien: $1,950.00
8221-970623

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JOHNSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
JERRY L. BILLINGSLEY,
DECEASED.
NO. 2026-PR-17
IN PROBATE
NOTICE OF DEATH
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION,
AND CLAIM DATE
NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Jerry L. Billingsley, of Buncombe, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 15, 2026, to Janet S. Billingsley, 155 Elvira St., Buncombe, Illinois 62912 as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.
Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order of admission, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses in open Court or other evidence, as provided by Section 5/6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21.)
You also have the right, under Section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1), to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate.
The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, Par. 5/28-4), any interested person terminates Independent Administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of this Court.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Johnson County Courthouse, 400 Court St., Vienna, IL 62995, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before April 29, 2027, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Dated: October 16, 2026.
JANET S. BILLINGSLEY
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8221-970501

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JOHNSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
SOUTHERNTRUST BANK, an Illinois Banking Institution,
Plaintiff,
vs.
PAULA C. MEADE a/k/a PAULA CHRISTINE MEADE, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants
Case No. 2026FC12
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY PUBLICATION
The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, ALL UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, ALL NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS and ALL UNKNOWN OWNERS, defendants in the above-entitled cause, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure action was filed on October 6, 2026, and is now pending.
1. The names of all Plaintiffs and the Case Number are identified above.
2. The Court in which said action was brought is identified above.
3. The name of the titleholder of record is Paula C. Meade a/k/a Paula Christine Meade.
4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:
A PARCEL OF LAND BEING A PART OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 11, RANGE 2 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SAID PARCEL IS PART OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN BOOK 174, PAGE 77 IN THE JOHNSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE IN THE NAME OF HAROLD SERRETT, SR. AND MARY SERRETT, DATED JANUARY 19, 1990 (SEE ALSO BOOK 174, PAGE 106). SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID WEST HALF, SAID CORNER BEING MARKED BY AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE N 87°06'39" E, 238.34 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID WEST HALF TO AN IRON ROD SET, THIS BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID PARCEL AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE ALONG NEW LINES THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) CALLS; THENCE N 00°21'52"W, 313.37 FEET, PASSING AN IRON ROD SET AT 40.00 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE N 87°06'39"E, 417.42 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET IN THE EAST LINE OF SAID WEST HALF; THENCE S 00°21'52" E, 104.66 FEET, PASSING A STONE FOUND AT 25.37 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD SET AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE JOYCE MASSEY PROPERTY (SEE BOOK 243, PAGE 105); THENCE WITH SAID MASSEY PROPERTY THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) CALLS; THENCE S 87°06'39" W, 208.71 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE S 00°21'52" E, 208.71 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET IN THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID WEST HALF; THENCE S 87°06'39" W, 208.71 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID WEST HALF TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
SAID PARCEL TO CONTAIN 2.001 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PER SURVEY BY MITCHELL R. GARRETT, IL PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR NO. 3085, DATED 6/22/2001.
EXCEPTING THEREFROM A STRIP OF LAND THIRTY FEET (30') IN WIDTH OFF THE ENTIRE WEST SIDE THEREOF.
SAID PARCEL BEING SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF REBMAD LAND ACROSS THE SOUTH SIDE AS WELL AS ANY ADDITIONAL RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND EASEMENTS, RECORDED OR OTHERWISE. ALL SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF JOHNSON, STATE OF ILLINOIS.
Permanent Index Number: 01-27-407-000.
5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 170 Rebman Lane, Goreville, IL 62939.
6. An identification of the Mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:
a. Names of Mortgagors: Frank D. Meade, Sr. and Paula Christine Meade.
b. Name of Mortgagee: SouthernTrust Bank.
c. Date of Mortgage: July 29, 2010, as modified May 2, 2013, as modified May 20, 2018, as modified June 20, 2023.
d. Date of Recording: August 3, 2010, as modified May 8, 2013, as modified June 14, 2018, as modified August 7, 2023.
e. County Where Recorded: Johnson County, Illinois.
f. Recording Document Identification: Book 706 at Page 69 as Document No. 101376, as modified in Book 790 at Page 106 as Document No. 130803, as modified in Book 920 at Page 119 as Document No. 180896, as modified in Book 1060 at Page 119 as Document No. 8004487.
NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, ALL UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, ALL NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS and ALL UNKNOWN OWNERS, defendants, file your answer to the complaint for foreclosure in this cause or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of the First Judicial Circuit, Johnson County, Illinois, held in the Johnson County Courthouse, in the City of Vienna, Illinois, on or before November 28, 2026, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a judgment for foreclosure entered in accordance with the prayer of the complaint for foreclosure.
/s/ Ryan M. O'Neal
Circuit Clerk
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT IT IS REQUIRED THAT WE STATE THE FOLLOWING TO YOU: THIS NOTICE IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
LAWLER BROWN LAW FIRM
Adam B. Lawler #6283341
David W. Lawler #6303793
Nick Brown #6302494
Zachary S. Walston #6331559
Evan W. Taylor #6305093
Jarrod Wiggs #6350317
1600 W. Main St/P.O. Box 1148
Marion, Illinois 62959
Telephone: (618) 993-2222
Facsimile: (618) 731-4141
Service Email: service@lblf.com
8221-970570

