THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

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PHOTO PROVIDED

U.S. Air Force pilots Col. Rick "McGraw" Mitchell (left) and Lt. Col. Joshua "NOMAR" Geidel (right), who are SIU alumni, will fly over the Military Appreciation football game in A-10 "Warthogs" like the aircraft in the photo above. The football game is on Saturday, Nov. 14, starting at 1 p.m. when the Salukis take on South Dakota State.

U.S. Air Force pilots to fly over SIU Military Appreciation football game

BY BROOKE KELTNER

Saluki fans at the upcoming Military Appreciation football game will have their eyes to the sky as two U.S. Air Force A-10 "Warthog" pilots, who are Southern Illinois University Carbondale alumni, will fly over Saluki Stadium as a salute to service for our nation's veterans and active-duty military.

Col. Rick "McGraw" Mitchell and Lt. Col. Joshua "NOMAR" Geidel are excited to return to their alma mater for this honor. The football game on Saturday, Nov. 14, also recognizes SIU Army ROTC and celebrates the 75th anniversary of SIU Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) Detachment 205. The football game starts at 1 p.m., and the A-10 flyover is expected to follow the national anthem. Mitchell is the commander of the 442d Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, and oversees the manning, training, equipping and the overall combat readiness of 1,300 Air Force reservists — a responsibility that his time in AFROTC Detachment 205 helped prepare him for.

While he described the first two years of AFROTC as an introduction to military ways, Mitchell said his junior and senior years came with additional duties that taught him life lessons.

"I'll never forget Col. Phil Miller calling me in my senior year and wanting to know how and why a freshman cadet had gotten in a bit of trouble," said Mitchell, who grew up in Steeleville, Illinois. "I was the cadet wing commander, so his point was it was on me to ensure all cadets were trained and ready for the college lifestyle and how personal accountability was paramount."

Like many students, he enjoyed some SIU traditions — cheering on the football team, grabbing a slice of pizza at Quatro's and ending an evening with friends at Sidetracks. But then, came a defining moment that changed America forever — the Sept. 11 terror attacks in New York City; Shanksville, Pennsylvania; and Washington, D.C. that claimed the lives of 2,977 victims. This solidified Mitchell's choice to join the AFROTC and shaped his future as an Air Force pilot.

"Unfortunately, my most poignant memory though was watching 9/11/2001 happen in real time there in our apartment on Mill Street," Mitchell said. "As a senior at the time, and three of the four of us being in the ROTC programs, we all knew our lives and military careers just changed dramatically."

After earning his bachelor's degree in management, Mitchell entered into the Air Force in 2002 and spent the next two years earning his wings. Over the course of his active-duty career, Mitchell served more than 22 years as an operational A-10C evaluator pilot, experienced the operational level of war from his time in the Pacific Air Force, and still found the time to earn a master's degree in human relations.

Overall, he has more than 3,700 flight hours with six combat tours to the CENTCOM area of responsibility —— an area spanning more than 4 million square miles across the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, and Northeast Africa, encompassing 21 nations. Mitchell joined the Air Force Reserve in 2014 and worked his way up to his current position. He has earned 18 major awards and decorations for his service, including the Bronze Star Medal.

The flyover marks Mitchell's first time back to SIU in an official capacity, and he looks forward to motivating and inspiring past and present Salukis.

It means a whole lot to be able to "give back" to the aviation students, the aspiring cadets, and the Southern Illinois region as a whole," he said. "I've had a blessed and fruitful life and a life spent serving and sacrificing for the greater, good means something."

Also serving at the Whiteman Air Force Base, Geidel is commander of the 442d Operations Support Squadron. He entered service in the U.S. Air Force in May 2007 through AFROTC Detachment 205, earning a bachelor's degree in aviation management. Like Mitchell, Geidel credits the AFROTC program for shaping his time on campus and military career, making this visit back to campus especially meaningful.

"SIU and my time in AFROTC Detachment 205 are where my military and flying career all began," said Geidel who later went on to earn his master's in aviation safety. "It is quite unique to be able to come back and give back to the organizations that helped facilitate my career."

Lt. Col. Joshua "NOMAR" GeidelGeidel has held various positions through three operational assignments at Spangdahlem Air Force Base, Germany; Moody Air Force Base, Georgia; and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. In addition, he served multiple combat deployments, including Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Freedom Sentinel as well as a non-combat deployment for Operation Atlantic Resolve. Geidel joined the Air Force Reserve in 2020 where he currently serves.



Col. Rick "McGraw" Mitchell



Lt. Col. Joshua "NOMAR" Geide

Over the course of his military career, Geidel has participated in countless flyovers for sporting events, holidays, memorials and air shows. He hopes flyovers allow audience members to remember a loved one who served the country, inspires the younger generation to consider enlisting, and reminds civilians of the sacrifices made by our armed forces.

"A very small percentage of our nation's population decides to participate in military service," he said. "It's important for our citizens to be aware of what we are asked to do and actively participate in our communities."

Other football military appreciation events

The SIU Alumni Association and SIU Foundation invite military veterans, alumni, ROTC students and their guests to a complimentary Military Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Tedrick Welcome Center on the Southern Illinois University Carbondale campus.

The breakfast will feature special guest speaker retired U.S. Army Col. Greg Gadson, a decorated combat veteran, nationally recognized leadership speaker, Wounded Warrior advocate and former commander of Fort Belvoir. Gadson served more than 25 years in the U.S. Army and participated in Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Meanwhile, a free concert by the band Murphy 500 kicks off tailgating festivities at 10:45 a.m. The band will be set up in the tailgate area just to the south of Saluki Stadium. In addition, six food trucks will be on-site with food available for purchase.

During halftime, SIU alumnus Brig. Gen. Leonard Williams, assistant adjutant general-Army and commander of the Illinois Army National Guard, will conduct a swearing-in ceremony for dozens of local recruits entering the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy. In addition, the Marching Salukis will entertain the crowd with the Armed Force Salute. Throughout the game, fallen heroes and their Gold Star families will be recognized.

Entry to the football game is free for active-duty military members and veterans, who can bring an unlimited number of guests at a ticket price of $10 each.

OBITUARIES



Kimberly Ann Johns

Kimberly Ann Johns, 79, passed away on Nov. 4, 2026, in Clinton, Ill.

Services will be 11 a.m., Monday, Nov. 9, 2026 at Calvert Funeral Home, Clinton, Ill. with Pastor Jeremy Hinton officiating. Visitation will be 10-11 AM, Monday at the funeral home. Graveside services will be noon, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026 at Alto Pass Cemetery, Alto Pass, Ill.

Memorials may be directed to the National Leiomyosarcoma Foundation or the Shriners Hospital for Children.

Kim was born on Feb. 17, 1947, in Marion, Ill., the daughter of Charles and Maxine (Gregor) Smith. On Oct. 25, 1974, she married Jesse Johns, Sr., in Williamson County, Ill. Together, they shared 52 years of marriage, building a life and family centered around the people they loved.

Kim worked for the State of Illinois in various positions throughout her career, including the Department of Corrections and the Department of Employment Security. She also shared her lifelong love of music as a piano teacher and pianist at First Baptist Church. Music was an important part of her life, and she enjoyed sharing that gift with others. She also had a love for flowers and antiques, appreciating their beauty and the stories they held.

Above all, Kim loved her family. She was kind, caring, patient, and full of love. Her devotion to her children was fierce and unwavering, and becoming a grandmother gave her another wonderful opportunity to share that love. She was a fun grandma who loved spoiling her grandchildren every chance she got. If there was an opportunity to indulge them a little too much, she probably took it! Kim also had a wonderful sense of humor and just the right amount of sass. She knew when to use it, and those who knew her likely have a story or two that brings a smile to their faces.

Kim was an incredible woman whose kindness, patience, humor, and unconditional love made a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know her. She had a special way of making people feel loved, and her family will forever cherish the memories, laughter, and moments they shared with her.

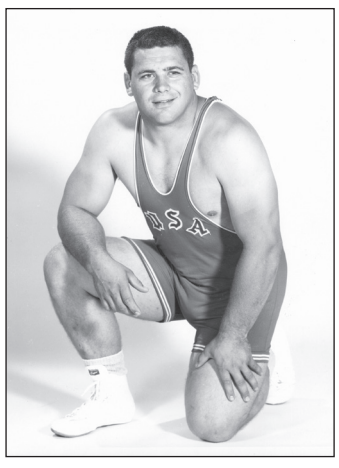
Kim is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Jesse Johns, Sr.; her sons, Jeff Johns (Seri) and Jesse Johns, Jr. (Renee); and her daughters, Kelli Schott, Kristal Fetzer (Mark), and Jill Weaver (Robert).