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of UNION County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting, and transacting the business known as:
BEYONDD POLISHEDD
220 TIMBER RIDGE LN
JONESBORO IL 62952
Dated this 7th day of October, 2026.
Stephanie L. Cox
COUNTY CLERK
No. ABN2026-7925
8221-970679

PRE-FILING NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that the office of Lisa Morse, Village of Buncombe Secretary/Treasurer, will be open from 6pm-8pm on Monday, Nov 16th, Noon-2pm on Thursday, Nov 19th, 1pm-3pm on Saturday, Nov 21st, and 3pm-5pm on Monday, Nov 23rd for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions or certificates for the Consolidated Election to be held on April 6, 2027 for the following offices.
Board Member, 2 year term
Board Member, 4 year term
Board Member, 4 year term
Board Member, 4 year term
Lisa Morse
8221-970328

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 17-40 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/17-40), the percentage to be applied to the assessed valuation of locally assessed property other than that assessed under Sections 10-110 through 10-140 and 10-170 through 10-200 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/10-110 through 10-140 and 10-170 through 10-200) in Alexander County as certified by the Department of Revenue for the assessment year 2025 is -2.83% by the application of an equalization factor of 0.9717
8221-970676

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JOHNSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
BOBBIE G. HARPER,
DECEASED.
CASE NO. 2026PR16
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
Notice is given of the death of Bobbie G. Harper, of Tunnel Hill, Johnson, Illinois, on September 1, 2026. Letters of Administration were issued on October 07, 2026 to Kathy Stevens and Bob Kelly Harper as Co-Administrators, whose attorney is Evan W. Taylor of Lawler Brown Law Firm, 1600 W. Main Street, Marion, Illinois 62959.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Johnson County Courthouse, Vienna, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 22, 2027, or three months from the date of mailing or delivering notice pursuant to 755 ILCS 5/18-3(a), whichever is later, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Notice is given to all persons, including all heirs whose names and/or post office addresses are unknown and are not stated in the Petition for the Issuance of Letters of Administration filed on October 5, 2026, that on October 7, 2026, the Circuit Court of Johnson County, Illinois entered an Order Appointing Independent Co-Administrators naming Kathy Stevens and Bob Kelly Harper as Independent Co-Administrators.
KATHY STEVENS AND BOB KELLY HARPER,
INDEPENDENT CO-ADMINISTRATORS
BY: /S/ EVAN W. TAYLOR
LAWLER BROWN LAW FIRM
ADAM B. LAWLER #6283341
DAVID W. LAWLER #6303793
NICK BROWN #6302494
ZACHARY S. WALSTON #6331559
EVAN W. TAYLOR #6305093
JARROD WIGGS #6350317
1600 W. MAIN ST
P.O. BOX 1148
MARION, ILLINOIS 62959
TELEPHONE: (618) 993-2222
FACSIMILE: (618) 731-4141
SERVICE EMAIL: SERVICE@LBLF.COM
8221-970381

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, FIFTH DISTRICT
ALEXANDER COUNTY, ILLINOIS
TRAILHEAD VENTURES, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
OLD NATIONAL BANK, successor-by-merger to First National Bank and Trust Co. of Carbondale, Illinois, et al.
Defendants.
Case No. 2026-CH-4
NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
TO: UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
ESCANABA TIMBER, LLC
1. A request affidavit for publication having been filed in the above-stated action and subsequently granted, notice is hereby given to both of you – Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants and Escanaba Timber, LLC – that Plaintiff Trailhead Ventures, LLC ("Trailhead") has commenced an action for reformation and quiet title against you and others in the Circuit Court of Alexander County, Illinois, 2000 Washington Avenue, Cairo, Illinois, 62914, Case No. 2026-CH-4.
2. The object and general nature of Trailhead's action is to (a) reform various deeds that have been recorded in Alexander County, Illinois; and (b) quiet title to the following-described real estate, which exists in Alexander County, Illinois:
a. "The 92-Acre Tract"
BEING A 92.65 ACRE TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN THE SOUTH HALF (S 1/2) OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AND IN THE NORTH HALF (N 1/2) OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 16 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AND ALSO BEING A PORTION OF CLAIM NO. 681, SURVEY NO. 526 AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE CENTER OF A COUNTY GRAVEL ROAD, THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF A STRIP OF LAND 40 FEET IN WIDTH TO ALEXANDER COUNTY ROAD DISTRICT NO. 4 IN BOOK 33, PAGE 528, SAID POINT BEING LOCATED SOUTH 52° 42' 00" WEST, 2970.00 FEET FROM A 2" IRON PIPE AS FOUND IN THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF CLAIM NO.
681, SURVEY NO. 526 AND ALSO BEING LOCATED SOUTH 58° 40' 17" WEST, 844.28 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 3 AND RUNS: NORTH 37° 18' 00" WEST, 40.00 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD AS SET; THENCE NORTH 52° 42' 00" EAST, 711.40 FEET, TO A POINT AT THE EDGE OF SAID COUNTY GRAVEL ROAD, SAID POINT BEING LOCATED IN THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO CAIRO & THEBES RAILROAD COMPANY (DEED BOOK 59, PAGE 472); THENCE NORTH 50° 06' 52" WEST, 979.87 FEET, WITH THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE CAIRO & THEBES RAILROAD COMPANY; TO A POINT
IN THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE EASTERN ILLINOIS & MISSOURI RAILROAD COMPANY; THENCE NORTH 61° 28' 57" WEST, 1077.84 FEET, THE CHORD OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, BOUNDARY BEING THE ARC OF SAID CURVE
WITH DELTA: 16° 09' 50", RADIUS: 3833.31'; 1081.42', TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT AS SET; THENCE SOUTH 52° 42' 00" WEST, 329.49 FEET, PASSING A 48" COTTONWOOD AT 267.19 FEET, TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT AS SET ON THE BANK OF A SLOUGH; THENCE SOUTH 68° 00' 00" WEST, 2521.62 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD AS SET IN THE CENTER OF A ROCK DIKE; THENCE SOUTH 68° 00' 00" WEST, 233.28 FEET, TO A POINT AT THE LOW WATER MARK OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER; THENCE SOUTH 22° 00' 00" EAST, 654.90 FEET, TO A POINT AT THE LOW WATER MARK OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER; THENCE NORTH 68° 00' 00" EAST, 212.08 FEET, WITH THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE WESTVACO BURNHAM ISLAND TRACT TO A POINT IN THE CENTER OF A ROCK DIKE; THENCE NORTH 68° 00' 00" EAST, 2073.52 FEET, WITH SAME, TO A POINT IN THE SANTA FE CHUTE; THENCE SOUTH 37°18' 00" EAST, 1281.00 FEET, WITH SAME, TO A POINT IN THE SANTA FE CHUTE; THENCE NORTH 69° 39' 50" EAST, 650.84 FEET, TO A POINT IN THE SANTA FE CHUTE; THENCE NORTH 52° 42' 00" EAST, 189.76 FEET, TO A 1/2" IRON PIPE AS FOUND ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE SANTA FE CHUTE; THENCE NORTH 52° 42' 00" EAST, 90.24 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
b. "The 8-Acre Tract"
BEING A 8.04 ACRE TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) OF SECTION 34 AND THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF SECTION 35, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AND BEING A PORTION OF CLAIM NO. 681, SURVEY NO. 526 AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT AN IRON ROD AS SET IN THE SOUTH MARGIN OF A COUNTY GRAVEL ROAD AND IN THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF A STRIP OF LAND 40 FEET IN WIDTH AS CONVEYED TO ALEXANDER COUNTY ROAD DISTRICT NO. 4 IN DEED BOOK 33, PAGE 528, SAID IRON ROD BEING LOCATED 20 FEET FROM THE CENTERLINE OF SAID COUNTY GRAVEL ROAD AND ALSO BEING LOCATED SOUTH 67° 08' 30" WEST, 160.73 FEET, FROM A CONCRETE MONUMENT AS FOUND AND NORTH 75° 26' 17" WEST, 213.61 FEET, THE CHORD OF A