She is also survived by her grandchildren: Daniel, Lindsey (Ben), Jesse Johns III, Grace, Connor, Lauren (Dan), and Madison (Chase); and her great-granddaughters, Amelia and Norah.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Maxine (Gregor) Smith.

Kim will be deeply missed and forever loved. Her love will live on through the family she cherished, the music she shared, the laughter she brought, and the countless memories that will remain in their hearts forever.

Online condolences may be made at www.calvertmemorial.com



Larry Dean Kristoff

Larry Dean Kristoff, 83, passed away on Oct. 31, 2026, surrounded by a lifetime of love, family, friendships and memories.

Larry was born on Nov. 11, 1942, in Carbondale, Ill., to Tony Kristoff and Sophia "Flo" Rumkus. He grew up on a farm, where he developed a lifelong love for animals and the outdoors. During high school, he met the love of his life, Doris, and together they built a life centered around family, friendship and generosity.

Above all, Larry loved his family. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who treasured the time he spent with those closest to him. To his grandchildren, he was the best grandpa anyone could have asked for. The memories they made together, the love he showed, and the time he spent with them will always be cherished.

Larry and Doris shared a generous spirit and always tried to see the best in people. They loved bringing family and friends together and especially enjoyed parties, holidays, and family reunions. Larry was happiest spending time with the people he loved, sharing stories, catching up, and enjoying each other's company. He also loved being outdoors and spending time around animals.

Larry was also an accomplished athlete whose wrestling career took him around the world. He earned All-State honors in football at Carbondale Community High School and played football at Southern Illinois University Carbondale before turning his attention to wrestling, where he became a two-time NCAA national champion.

He proudly represented the United States at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, and the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City, Mexico. Throughout his wrestling career, Larry earned five World Championship medals, including three silver and two bronze, as well as a gold medal at the 1967 Pan American Games.

Larry went on to establish the wrestling program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), building it into a national powerhouse. During his 30 years as head coach, he led the Cougars to three consecutive NCAA Division II national championships in 1984, 1985, and 1986, along with 18 top-10 national finishes.

While Larry achieved great success in wrestling, he was especially proud of the people he coached and mentored. He helped shape the lives of countless athletes, including his sons, Mark and Kip, who became national champions themselves. His influence extended well beyond the wrestling mat, and the relationships he built continued long after his athletes left SIUE.

His dedication to wrestling earned him induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2007 and the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame in 2022.

Larry was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Doris Kristoff, who passed away on Oct. 13, 2025; his parents, Tony Kristoff and Sophia "Flo" Rumkus; and his siblings, Judy Brewer, Eugene Kristoff, and Roger Kristoff.

He is survived by his children, Mark, Kip, and Dee (Kurt); his grandchildren, Keagan (Sean), Kasey, Kassidy, Kenzie (Hunter), Grace, Savana (Sidney) and Max; and his great-grandchildren, Aurora, Harper, Everett, Mac, Emmett, Jaxon, River, and Ellis. Larry is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Larry accomplished so much throughout his life, but to his family, his greatest gift was simply being Grandpa, Dad, and a loving husband. His championships and achievements will always be remembered, but it is the love he gave, the memories he made, and the time spent together that his family will treasure most. He was truly the best grandpa anyone could have asked for, and he will be loved and missed more than words can express.

Visitation for Larry Kristoff will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 4, 2026 at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna. A private graveside service will be held at Zion Methodist Cemetery near Carbondale. Interment will follow. Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.

To visit Larry's memorial page and leave online condolences for his family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com

N. Maurine Smith Kimmel

N. Maurine Smith Kimmel passed away on Oct. 27, 2026, at 99 years of age. A native of Cobden, Ill., she spent her final years living at home with her granddaughter in New York, where she passed away



peacefully.

She was the youngest of eight siblings, born to Nancy Etta Brown and Calvin Lee Smith. Maurine attended Cobden High School, where she pitched for the girls' softball team. Her attention to detail was essential to her work as a fancy stitcher for Florsheim Shoes. Maurine adored working with children as a Sunday school teacher at Galilee Baptist Church in Wolf Lake, Ill., where she was a longtime, faithful member. She was an active volunteer with the Women's Missionary Union, Girls in Action, and several other committees. Community and faith were very important to her.

Music and dancing were threads of brightness throughout Maurine's life. In her younger years, she enjoyed listening to live music, especially her brother's band, which led her to meet the love of her life, Charles "Bud" F. Kimmel. The two married shortly after in 1951 and together raised two talented daughters. Maurine loved gospel quartet music and old country tunes. She continued to see live music at church shows and concert venues with her grandchildren well into her 80s. She was lively and playful, teaching friends to Charleston despite walking with a cane late in life. Even after dementia set in and her memories grew muddled, Maurine sang songs often enough that her great-granddaughter learned them. She always had the radio on and let the sunshine in.

She was a caregiver at heart, putting her family before herself. Maurine was known for her large family meals, often made of food grown by her and Charlie in their robust garden at their Wolf Lake home. A cup of coffee and a piece of chocolate hate to see her coming. Her lemon meringue pie and chicken and dumplings are unmatched. Maurine's matriarchal mettle made her a pillar of strength that many family members relied upon over the years. If anyone could get it done, Maurine could, whatever "it" was.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles F., her daughter, Nancy J. Johnson, and her four siblings, Ruby Patterson, Eldon Smith, William "Bill" Smith, Kathleen Jackson, Roy Smith, and two infant siblings who died at birth.

Maurine is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Ken Palmer of Stafford, Texas; Granddaughter and partner, Elissa Johnson and Matthew Grove of Utica, New York; Grandson and partner, Kyle Johnson and Lakyn Winner of Carterville, Ill.; Grandson Jonathan Palmer of San Antonio, Texas; Granddaughter and husband, Lindsey and Mike Skinner of Stafford, Texas; Great-grandchildren Nora Skinner, Violet Johnson Grove, and Asa Johnson Grove; stepgreat-grandchildren Noah Tabor, Miriam Grove, and Ian Grove; and beloved nephew and wife, Michael "Mickey" and Sharon Jackson of Troy, Ill. She was loved by many furry friends who will miss her tender scratches and tireless ball tosses.

A graveside service will take place at 11 a.m., Nov. 20, at the Anna Cemetery, Anna Ill. Friends are encouraged to join the family for a celebration of Maurine's life following the service at noon to 2 p.m. at Starview Vineyard, 5100 Wing Hill Rd, Cobden, Ill. 62920. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made in Maurine's honor to the Cure Alzheimers fund, www.curealz.org/giving/donate, or the Alzheimers Association www.alz.org.

Michael Dean Jordan

Michael Dean Jordan, 64, of Anna, Illinois, passed away on Friday, November 6, 2026.

Mike was born on April 18, 1962, in Elgin, Illinois, to Dean Jordan and Berniece Johnson.

On May 25, 1979, Mike married Sandra Lee Jordan. Together, they shared more than 47 years of marriage, building a life filled with



family, love, laughter, and memories.

A talented engineer and proud owner of NAB Automation, Mike was hardworking, dedicated, and someone who took pride in what he did. He had a mind for figuring things out and a determination to get things done, usually his way.

Mike was truly one of a kind. He was funny, stubborn, hardworking, generous, and always ready to share his opinion. He had a way of expecting everyone around him to know exactly what he needed or wanted, often without ever having to say a word. Those who knew and loved him understood that was simply Mike, and they wouldn't have had him any other way.

Mike enjoyed life's simple pleasures: Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Swiss Rolls, a cold Mountain Dew, and chocolate ice cream from Dairy Queen. He loved watching Westerns, cheering on the Chicago Bears, and settling in for a good World War II movie. Some things about Mike never changed, and his love for Mountain Dew and Dairy Queen chocolate ice

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OBITUARIES

cream was certainly one of them. Even in his final days, he was still enjoying both, a small but fitting reminder that he remained himself right up until the very end.

Of all the titles Mike held throughout his life, one of the most special was Papa. His grandchildren were a tremendous source of pride and joy. Whether he was cheering them on from the sidelines, watching their games and activities, or simply spending time together, Papa loved being part of their lives. He treasured watching them grow and making memories with each of them. To his grandchildren, he wasn't just Mike or Grandpa; he was their Papa, and that special bond will live on in their hearts forever.

Mike is survived by his loving wife, Sandra Lee Jordan; his three children, Nikki (Brian) Latham, Athena (Justin) Albright, and Ben Jordan; and his grandchildren, DJ (Kaelin) Latham, Kaleb (Faith Story) Latham, Haley Albright, and Jackson Jordan.