CURVE TO THE RIGHT, BOUNDARY BEING THE ARC OF SAID CURVE WITH DELTA: 11° 07' 35", RADIUS: 1101.72', ARC: 213.94 FEET, TO A POINT OF TANGENCY, THENCE NORTH 69° 52' 30" WEST, 1144.93 FEET, WITH THE SOUTH MARGIN OF SAID COUNTY GRAVEL ROAD, TO A POINT OF CURVATURE; THENCE NORTH 60° 27' 16" WEST, 302.50 FEET, THE CHORD OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, BOUNDARY BEING THE ARC OF SAID CURVE WITH DELTA: 18° 50' 28", RADIUS 924.06', ARC: 303.87', TO A POINT OF TANGENCY; THENCE NORTH 51° 02' 02" WEST, 50.49 FEET, WITH THE SOUTH MARGIN OF SAID COUNTY GRAVEL ROAD, TO AN IRON ROD SET IN SAME; THENCE SOUTH 52° 42' 00" WEST, 143.02 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD AS SET; THENCE NORTH 63° 30' 00" WEST, 58.50 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD AS SET; THENCE NORTH 53° 15' 00" WEST, 298.49 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD AS SET IN THE MARGIN OF SAID COUNTY GRAVEL ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 74° 11' 42" WEST, 30.35 FEET, WITH SAID SOUTH MARGIN, TO AN IRON ROD AS SET IN THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE CARIO & THEBES RAILROAD COMPANY (DEED BOOK 59, PAGE 472); THENCE SOUTH 50° 06' 52" EAST, 856.66 FEET, WITH THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE CAIRO & THEBES RAILROAD COMPANY, TO A POINT IN THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE EASTERN ILLINOIS & MISSOURI RAILROAD COMPANY (DEED BOOK 32, PAGE 372); THENCE SOUTH 80° 48' 25" EAST, 1344.68 FEET, THE CHORD OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, BOUNDARY BEING THE ARC OF SAID CURVE WITH DELTA: 20° 51' 48", RADIUS: 3713.31', ARC: 1352.14', TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT AS SET IN THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF A STRIP OF LAND 40 FEET IN WIDTH AS DEEDED TO ALEXANDER COUNTY ROAD DISTRICT NO. 4, DEED BOOK 33, PAGE 528; THENCE NORTH 52° 42' 00" EAST, 42.65 FEET, WITH THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID 40' STRIP, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
c. "The 21-Acre Tract"
BEING A 21.18 ACRE TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN THE SOUTH HALF (S 1/2) OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AND ALSO BEING A PORTION OF CLAIM NO. 681, SURVEY NO. 526 AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY
DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT SET IN THE SOUTH
BOUNDARY LINE OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE EASTERN ILLINOIS & MISSOURI RAILROAD COMPANY (DEED BOOK 32, PAGE 372), SAID MONUMENT BEING LOCATED 60 FEET FROM THE CENTERLINE OF THE TRACKS AS PREVIOUSLY LOCATED AND RUNS: SOUTH 52° 42' 00" WEST, 329.49 FEET, PASSING A 48" COTTONWOOD AT 267.19 FEET, TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT AS SET ON THE BANK OF A SLOUGH; THENCE SOUTH 68° 00' 00" WEST, 2521.62 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD SET IN THE CENTER OF A ROCK DIKE; THENCE SOUTH 68° 00' 00" WEST, 233.38 FEET, TO A POINT AT THE LOW WATER MARK OF THE
MISSISSIPPI RIVER; THENCE NORTH 22° 00' 00" WEST 305.30 FEET, WITH SAID LOW WATER MARK, TO A POINT IN SAME; THENCE NORTH 68° 00' 00" EAST, 243.31 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD SET IN THE CENTER OF A ROCK DIKE; THENCE NORTH 68° 00' 00" EAST, 2477.52
FEET, TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT AS SET ON THE BANK OF A SLOUGH; THENCE NORTH 37° 08' 13" EAST, 204.36 FEET, TO A POINT IN THE SOUTH
BOUNDARY LINE OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE EASTERN ILLINOIS & MISSOURI RAILROAD COMPANY; THENCE
SOUTH 50° 38' 50" EAST, 368.27 FEET, THE CHORD OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, BOUNDARY BEING THE ARC OF SAID CURVE WITH DELTA: 05° 30' 24", RADIUS 3833.31', ARC 368.41', TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
d. "The 1-Acre Tract"
BEING A 0.95 ACRE TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN THE SOUTH HALF (S 1/2) OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AND PORTION OF CLAIM NO. 681, SURVEY NO. 526 AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON ROD SET IN THE SOUTH MARGIN OF A COUNTY GRAVEL ROAD, THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE TRACT HEREIN BEING DESCRIBED AND RUNS: SOUTH 52° 42' 00" WEST, 143.02 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE NORTH 63° 30' 00" WEST, 58.50 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE NORTH 53° 15' 00" WEST, 298.49 FEET, TO AN IRON ROD AS SET IN THE SOUTH MARGIN OF SAID COUNTY GRAVEL ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 77° 22' 12" EAST, 367.64 FEET, THE CHORD OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, BOUNDARY BEING THE ARC OF SAID CURVE WITH DELTA: 52° 40' 20", RADIUS: 414.35', ARC: 380.92', TO A POINT OF TANGENCY; THENCE SOUTH 51° 02' 02" EAST, 59.86 FEET, WITH THE SOUTH MARGIN OF SAID COUNTY GRAVEL ROAD, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
3. The names of all parties in this action are listed in the Complaint that Trailhead
filed with the Court on April 6, 2026.
4. The name and address of the attorney who represents Trailhead is Shawn T. Briner,
390 S. Woods Mill Road, Suite 125, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017.
5. This action currently pends.
6. Summonses via publication have been duly issued out of the court against you as
provided by law.
7. Unless you file an answer to Trailhead's Complaint or otherwise make your appearance in the action on or before November 18, 2026, default may be entered against you at any time after that and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer that Trailhead included in
its Complaint.
Carey L. Simmons
Circuit Clerk
Date: 9/23/2026
8221-970246