He is also survived by his sisters, Sharon (Tom) Freeman and Candy (Ernie) Webnar, along with extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dean Jordan and Berniece Johnson, step-father Clarence Johnson and his brothers, Terry Johnson and Jimmy Johnson.

Mike leaves behind a lifetime of memories, laughter, love, and a family who will miss him more than words can express. His determination, humor, generosity, and unmistakable personality will never be forgotten. His legacy lives on in the family he loved, the lessons he taught, and the countless memories shared with those fortunate enough to know him.

And if there is one thing his family can picture, it's Mike enjoying a cold Mountain Dew and some Dairy Queen chocolate ice cream, just the way he liked it.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM with Diane Blaney officiating at Crain Funeral Home in Anna. Visitation will be held the day of service from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the funeral home.

lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to the A-J Huddle Club. Memorial envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

The cremation of Michael Dean Jordan will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Dr. Geneva Elaine Bonifield



Geneva Elaine Bonifield, Ph. D. age 82 years 11 months died November 3, 2026.

Elaine was born November 30, 1943, in Cairo, Illinois, to Ralph and Geneva (Duff) Watson. She grew up in rural Alexander County, and attended The Olive Branch Grade School. She graduated from Thebes Township High School in 1961 then attended Southeast Missouri State University earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1964. She began her teaching career at Cairo School District Number One, teaching math and science there for five years. In 1969 she graduated from Southeast Missouri University having earned a Master of Science Degree in School Administration. Following this graduation, she accepted her first administrative position at Egyptian Unit School District Number Five at Tamms, IL. There she served the district as Dean of Students, Gifted Program Director, and teacher.

In 1961 she had met Charles Edward Bonifield, a local farmer at Miller City, Illinois, who was pursuing a degree in Agriculture at Southeast Missouri State University. The couple married in 1963. During this time, they built a home at Miller City, Illinois, and Elaine worked at Egyptian Unit District Number Three and taught classes in the evenings for SIU and Shawnee Community College.

In 1977 their son, Charles Edward Bonifield, Jr. was born and lived at Miller City until his graduation from SEMO as well. In 1989 Elaine graduated from Southern Illinois University having earned a Doctor of Philosophy Degree. She was again offered a position as a school administer and began work in Cairo Unit District No. One, this time as Principal of Emerson Elementary School and At Risk Coordinator. She soon became Superintendent of Cairo School District No. One and continued there until her retirement in 1998.

Following retirement Elaine was offered the position as Educational Facility Administrator at the new Super-Max Correctional Facility just completed at Tamms, IL. She worked for the State of Illinois Department of Corrections for 20 years serving both as school administrator at Tamms Super-Max, Menard Correction Facility, and later at Murphysboro Correctional Facility as well.

During these years Elaine volunteered in many community programs some of which were:

President of the Delta Kappa Gamma Honorary Teacher Society for the southern five counties of Illinois for five years.

Organizer in 1976 and current President (20+ years) of the Olive Branch Cemetery Association at Olive Branch, Illinois:

Member and President of the Beech Grove/ Beech Wood Cemetery of Mounds, IL (20+ years).

President of the Regional Board of School Trustees No. 30 at Murphysboro, IL covering the counties of Alexander, Jackson, Perry, Pulaski, and Union Counties having served on this board for 20+ years during its reorganization until the present.

She is currently a member of the Goreville Methodist Church where she serves as Asst. Treasurer on the Board.

She is a fifty-year member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants having proven descent from four passengers aboard the famous Mayflower which landed in Plymouth Harbor in 1620. (Ancestors were John and Priscilla Alden and her parents, William Mullins and wife.)

She is a forty-five-year member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, (currently a member of the Jesse Gordon Chapter at Murphysboro, IL).

One publication: Alexander County Cemeteries, 1976.

Elaine is survived by a son, Charles Edward Bonifield, Jr. (Dawn LeShea) and three grandchildren, Larrah LeShea Bonifield, Caden Lee Bonifield, and Charles Marshall Bonifield: two sisters; Susan Carol (Boyd) Shelton, Mary Ruth (Richard) Walts, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years Charles Bonifield Sr., her parents Ralph and Geneva (Duff) Watson, an infant brother, one niece, Amanda Jane (Walts) Baker-Jagoditch, both paternal grand-parents, Ralph and Mary (Hayden) Watson of Villa Ridge, IL, and Richard Ernest Duff and Ruth Ethel (Dickerson) Duff of rural Thebes, IL, as well as all her aunts and uncles.

Funeral Plans are as follows:

Visitation will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2026 at Crain Funeral Home in Tamms, IL from 10:00 A.M. until the funeral at 1:00 P.M. with Reverend Buddy Walls officiating. Burial will follow in the Bonifield Family Plot at The Olive Branch Cemetery at Olive Branch, IL.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Olive Branch Cemetery, PO Box 162, Olive Branch, IL 62969 and will be accepted at the funeral home with gratitude.

Crain Funeral Home in Tamms is in charge of arrangements.

"The healing comes from letting there be room for all of this to happen: room for grief, for relief, for misery, for joy."

—Pema Chödrön

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Vienna Seniors attend 4th Annual ROE College and Career Fair

Vienna High School seniors attended the Regional Office of Education #21 College and Career Fair at the Marion Pavilion. Students met and talked with numerous businesses, employers, and organizations from around Southern Illinois. Colleges and universities were present as well. Over 1,200 students attended from 30 different school districts, with 120 registered business participants in the event. The career fair made it possible for local employers to speak to Vienna students about career opportunities in architecture, agriculture, business, education, healthcare, manufacturing, public safety, technology, and many more.

The event was hosted by the Regional Office of Education #21 (ROE #21) in partnership with the Regional Office of Education #30 (ROE #30), ManTraCon Corporation, Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDCO), Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Southern Illinois Now, and Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

Bailey Griffin, a Vienna High School Senior who attended the event said, "Even though the event wasn't related to the field I want to go into, it was still really cool to see all of the careers offered to students like me and it was also nice to talk about the different careers that I have never even heard of! I think that events like these are good for students who don't know what they want to go into and want to explore all of the options down here."

Mrs. Leslie Bradley, Vienna Director of Student Career Services, helps lead the work of the Career Connected and Life Ready program at VHS. She shared, "Opportunities like this help our students connect what they are learning in the classroom to the possibilities available after graduation. These connections are an important part of helping every Vienna student become career connected and life ready."

Vienna High School receives USDA Farm to School Grant to support child nutrition

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that Vienna High School has been selected to receive the Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grantee. This $469,770 grant will support the Southernmost Illinois Farm to School Network: Growing Connections from Farm to Fork.

The grant proposal was authored by Phillip Hosfeldt, Vienna's Dean of System Programs/Chief Strategy Officer and Dr. Evan Coulson, Vienna's Interim Community Schooling Director. The project will establish sustainable farm-to-cafeteria pipelines while developing the next generation of agricultural producers through an expanded outdoor learning laboratory.

The USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues. USDA awards competitive Farm to School grants that support planning, developing, and implementing farm to school programs. USDA's Farm to School grants help state, regional, and local organizations as they initiate, expand, and institutionalize farm to school efforts.

"Current farm-to-school efforts remain sporadic and transactional rather than relationship-driven. Without permanent coordinating infrastructure and specialized consulting support, these challenges will persist. However, the Southernmost Illinois Farm to School Network project transforms transactional relationships into permanent market infrastructure supporting both food security and agricultural viability through targeted producer capacity-building investments, enabling meaningful infrastructure development," Hosfeldt said.

"This year's grants are a win-win for schools and children, for farmers and real food," Deputy Under Secretary for USDA's Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Patrick A. Penn said. "Our Nation's farmers, ranchers and producers grow the safest, most abundant and affordable food in the world, and now more children will get to experience the benefits of that bounty. USDA is fully committed to supporting healthy choices, healthy families, and healthy outcomes through farm to school, and I can't wait to see the life-changing impact these new projects will have on communities across America."

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE By Dixie Terry

Daylight Savings Time has ended; Midterm Election Day is over; Veterans Day has been recognized; and now, we can concentrate on making plans for Thanksgiving Day.

I have been told that the Thanksgiving Feas for our clan will be held in my garage this year. And since I am no longer driving and have sold my Toyota Camry to a great-granddaughter, there is plenty of space for tables in my garage. And, it also has a heat vent in case the weather turns cold.

There are some other November days to recognize this week: Nov. 7--National Bison Day and Apple Cider Day. Nov. 10--World Science Day. Nov. 11--Sundae Day. Nov. 13--World Kindness Day. Nov. 16--Fast Food Day. Nov. 17--Take A Hike Day.

There are also these month-long recognitions : Men's Health Awareness; Diabetes; Adoption; Native American Heritage; and Entrepreneurship.

"It;s A Wonderful Life" will be presented onstage at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg on Nov. 20-22.

The Christmas Bird Count Workshopl be held by the U. of I. Extension on Nov. 15, 1-3pm at the visitor center of Giant City State Park. Volunteers are needed.

Get this on your holiday calendar! The Live Nativity, with scenes of the Christmas story will be performed on Sunday, Dec. 6, 5:30-8pm, at the Vienna City Park, with a drive-thru experience. There will also be live music, free food, for a Christmas celebration under the stars. This is sponsored by Eagle House Ministries and other local congregations.

The upcoming "Rekindling the Spirit Youth Rally" will be hosted by the Ozark Baptist Church on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 7pm, with food served at 6:30pm. All area youngsters and their grownups are welcomed.

The Second Act of Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) will host a "Wish Upon A Star" social event on Thursday, Dec. 10, with dining, dancing and fellowship. This will get underway at Garden Grove Event Center in Carbondale, with doors open at 4:30pm, with appetizers, dinner at 5:30, and dancing until 8:30pm to music by the Dave Caputo Band. The cost is $25, with pre-registrtion a must by calling 877-480-4040.

The Daniel Chapman Chapter of NSDAR held a 117th anniversary of their chapter on Nov. 3, at 11:30am at the memorial stone of their chapter namesake in the Venna Fraternal Cemetery, with a wreath laying ceremony. Members enjoyed a lunch afterwards at a local eatery.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Monday, Nov. 16, noon to 6pm, at the Fellowship Baptist Church in Vienna. Desserts will be provided by members of the Pleasant Ridge Center and The Vienna Diner will provide a door prize. Walk-ins are welcome!

The Johnson County Women's Club met on Friday, Nov. 6 at 1pm for a lunch meeting at Tio's Tacqueria Mexican Restaurant in Vienna. The guest speaker was Erin Garrett, a U. of I. Extension Educator, who provided the program, "Gardening Pollinators". The officers served as hostesses.

Looking ahead to Saturday, Dec. 19, the "Happy Holiday" event will take place in downtown Goreville and in the village hall, with vendors, food, and maybe a visit from Santa.

Come on down!

The "Faith Alive Thrift Shop", located on the busy Vienna Square, is open on Thursday and Friday, 9am-3pm and Saturday, 9am to noon.

Enjoy bargain shopping!

The True-Vine free meals will take place on Saturday, Nov. 14, 4:30-5:3pm at the back entrance parking lot of thr Vienna United Methodist Church or with a home delivery. Call 618-926-1468 and leave a message. The menu will include: turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed pottoes, rolls, green beans, corn, and dessert.

The Vienna High School students saluted local veterans at their annual event on Nov. 10, 1-2pm, with a flag-raising ceremony and program.

The Daniel Chapman Chapter NSDAR held their annual Veterans Day Program at 11am on the lawn of the Vienna Carnegie Library, with a nice crowd of veterans and their families.

Enjoy a free Thanksgiving Feast at Eagle House Ministries on State Route 37, north of Buncombe ,on Thanksgiving Day at 11am. Call for in-house reservstions or home delivery at 618-658-0099. Volunteers are needed, epecially for the home deliveries. This is free to one and all!

The Zion Church of Christ Chancel Choir of Marion will perform on Nov. 16 at 7pm at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The Ozark/Longview Unit of the Johnson County U. of I. Extension will hold their monthly meeting on Nov.19 at 9am in the extension building of Vienna.

The Tunnel Hill Unit will hold their monthly meeting at 7pm on Nov. 16 at the Community of Christ Church.

The board meeting of the Home and Community Education met at 9am on Nov. 5 at the Extension Building in Vienna.

The 28th annual Open House and Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6, 1-3pm, at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. The public is welcome!

Yes! Johnson County voters had their say on the saving of the historic courthouse and voted to allow the county commissioners to continue their research on methods to reconstruct the long-standing structure in the center of the Vienna Square.

Congratulations to the Buncombe School District, where a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Nov. 4 to introduce their brand new cafeteria.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, the Johnson County Genelogical and Historical Society will introduce their latest video production, on the life of Paul Powell, the county's best-known politician. This will be shown at their monthly meeting at 2:30pm in the community room of thr Vienna Public Library. The public is urged to attend.

Volunteers at the Goreville Ministerial Alliance Thrift Shop on Nov. 10-12-14 will be members of the Goreville United Methodist Church and Busby Chapel Freewill Baptist Church. Shopping is available each Tuesday and Thursday, 9am-4pm and each Saturday, 9am-noon. Look for Thanksgiving and Fall decorations. The Christmas Bazaar will open for two weeks on the last Saturday of November.

The New Moon arrived on Monday, Nov. 9 and is riding high in the sky.

Did you know? If you were on the moon, you would weigh 80% less than on earth.

Let's help these folks blow out their candles as they turn another year older! Nov. 9--Kelsey Adams, Michele Sullivan Jennifer Tong! Nov. 10--Matt Smith, our grandson! Nov. 11--Jenny Levell, Cheryl Gage, Shirley Goins, Anna Marie Billingsley, Bailey King! Nov. 13--Alex McCree! Nov. 14--Destenie Mighell, Evan Lee Moore, Bonnie Hogue! Nov. 15--Brandon Potocki, Tim Bowns, Carl Henderson, Denette Link! May you all have many more!

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day, commemorating the signing of the agreement of World War I at 11:30am on Nov. 11, 1918. President Woodrow Wilson celebrated the first Armistice Day in 1919. In 1954, the veterans holidy was changed to Veterans Day from Armistice Day. In 1938, Nov. 11 had become a legal holiday by an Act of Congress.

We will appreciate news from all four corners of Johnson County. Call 618-422-2086 or email to dixieterry85@yahoo.com.

Enjoy the remainder of this week and all that November has to offer!

ANNA CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on November 8, 2026. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team.

The message "Remembering Who We Serve" was brought by Pastor Wright from 1 Samuel 12:20–25 sharing that our hope is in the Lord. Remember what He has done, turn from anything that takes His place, and serve Him faithfully together as His church.

Celebrating a birthday this week is: 12th Meranda Wright, 13th Scott Thompson

SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 15, 2026-OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES ARE DUE

Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship Service 10:35 a.m.- Memorial Roll Certificate Service for Michael Smith

No Evening Service

WEDNESDAY – NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Poverty Dinner 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 November 8 was "The Day of the Lord". His chosen scripture selection was Acts 2:15-21.

Last week's sermon was about of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and ended with the question, "What does all this mean?"

In this week's scripture, the disciple Peter addressed the crowd of scoffers. He said that

the "speaking in tongues" was a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy of Joel: that God would pour out His Spirit on those who claim Christ as their Lord, and that some will prophecy, some will see visions, some will dream dreams.

Peter goes on to say that in the last days, there will be those who scoff at believers. As Christians, we have the Good News of Jesus Christ versus the bad news of the world. The Gospel is the cure for the bad news, but those in the darkness refuse to accept it.

Through Joel, God also foretells the signs of the end of time: fire, smoke, the sun turning dark, and the moon turning into blood.

America is in a period of grace from God, but time will run out and the day of the Lord will come to pass. God put us on earth for a reason – to share the Gospel with those who have not yet accepted His saving grace. We need to be pointing people to Jesus before He returns.

We also observed Native American Sunday during the opening of Worship with information on the continuing ministry of Cumberland Presbyterian Churches in Choctaw Nation as well as recognizing Camp Ground Church's relationship to the Cherokee Nation as one of their camp sites during the infamous Trail of Tears.

Cali Pind rang the bell to begin worship. Raelynn Bonner took up the tithes and offerings.

Our lead elder for November is Rachael Bonner.

This week, we send birthday greetings to Brittany Roach whose birthday is today, the 12th.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Larry Kristoff of our community who passed away Saturday, the 31st, and especially to his daughter Dee and Kurt Kristoff-Litterest who also live in our community.

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.

NEWS NOTES

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

BY GEOF SKINNER

Military Ball is planned from 5 to 10 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 near Anna.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale planned to commemorate Veterans Day on Nov. 11 with the annual vigil at the flagpole near the center of the university's campus. This year's event marked the 45th anniversary of the flagpole vigil, which began in 1981. The event honored SIU and Southern Illinois veterans who served their country in the U.S. armed forces.

The Anna School District 37 Student Council is collecting food for Thanksgiving baskets. Thanksgiving meals will be distributed during the holiday season to District 37 families in need. Donations can be dropped off at the Anna Junior High School building during regular school hours.

A Cobden School food drive continues through the morning of Nov. 18. While many items, such as boxed cereal and canned protein, are welcomed, organizers have asked that peanut butter and instant oatmeal not be brought.