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
IRLEEN H. JORGENSEN,
DECEASED.
NO. 2026-PR-21
IN PROBATE
NOTICE OF DEATH
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION,
AND CLAIM DATE
NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Irleen H. Jorgensen, of Buncombe, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 5, 2026, to Sheila Dillow, 1575 Texas Eastern Road, Buncombe, IL 62912 as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.
Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order of admission, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses in open Court or other evidence, as provided by Section 5/6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21.)
You also have the right, under Section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1), to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate.
Notice is further given to any unknown heirs at law as the rights afforded by the Illinois Probate Act.
The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, Par. 5/28-4), any interested person terminates Independent Administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of this Court.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before April 15, 2027, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Dated: October 6, 2026.
SHEILA DILLOW
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8221-970166

TAX DEED NO. 2026TX37
FILED October 5, 2026
TAKE NOTICE
TO: ZACHARY PRICE, ALEXANDER COUNTY CLERK; FILL-UP MART INC.; SUDHIRKUMAR PATEL; FIRST STATE BANK OF OLMSTED; MITESHKUMAR PATEL; CONOCO; OCCUPANT; UNKNOWN OWNERS OR PARTIES INTERESTED; AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS.
This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property:
Part of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) and the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4), in Section Thirty-two (32), Township Fifteen (15) South, Range Two (2) West of the Third Principal Meridian, more particularly described as follows:
Commencing at an iron pipe, the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4), Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of said section, thence North 00 degrees 05' West, 382.3 feet, thence North 38 degrees 49' East, 195.3 feet, thence North 63 degrees 48' East, 241.17 feet, thence North 00 degrees 05' West, 8.7 feet, thence South 85 degrees 41' East, 672.2 feet, thence on a curve to the left, having a radius of 2154.9 feet for a distance of 267.2 feet, thence South 17 degrees 13' West to the Northeast corner of the Childers lot, 197.7 feet for the place of beginning, thence North 65 degrees 16' West, a distance of 124.90 feet, thence North 01 degrees 08' 31" East, a distance of 106.33 feet to the Southerly right-of-way line of Illinois State Route No. 3, thence South 85 degrees 35' 41" East along said right-of-way line, a distance of 157.18 feet, thence 17 degrees 13' 00" West, a distance of 153.36 feet to the place of beginning, in the County of Alexander and State of Illinois.
AND
Also, a perpetual easement of ingress and egress over the following described land for the purpose of keeping and maintaining a septic tank thereon, more particularly described in Deed of Easement dated June 26, 1990 to Cairo Foods, Inc., and recorded in Book 272, page 368 of the Alexander County Recorder's Office as follows:
Commencing at an iron pipe at the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter-Southwest Quarter of Section 32; thence North 00 degrees 05' 00" West, 382.3 feet; thence North 38 degrees 49' 00" East, 195.3 feet; thence North 63 degrees 48' 00" East, 241.17 feet; thence North 00 degrees 05' 00" West, 8.70 feet; thence South 85 degrees 41' 00" East, 672.20 feet to the beginning of a curve concave to the Northwest having a radius of 2154.90 feet; thence in a Northeasterly direction along said curve 267.20 feet; thence South 17 degrees 13' 00" West, 197.70 feet to the Northeast corner of the "Childers Lot", being the true point of beginning; thence North 69 degrees 31' 02" West, 125.62 feet; thence North 27 degrees 03' 00" East, 9.32 feet; thence South 65 degrees 16' 00" East, 124.90 feet to the point of beginning.
Property Index Number 06-32-100-029
On February 10, 2027 at 1:00 p.m. the Petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 9, 2026 for general taxes of the year 2024. The period of redemption will expire February 8, 2027.
Stuart E. Morgenstern, Attorney for Petitioner
(618) 357-5315
Cert. # 2024-0106
8221-970144