Union County officials are working on the county's new budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The county's new fiscal year begins Dec. 1.



November is National Diabetes Month. This year, Rural Health Inc. is partnering with financial institutions in Union, Johnson and Massac counties to raise awareness about diabetes prevention, to encourage healthy lifestyle and food choices and to help people access preventative healthcare through a "Banking on a Healthier Future" Campaign. During November, customers of banks in those counties will have access to free diabetes information.

The U.S. Forest Service extended the closing of Snake Road near Wolf Lake through Nov. 5 due to unseasonably warm weather.

The passage of a cold front was expected to bring some of the coldest temperatures of the season to the region. The National Weather Service office in Paducah advised that overnight lows could have dropped into the low to mid 30s Saturday and Sunday. A hard freeze was even possible. The forecast was calling for warmer temperatures starting on Monday.

A Nov. 5 update from the U.S. Drought Monitor showed that western Union County was experiencing severe drought conditions. Moderate drought conditions were reported in the eastern part of the county.

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School Beta Club sponsored a competition that resulted in 31 pumpkins decorating the school's hallways for the recent Halloween season.

Shawnee Community College biology instructor Tony Gerard recently shared his expertise with visitors from around the world. Gerard presented a program about snakes and led a short hike along the Snake Road in Union County for members of the International Dendrology Society, an organization dedicated to studying trees. Twenty participants representing eight countries across three continents attended the program.

The first firearm deer hunting season for 2026 is set for Nov. 20-22 in Illinois. The second firearm deer season is slated for Dec. 3-6.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale has released its newest institutional spotlight video which showcases the university's campus, academic excellence, student experiences and the Saluki spirit that makes Southern unique. Titled "We Are Southern," the video highlights SIU's nationally recognized research, hands-on



Turkey bingo planned at Cobden church

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cobden once again is planning to host Thanksgiving season turkey bingo games. Turkey bingo is set for Wednesday, Nov. 18. Winners will take home a turkey.

Games will be played in the church's parish hall. The church is located at 101 N. Centennial St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Games begin at 6 p.m.

Twenty-five games will be played. Cards will be $7 each, two for $12 or five for $30. Complimentary refreshments will be available during an intermission.

A-JCHS shares good news from state report card

BY GEOF SKINNER

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School is sharing good news from the Illinois School Report Card.

The Union County school posted on social media that it has earned the second-highest designation of "Approaching Exemplary" in the Illinois School Report Card.

"This recognition reflects our school's performance in key areas, including student achievement, academic growth, and graduation rates. It also represents the many efforts happening every day to help our students succeed," the school noted.

"This accomplishment would not be possible without the dedication of our incredible faculty and staff and the continued support of our school community. Thank you for being part of what makes A-J a great place to learn and grow!"

City of Vienna named State Cultural District



The State Designated Cultural Districts Programming Support Grant is an initiative of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity ("DCEO" or the "Department"). The State-Designated Cultural Districts program was launched in 2023 and is administered by DCEO's Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment ("OE3").

OE3 has designated fifteen (15) Cultural Districts across the State, including five in 2023, five in 2024, and five in 2025. The purpose of these districts is to foster cultural growth, economic vitality, and community development while preventing displacement. The City of Vienna earned this 10-year designation through a partnership between Vienna High School, Johnson County Government, the Johnson County Genealogical & Historical Society, Create Bridges Illinois - Southern Five.

The designation includes a $200,000 grant that will support a wide range of programmatic, operational, and planning activities to advance cultural and tourism goals within the city limits and the region. These activities include improvements to the Johnson County Historical Society building, enhanced programming with Cache Bayou Outfitters, and work-based internship opportunities for Vienna High School students to lead cultural and historical tours throughout Vienna, Johnson County, and the region.

"We are blessed in this region to have an abundance of natural and culturally significant sites that enrich the lives of our local communities," Dean of System Programs/Chief Strategy Officer at Vienna High School Phillip Hosfeldt said. "I am thankful that this gives us an opportunity to connect our young people to that history and let them give back to our region in new, powerful ways."

Superintendent Dr. Joshua W. Stafford shared, "Collaborative work to ensure that our region is building and gaining opportunities is key for community success, business success, and ultimately drives student success. Mr. Hosfeldt's leadership in this area is invaluable to the community and the entire region. It is also worthy of note that Vienna is 1 of only 15 awarded in a big state. Gaining this type of funding is what happens when people are willing to work together and is a great example of behavior that we need to continuously foster, build, and expect."

Information about the program and the other 14 districts awarded can be found at https://dceo.illinois.gov/oe3/il-state-designated-cultural-districts.html.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
ANNA JONESBORO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 81
ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Statement of Affairs for Anna Jonesboro Community High School District 81, located at 608 S Main Street, Anna, Illinois 62906, has been completed and is available for public inspection. The report has been posted on the district's official website and published in accordance with Section 10-17 of the Illinois School Code.

Anna Jonesboro Community High School District 81, situated in Union County, is a high school district encompassing approximately 137 square miles and operating one center. The district employs 41 full-time and 18 part-time certified employees, as well as 25 full-time and 35 part-time non-certified employees.

The tax rates by fund for the fiscal year are as follows: Educational – 0.96000, Operations & Maintenance – 0.25000, Bonds & Interest – 0.24104, Transportation – 0.12000, Municipal Retirement – 0.03614, Social Security – 0.10324, Working Cash – 0.05000, Fire Prevention & Safety – 0.05090, Tort Immunity – 0.28906, Special Education – 0.02000, Capital Projects/Leasing/Other – 0.0000.

Members of the public may view the complete Annual Statement of Affairs on the District's Website.

Healthcare dispute strikes fear, confusion among Southern Illinois state retirees

BY GEOFF RITTER AND SI SOURCE

Tim Rice is in a race against the calendar for his health.

Three years after prostate cancer first upended his life, Rice, 65, learned in May that the disease had returned.

This time, his doctor at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, part of BJC HealthCare, recommended brachytherapy, a form of radiation therapy that places radioactive material inside or near the area being treated.

Rice, who lives in Alto Pass, Illinois, more than 100 miles from the hospital, scheduled the procedure, with the second of two appointments set for Dec. 28.

That plan, however, has changed after news in October that BJC HealthCare is dropping its participation at the end of this year in the Medicare Advantage plans offered by insurers Aetna and Anthem.

That includes TRAIL, the state of Illinois' Aetna-administered Medicare Advantage health insurance program for eligible state, teacher and community college retirees.

Rice, who retired in 2021 after 18 years at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, now plans to make six trips to St. Louis beginning in early November to undergo an entirely different form of radiation therapy. He hopes to finish all of the treatments by Thanksgiving.

"The doctor made this decision so that he would have more time to follow up with me," said Rice, eyeing the Dec. 31 deadline. "He knows what's going on. He has a clear idea about my tumor and my cancer."

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services says about 5,000 Illinois retirees who have recently accessed provider or hospital care will be affected when Barnes-Jewish Hospital and WashU Medicine stop accepting Aetna Medicare Advantage plans at the start of 2027.

Many residents of largely rural Southern Illinois rely on specialists in the St. Louis area to provide services not available to them locally, but the potential reach extends well beyond state retirees. More than 72,000 people across the 15-county St. Louis metropolitan area are enrolled in Aetna Medicare Advantage plans, according to an analysis of October 2026 enrollment figures from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

On its website, BJC cited "administrative burden and payment issues" as reasons it would no longer partner with the Aetna and Anthem plans. The disruption doesn't affect commercial or supplemental plan agreements between BJC and Aetna.

Former congressman speaks out

This isn't the first time retirees have found themselves in this predicament. BJC and Aetna reached a last-minute deal on the current one-year contract in December 2025. Facing another year of uncertainty is "so frustrating," said Glenn Poshard, the former U.S. congressman and Southern Illinois University system president.

"I've called everyone I know to call," said Poshard, 81, who with his wife, Jo, relies on services provided at BJC and Washington University. He said he's received upward of 50 calls from concerned friends and colleagues.

"We're just left in a lurch right now," Poshard said. "There are thousands of people in Illinois who go to those hospitals for major things. I don't know where to go from here. I don't know how we get to the bottom of this."

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services, the state agency that oversees the state retiree plans, said in an Oct. 15 memo to participants that BJC HealthCare hospitals would continue providing services after the new year to patients whose care is deemed "medically necessary," although what conditions would warrant that conclusion were not made clear. Cynthia Johnson, a spokesperson for the state agency, did not respond to submitted questions.

Phil Blando, spokesperson for Aetna, said in an emailed statement the company is prepared to provide affected patients with information about continuity of care and its "robust provider network" in the areas affected, including Southern Illinois.

Blando said BJC providers would still see certain affected Aetna plan members after the new year under limited circumstances.

"BJC HealthCare/Saint Luke's and Washington University School of Medicine physicians are currently willing to see Aetna Medicare Advantage members for continuity of care and in other limited situations," Blando said.

However, BJC HealthCare qualified that assurance in its own emailed statement.

"Although Aetna has stated that Aetna Medicare Advantage patients can continue to receive care from BJC providers, they have not fully explained that doing so may result in significantly higher costs under out-of-network benefits," said Laura High, media relations director for BJC HealthCare.

Deadline for Action

On Oct. 23, a bipartisan group of Illinois legislators wrote a letter to BJC HealthCare, Aetna and CMS, insisting that daily contract negotiations between BJC and Aetna resume immediately. If no agreement was in place by Friday, Nov. 6, the legislators asked to receive a comprehensive briefing from all parties.

"The loss of access to these trusted healthcare providers would have significant consequences for affected retirees and their families," the lawmakers wrote in the letter, signed by five Illinois state senators and nine state representatives. "These individuals dedicated years of service to the State of Illinois and deserve continuity of care and certainty regarding their healthcare coverage."

Pressed on whether negotiations were continuing or how they would respond to the Illinois legislators' demands, the representatives for BJC and Aetna both declined to provide answers.

"We think that both parties have a responsibility to exhaust all avenues of negotiation," said Martha Merrill, director of research and employee benefits for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 31. "We still believe there's time for both parties to act in good faith."

Meanwhile, amid the confusion, retirees in Southern Illinois are beginning to make their own choices. Leslie Lloyd, of Murphysboro, retired in 2017 from teaching in the physician assistant program at SIU Carbondale and had her right foot reconstructed by a St. Louis surgeon in December 2024.

She's still receiving follow-up treatments, but a January appointment with her provider has been canceled because of uncertainty about whether the visit will be covered under her existing insurance arrangements.

Lloyd said she worked for the state of Illinois for 22 years, and the anticipated loss of access to her established providers is not what she was promised.

"It's a lifetime benefit for being a public servant," said Lloyd, who added she has been in contact with numerous SIU retirees about the issue. "We paid into the system. I have several physicians, and most of us do, who are being dropped."

Rosemary Rouse of Tunnel Hill retired from the Illinois Department of Corrections in 2002 after working at the Vienna and Shawnee correctional centers. Now dealing with the fallout from a compression fracture in her spine, she has similar questions.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA LUESING, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SOURCE

Tim Rice, an Illinois Department of Children and Family Services retiree who receives cancer treatment at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, worries about his future care after BJC HealthCare announced it will drop his Aetna Medicare Advantage plan in 2027.

On Oct. 28, Rouse received a letter from the Washington University Division of Bone and Mineral Services informing her an upcoming appointment was being canceled "unless you are switching to a different insurance plan that is contracted with Washington University/BJC."

"I'm worse than disheartened right now," Rouse said.

Rouse said the uncertainty leaves her with few options if she wants to continue with her current provider. She said her best option will be to simply change insurance carriers.

For Rice, still navigating a recurrence of prostate cancer, he began this journey with his doctor in St. Louis, and he is determined to finish there as well, even if he has to pay costs out-of-pocket.

He noted that other expenses pile up as well. Frequently, it makes more sense to get a hotel room in St. Louis, particularly if an appointment is scheduled for early in the morning. Fuel expenses also accumulate… as much as $65 for a round trip, Rice said.

But with his health and emotional well-being on the line, he said he'll do whatever it takes to maintain a relationship with his current doctor.

"I don't want to go to someone who has no idea what's going on," Rice said. "He made it very clear that he would work with us. It's important that I continue with him."

This story was produced by Southern Illinois Source, the Illinois Press Foundation's nonprofit news collaborative serving the bottom third of the state in partnership with the Southern Illinois University Charlotte Thompson Suhler School of Journalism and Advertising.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick

J.W. REYNOLDS MEMORIALS
WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD

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103 S. Fifth St.
(618) 658-2911

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
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JONESBORO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

On November 8, guest speaker, Bro. Carl Dillow, brought the message during morning worship. His message continued his five-part series of statements from an 1860 message from Charles Spurgeon, "What is a Healthy Church?" Today, he spoke on the early church and the need for the Bond of Brotherhood, or Unity. The early church was in one accord, praying about what God wanted. Everyone was working together daily. It was all about being together. He also reminded us that unity takes work and love. His text was found in the second chapter of the book of Acts in the New Testament.

Music Director, Dee Rose, led the worship accompanied by Debbie York on the piano, and the Praise Team: Rodger Goines, Larry Keller, Sharon Morgan, Debbie York. Lucas Tehandón sang a special song, "Let the Truth Be Told."

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, November 9, at 6 p.m. Men meet at the church, ladies will meet at the home of Sheila Aldridge. There will not be a children's program, "Dig In," meeting this week. This week is also the final week to get and fill a shoe box for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Shoe boxes are due on November 16.

Happy birthday to Judy Hancock, November 8; Dalton Anderson, November 9; Norma Conant, November 12; Marion Hill and Sharon Morgan both born on November 14; and Bryan Bell, November 15.

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. Our Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

OBITUARY



Kent William Herbert

Kent William Herbert, 79, of Makanda, Illinois, passed away November 4, 2026 with his family by his side.

Born October 2, 1947, in Moline, Illinois, he was a proud SIU Carbondale graduate, lifelong Saluki fan, and devoted family man who married Nancy on July 19, 1975, and celebrated 50 years together in 2025.

A jack-of-all-trades; journalist, electrician, carpenter, teacher, coach, and entrepreneur, Kent also enjoyed, sports, music, dancing, and singing who delighted in conversation, his many friendships, and especially his role as husband to Nancy, father to Adam and Andrew, and grandfather to Izzy, Ben, Elliott, and Mason. Even through later illness he remained positive, loving, and focused on others.

He is survived by his wife Nancy, sons Adam (Amy) and Andrew (Amanda), his grandchildren Izzy, Ben, Elliott, and Mason, his brothers John, Jim, and Kevin, and many friends; he was preceded in death by his mother Mildred, father George, and brother Jeff.

A celebration of life will be held February 20th, 2027 at Blue Sky Vineyard. Kent will be remembered as a good, gentle, and compassionate man, full of kindness, humor, and love. In the spirit of how he lived his own life, those who knew him are invited to share their love for one another often, dance and sing together whenever the mood strikes, and always leave room for a good dessert.

Meredith Funeral Home in Carbondale assisted the family with arrangements. To leave a story or memory of Kent, visit www.meredithfh.com.

October weather in region warmer, drier than normal

BY GEOF SKINNER

Temperatures during October in Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky were well above normal. Precipitation was drier than normal.

Temperatures

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported in an October climate review that temperatures averaged well above normal by 5 to 6.5 degrees.

Last month was one of the warmest Octobers on record in the region, ranking as the fourth warmest in Paducah, the fifth warmest in Carbondale and the sixth warmest in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Record heat was experienced on Oct. 1 and again from Oct. 12-15, when several record highs and warm lows were broken. Highs in the low 90s combined with unusually high humidity levels for October to produce heat index readings in the mid 90s to around 100 Oct. 13 and 15. Dewpoints reached into the mid to upper 70s, which were at record levels for so late in the season.

A strong cold front moved through on Oct. 15, which allowed much cooler air to push into the region from Oct. 16-19. Lows dipped into the low to mid 30s on the morning of Oct. 18, bringing widespread frost, along with a light freeze for a few communities. After a few days with highs in the 60s, temperatures moderated back into the 70s from Oct. 19 through the end of the month, while lows were primarily in the 40s.

Slightly warmer conditions were observed on Oct. 29 and 30, when several locations peaked around 80 degrees. This was only the second October in the past 28 years when high temperatures hit 60 degrees or higher every day in Paducah. Typically, the region experiences one colder stretch with a handful of days in the 50s, but that didn't happen this year.

Precipitation

Monthly precipitation deficits for October generally ranged from 1 to 2.5 inches in most locations. While there were some localized higher amounts of 3.5 to 4 inches, many areas were only experienced 1 to 3 inches.

Paducah did record its fourth wettest October day on record, with 3.42 inches of rain on Oct. 2. Paducah then recorded its fifth driest Oct. 3-31 period on record, with only 0.43 of an inch of rain for the rest of the month. The highest observed amount of rain in the region was 4.26 inches at a mesonet station in Caldwell County, Kentucky.

Drought conditions increased throughout the month, reaching moderate levels in 48% of the region and severe levels in 17% by the end of the month.