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, October 8, 2026, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of UNION County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting, and transacting the business known as:
RIVTARK
207 CHURCH ST.
JONESBORO, IL 62952
Dated this 8th day of October, 2026.
Stephanie L. Cox
COUNTY CLERK
No. ABN2026-7926
8221-970233

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Traveling through time to Fort Massac

The Other Half and her companion on The Journey Through Life decided to take a trip back in time on the third Saturday in October. We headed south to join a few thousand of our closest friends for a visit to this year's Fort Massac Encampment.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources shared that since 1974, the encampment has provided visitors with a chance to experience what life was like at Fort Massac during the 18th and early 19th centuries. The fort, which is located at a site near the Ohio River, served as a frontier outpost along the Ohio River for personnel from France, Britain and the early years of the United States from 1757 to 1814.

Military reenactors and other participants wore period clothing and portrayed explorers, traders, settlers and soldiers on the early Illinois frontier. Family and children's activities, musical entertainment and period craft makers demonstrated blacksmithing, basket-making, weaving and other skills at the encampment. By the way: Did you know that Fort Massac State Park opened as Illinois' first state park in 1908?

We had not been to the encampment for a few years. The day we decided to motor to Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis, where the encampment takes place, was bright, sunny and mild for the middle of October.

Thanks to dedicated reenactors, the encampment offered a glimpse of life during what some of us might see as having been a "simpler" time…no cell phones…no internet…no Artificial Intelligence. Makes one wonder how they managed to survive. I wondered, too, if folks back then had cell phones, would they have wandered through the "wilds" with their eyeballs glued to their phones? Such behavior could have changed the course of history. Then again, maybe AI will generate a whole version of history, one where folks in the 1700s had laptops and cell phones.

Our goal was to try to get to Metropolis as early as possible to avoid the really big crowds. Well, we were close. The weather was so nice that day that lots of folks had the same idea we did about going to the encampment. I think we ended up parking in Kentucky. Not really.

We did, however, get to see Kentucky, which is right across the Ohio River from the home of the encampment. As a matter of fact, the route we took on the interstate to Metropolis was the same one we had used many, many times on frequent journeys to the Bluegrass State over the years. Many of those travel adventures have been shared in this space. There were a couple of times on our most recent journey when I thought I might just keep on going…all the way to Lexington, Kentucky.