To place an obituary in the Gazette-Democrat, please call 618-549-2799 or email kgordon@carbondaletimes.com

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Nov.14, 2026: 9:00am-6:00pm
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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, $15,000.00 Ph. 618-318-1152.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR ALEXANDER COUNTY, ILLINOIS - CHANCERY DIVISION
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
NATHAN PAUL THOMASSON; ASHLEY THOMASSON; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No.: 2026FC5
Property Address:
23316 ROCK SPRINGS HOLLOW RD, THEBES, IL 62990
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:
A part of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 25, Township 15 South, Range 3 West of the Third Principal Meridian, more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at a point 180 feet West of the Westerly right-of-way line of a Public Road; thence continue Westwardly along the South boundary of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 a distance of 169 feet to a point; thence Northward on a line parallel to and distant 349 feet West of the Westerly right-of-way line of aforesaid Public Road a distance of 262 feet to a point; thence Eastward along a line parallel to and distance 262 feet North of the South boundary line of said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 169 feet to a point; thence Southward on a line parallel to and distant 180 feet West of the Westerly right-of-way line of aforesaid public road a distance of 262 feet to the South boundary line of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 25, Township 15 South, Range 3 West of the Third Principal Meridian, and the point of beginning.
And A part of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 25, Township 15 South, Range 3 West of the Third Principal Meridian, more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at a point 180 feet West of the Westerly right-of-way line of a Public Road and 262 feet North of the South boundary line of said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4; thence Northward along a line parallel to and distant 180 feet West of the Westerly right-of-way line of aforesaid public road a distance of 262 feet to a point; thence Westward along a line parallel to and distant 524 feet North of the South boundary line of said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 338 feet to a point; thence Southward on a line parallel to and distant 518 feet West of the Westerly right-of-way line of aforesaid public road a distance of 262 feet to a point; thence Eastward along a line parallel to and distant 262 North of aforesaid South boundary line of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 25, Township 15 South, Range 3 West of the Third Principal Meridian, 338 feet to the point of beginning, situated in the County of Alexander and State of Illinois.
Commonly known as: 23316 ROCK SPRINGS HOLLOW RD, THEBES, IL 62990
Names of the titleholders of record: Nathan Paul Thomasson and Ashley Thomasson.
Date of the Mortgage: November 15, 2021.
Name or names of the mortgagors: Nathan Paul Thomasson and Ashley Thomasson.
Name of the mortgagee: Primelending, a Plainscapital Company.
Date and place of recording: November 19, 2021; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of ALEXANDER County, Illinois.
Identification of recording: Document No. 20210715.
NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before December 12, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.
E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.
For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegalaid.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Lender Legal PLLC
1800 Pembrook Drive, Suite 360
Orlando, Florida 32810
Tel: (407) 730-4644
Service Emails:
mjdiaz@lenderlegal.com
EService@LenderLegal.com
LL50198-IL
s/ Meaghan Diaz de Villegas, Esq.
Meaghan Diaz de Villegas, Esq.
Counsel of Record for Plaintiff
ARDC # 6340688
8221-970934

PUBLIC NOTICE
Big Creek Drainage District No. 2, Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2026, 8:30 AM in the Ullin Village Hall & Library 113 Central Ave, Ullin, IL. 62992
Said meeting shall be open to the public.
Commissioners of Big Creek Drainage District No. 2
8221-970868

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON November 3, 2026
A CERTIFICATE WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK/ RECORDER ROBIN HARPER-WHITEHEAD OF JOHNSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SETTING FORTH THE NAMES, POST OFFICES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL OF THE PERSONS OWNING, CONDUCTING AND TRANSACTING THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS:
Harpland Creations
LOCATED AT
4400 Tunnel Hill Rd.,
Tunnel Hill, IL 62972
Robin Harper-Whitehead
Johnson County Clerk/Recorder
8221-970935

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ALEXANDER COUNTY, ILLINOIS
BILLY E. SMITH JR. and TIFFINY A. SMITH,
Plaintiffs,
v.
UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
CASE NO.: 2026CH8
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-entitled the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Alexander County, Illinois, by the said Plaintiff against you for a quiet title on the following described premises, to-wit:
Lots Numbered Two (2), Three (3) and Four (4) in Block Numbered Seven (7) in Clutt's Subdivision of the North ¾ of the West ½ of the West ½ of Section 32 in Township 15 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian, as platted and recorded in the Office of County Recorder at Cairo, Alexander County, Illinois, in Plat Book Numbered "F", Page 57.
and for other relief, and that said suit is still pending.
Now, therefore, unless you, the said Defendants, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, file your answer to the Complaint in the suit, or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of Alexander County, Illinois, in the County Courthouse in the City of Cairo, Illinois, on or before the 3rd Day of December, 2026, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.
Carey L. Simmons
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Prepared by:
JOHN R. SCHNEIDER
JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C.
212 North Main Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Tel: (573) 335-3300
Fax: (573)335-1978
8221-970739

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ALEXANDER COUNTY - CAIRO, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND WITH RESPECT TO BARCLAYS MORTGAGE TRUST 2022-RPL1,
MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES, SERIES 2022-RPL1,
PLAINTIFF
VS.
APRIL D LACEY A/K/A APRIL LACEY, FREDDIE G LACEY JR A/K/A FREDDIE G LACEY A/K/A FREDDIE LACEY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS.
DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE
Case No.: 2026FC2
Property Address:
22759 Olive St
Olive Branch, IL 62969
PUBLIC NOTICE is given that pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause on
July 15, 2026, the Alexander County Sheriff will on December 9, 2026, at 10:00 am, at the Alexander County
Courthouse, 2000 Washington Ave., Hallway, Cairo IL 62914, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following
described mortgaged real estate:
LOTS SIX (6), SEVEN (7), EIGHT (8), NINE (9) AND TEN (1O) IN BLOCK FIVE (5) IN THE ORIGINAL
TOWN OF OLIVE BRANCH, ALEXANDER COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
P.I.N.
06-32-251-001; 06-32-251-002
COMMON ADDRESS: 22759 Olive St, Olive Branch, IL 62969
Terms of all sales are ten percent (10%) of the opening bid.
Failure to pay the remaining balance within the twenty-four (24) hours shall result in the forfeiture of the ten
percent (10%) down payment.
No Refunds.
The property offered for sale is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said
real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse
to plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
The improvement on the property consists of: Single Family Home
The entered judgment amount was $31,293.57.
The property will NOT be open for inspection.
For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, LLC, 200 N. LaSalle St., Suite 1880, Chicago, IL
60601. 312-236-0077. KLG: RML000026-26FC1
8221-970835

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
MICHELE ASTIN; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.
NO. 2026FC8
201 WEST SPRING STREET
ANNA, IL 62906
JUDGE PRESIDING JUDGE
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on July 17, 2026, will on December 16, 2026, in UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 309 W. MARKET, JONESBORO, IL 62952, at 9:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:
TRACT I: Lot One (1) in Diana B. Kroh's First Addition to the City of Anna, situated in the County of Union and State of Illinois. TRACT II: Beginning at a point between Lots Number One and Two on Spring Street (Diana B. Kroh's Addition to the City of Anna, Illinois); thence South 84 Degrees 30'West 165 feet for a place of beginning; thence in the same direction sixty (60) feet; thence South 5 Degrees 30' East 111 feet 2 1/2 inches to the north line of P.H. Kroh's property; thence North 84 Degrees 30' East along said line sixty (60) feet; thence North 5 Degrees 30' West 111 feet 2 1/2 inches to the place of beginning, situated in the City of Anna, County of Union and State of Illinois.
TAX NO. 05-19-03-409 and 14-00-08-625
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 201 West Spring Street
Anna, IL 62906
Description of Improvements: Tan vinyl siding, 1.5 story single family home
The Judgment amount was $168,700.70.
Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.
The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For Information: Visit our website at http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com.
Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 333 W Wacker Drive, Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60606-1220. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 24-19980IL
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.
I3292344
8221-970711

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

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ALEXANDER COUNTY - CAIRO, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND WITH RESPECT TO BARCLAYS MORTGAGE TRUST 2022-RPL1,
MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES, SERIES 2022-RPL1,
PLAINTIFF
VS.
APRIL D LACEY A/K/A APRIL LACEY, FREDDIE G LACEY JR A/K/A FREDDIE G LACEY A/K/A FREDDIE LACEY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS.
DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE
Case No.: 2026FC2
Property Address:
22759 Olive St
Olive Branch, IL 62969
PUBLIC NOTICE is given that pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause on
July 15, 2026, the Alexander County Sheriff will on December 9, 2026, at 10:00 am, at the Alexander County
Courthouse, 2000 Washington Ave., Hallway, Cairo IL 62914, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following
described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N.
06-32-251-001; 06-32-251-002
COMMON ADDRESS: 22759 Olive St, Olive Branch, IL 62969
Terms of all sales are ten percent (10%) of the opening bid.
Failure to pay the remaining balance within the twenty-four (24) hours shall result in the forfeiture of the ten
percent (10%) down payment.
No Refunds.
The property offered for sale is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said
real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse
to plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
The improvement on the property consists of: Single Family Home
The entered judgment amount was $31,293.57.
The property will NOT be open for inspection.
For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Kluever Law Group, LLC, 200 N. LaSalle St., Suite 1880, Chicago, IL
60601. 312-236-0077. KLG: RML000026-26FC1
8221-970835