We were able to take a tram from near where we parked to the fort and the encampment. As we made it to the fort, my first thought was: My goodness, there sure are a lot of people here. As I mentioned, we joined a few thousand of our closest friends.

The two of us pretty much meandered, slowly, through the encampment. I enjoyed the wonderful aromas of a many campfires fueled by good old wood. I was also glad to hear some fife and drum music. And to see some cannons. I was a little disappointed that cookies were not being baked in an oven made of stone which is located at the park. Those warm, fresh-baked treats had been offered at the encampment during many visits back in the day.

We watched as a canoe which was part of the reenactment made its way on the Ohio River. The canoe and its crew of reenactors put into the river not far from Fort Massac. The canoe made its way to a landing point on the shore just beneath the reconstructed fort. The canoe was welcomed by cannon fire and fife and drum music.

The Other Half made sure to check out the period crafts which were demonstrated at the encampment. She also acquired a very nice walking stick as a memento of our time travels. My souvenir was a book…a work of historical fiction set in the 1700s. The author even was kind enough to sign the book.

We were glad to have spent part of a wonderful October day at an event which has been special to us for many years. I also pondered the idea of just staying in the 1700s…maybe my flip phone would have fit right in.

A couple of days after our time traveling adventure, we took another road trip… on another bright and sunny October day. Our journey took us to the Mississippi River bottomlands in western Union County for a little bit of retail therapy and whatever other adventures might unfold.

The route for the journey included the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area (the refuge) near metropolitan Ware, the Clear Creek levee road, the Trail of Tears of State Forest and various other points along the way. My goal, once again, was to spot a bald eagle or two out in the bottomlands. We did not see any bald eagles. However, we did see a lone raccoon wandering through a field at the refuge. I attempted to photograph the Critter. It wanted nothing to do with a photo opportunity.

During our various travel adventures, we noticed a couple of things. Even though we were more than halfway through October, we did not see a lot of colors in the trees. We also noticed that the Southern Illinois landscape continued to be very, very dry.

Meanwhile…

A few other critters have been seen recently, including several right in the backyard…

While heading home after our trip back in time to Fort Massac, we spotted a lone white-tailed deer standing along the road near Belknap. Did not expect to see a deer early in the afternoon. The critter quickly headed into a nearby line of trees.

Closer to home, as in the backyard or in the yard right next door, our "pet" groundhog continues to make frequent appearances…as does one, or maybe more, chipmunks. The groundhog seems to have made itself quite at home. And why not? Thanks to The Other Half's garden, and an oak tree filled with acorns, the Critter has plenty to eat. Being well fed does not seem to slow down the groundhog. I did not know they could move so fast. A chipmunk also seems to enjoy the acorns. It also moves really fast.

Our neighborhood raccoons have not paid a visit to the porch for a while…at least not when we were out to watch. Maybe they will show up for trick-or-treat time. Enough for this week. Have a fun Halloween.



They are cute. And really fast, too. At least one chipmunk seems to have moved into the neighborhood this year.



A groundhog which calls our backyard home continues to be quite confident in its place in the world.

4-H activity to support local food pantries

By Geof Skinner

The community is invited to be part of an upcoming 4-H food drive. The drive will support local food pantries and also will feature a Can Construction event.

Churches, schools, businesses, community organizations, 4-H clubs and individuals can donate canned goods and other nonperishable food items at any University of Illinois AJMPU Extension office in the area by Nov. 15.

Those who would like to participate in the Can Construction event are asked to register by Nov. 2. Registration can be done online at https://go.illinois.edu/canconstruction26.

Participants will meet in the L-Atrium at Shawnee Community College near Ullin Nov. 16-17 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to construct a sculpture or exhibit using the non-perishable foods. Constructed food displays will be available for public viewing on Nov. 18. Awards will be announced Nov. 19 on Facebook.

All donated foods will be boxed up by 2026-2027 4-H Teen Leaders on Nov. 19.

P.A.S.T. of Union County
CHILI & SOUP SUPPER
WITH DESSERT AUCTION
Friday,
November 6, 2026
at
Historic
St. Anne's Church
Time: 5 p.m.
JOIN US FOR GOOD FOOD
AND HELP SUPPORT P.A.S.T.!