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
MICHELE ASTIN; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.
NO. 2026FC8
201 WEST SPRING STREET
ANNA, IL 62906
JUDGE PRESIDING JUDGE
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on July 17, 2026, will on December 16, 2026, in UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 309 W. MARKET, JONESBORO, IL 62952, at 9:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

SANDUSKY-ELCO-TAMMS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ALEXANDER COUNTY, ILLINOIS

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

MONIES ON HAND AND RECEIPTS

Cash Balance July 1, 2025	$ 6,690.45
Real Estate Tax Receipts	33,222.32
Foreign Fire Tax	2,437.32
Refuge Revenue Sharing Act	1,732.40
Total Cash on Hand and Receipts	**$44,082.49**

DISBURSEMENTS
Cash Disbursements Less Than $2500.00 By Category of Expenditures

Legal Services	$ 562.55
Publication of Notices & Ordinances	606.40
Contingency for Unseen Expenses	.00
Liability Insurance	292.00
Association Dues	125.00
Trustee Education	50.00
Treasurer's Surety Bond	.00
Office Supplies	17.65
Postage	38.16
Disbursements of Less Than $2500.00	$ 1,691.76

Disbursements in Excess of $2500.00 Per Payee

Tamms Volunteer Fire Department	$35,003.00
Total Disbursements in Excess of $2500.00	$35,003.00
Total Disbursements	**$36,694.76**
Cash Balance June 30, 2026	**$ 7,387.73**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF ALEXANDER)

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, deposes and states that she is the Treasurer of the Sandusky-Elco-Tamms Fire Protection District, Alexander County, Illinois; that she held the office of Treasurer for the Fiscal Year of said District commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, and that the above foregoing Annual Financial Statement is a true and correct statement of monies received and disbursed by her as Treasurer for the said fiscal year.

/s/ Janice Parker
Treasurer, Sandusky-Elco-Tamms
Fire Protection District

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public this 23rd day of September, 2026.

/s/ Susan R. Bigham
Notary Public
Commission No. 118074
My Commission Expires July 8, 2030

Notice of Sale
Notice is hereby given of the sale of the following described personal property which is stored at Busby Storage (Anna Location) 215 B East Vienna St. Anna, IL 62906.
Name of Occupant: Justine Brooks
Storage Unit: 75
Property to be sold: Personal/Miscellaneous
Time/Place/Manner of Sale: November 28th 2026 at 9 a.m. by Public Auction at Busby Storage 215 B East Vienna St. Anna, IL 62906
Phone: 618-833-3983 or 618-833-0238

TAX NO. 05-19-03-409 and 14-00-08-625
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 201 West Spring Street Anna, IL 62906
Description of Improvements: Tan vinyl siding, 1.5 story single family home
The Judgment amount was $168,700.70.
Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.
The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For Information: Visit our website at http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com. Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 333 W Wacker Drive, Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60606-1220. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 24-19980IL
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.
I3292344
8221-970711

Unofficial Union County results from 2026 election

BY GEOF SKINNER

Unofficial results from the 2026 general election have been posted by Union County Clerk Stephanie L. Cox. The election was held Tuesday, Nov. 3. A total of 5,661 votes were cast in the county.

Union County voters cast ballots for candidates who were seeking office in countywide, state and federal races. Candidates for regional superintendent of schools and judicial posts were on the ballot, as were judicial retention questions.

County Offices

Four Union County offices were on the ballot in the general election. They were county clerk, county treasurer, sheriff and a seat on the five-member Union County Board of Commissioners. Four candidates, all Republicans, were on the ballot for the county offices. Three of the four candidates were incumbents. The fourth candidate previously held office in the county.

Incumbent Union County Clerk Stephanie L. Cox received 4,709 votes. Incumbent Union County Treasurer Leigh Burns received 4,728 votes. Incumbent Union County Sheriff David Wilkins received 4,761 votes.

Former Union County clerk Lance Meisenheimer ran for and was elected to a seat on the county board. He received 4,686 votes.

Those elected to Union County posts will take office on Dec. 1.

Other Results

Unofficial results for other races on the Union County ballot follow:

U.S. Senator: Juliana Stratton, Democrat, 1,603. Don Tracy, Republican, 3,885. Whitfield Harrington Jr., American Center Party, 87.

Governor/lieutenant governor: JB Pritzker/Christian Mitchell, Democrat, 1,335. Darren Bailey/Aaron B. Del Mar, Republican, 4,126. Collin Corbett/Carolyn Schofield, Independent, 153.

Illinois attorney general: Kwame Raoul, Democrat, 1,573. Robert W. Fioretti, Republican, 3,972.

Illinois secretary of state: Alexi Giannoulias, Democrat, 1,805. Diane M. Harris, Republican, 3,754.

Illinois comptroller: Margaret Croke, Democrat, 1,607. Bryan Drew, Republican, 3,938.

Illinois treasurer: Michael W. Frerichs, Democrat, 1,636. Max Solomon, Republican, 3,896.

Representative in Congress, 12th Congressional District: Julie Fortier, Democrat, 1,616. Mike Bost, Republican, 3,987.

State Senator, 59th Legislative District: Tamiko "T.C." Mueller, Democrat, 1,534. Paul Jacobs, Republican, 4,009.

Representative in the General Assembly, 118th Representative District: Homer "Chip" Markel, Democrat, 1,632. Scott Doody, Republican, 3,957.

Regional superintendent of schools, Alexander/Jackson/Perry/Pulaski/Union: Matthew Hickam, Republican, 4,613.

Regional superintendent of schools, Franklin/Johnson/Massac/Williamson: Lorie LeQuatte, Republican, 12.

Judge of the Appellate Court, 5th Judicial District: Amy E. Sholar, Republican, 4,584.

Judicial retention: John B. Barbaris Jr., yes 3,839, no 1,118. William J. "Bill" Thurston, yes 4,170, no 899. Sarah K. Tripp, yes 4,056, no 952.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Business Services
217-785-8779

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS
FISCAL YEAR ENDING
June 30, 2026

SCHOOL DISTRICT/JOINT AGREEMENT NAME:	Century CUSD #100
RCDT NUMBER:	30-077-1000-26
ADDRESS:	4721 Shawnee College Rd, Ullin, IL 62992-2201
COUNTY:	Pulaski
NAME OF NEWSPAPER WHERE PUBLISHED:	The Gazette Democrat

DISTRICT TYPE	
Elementary	
High School	
Unit	X
Joint Agreement	

ASSURANCE
The Annual Statement of Affairs has been posted on the district's website and published in accordance with Section 10-17 of the School Code no later than December 1. (Put "X" in blue box if yes.) Yes X

SIZE OF DISTRICT IN SQUARE MILES	105
NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE CENTERS	1

NUMBER OF CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES	
FULL-TIME	34
PART-TIME	0
NUMBER OF NON-CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES	
FULL-TIME	28
PART-TIME	0

TAX RATE BY FUND (IN %)	
EDUCATIONAL	1.388880
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	0.438800
BOND & INTEREST	1.068560
TRANSPORTATION	0.166770
MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT	0.115460
SOCIAL SECURITY	0.107760
WORKING CASH	0.043880
FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY	0.000000
TORT IMMUNITY	0.141110
CAPITAL PROJECTS	0.000000
SPECIAL EDUCATION	0.035110
LEASING	0.000000
OTHER	0.000000
OTHER	0.000000

Data previously included in the Annual Statement of Affairs can be found at: Payments to certified personnel posted on district website per 05 ILCS 5/10-20.47. Student Counts included in district's report card. Financial Data included in district's Annual Financial Report posted on ISBE's Cerberus Server.

SALARY SCHEDULE OF GROSS PAYMENTS FOR NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL
Salary Range: Less Than $39.999
Chandra Anderson, Darren Bond, Andrew Boyce, Halli Brown, Viola Brown, Darren Bruce, Sarah Burnett, Tivon Clemons, Rachelle Cox, Justin Crain, Kalynn Crain, Darshanna Crane, Alex Crecelius, Rebecca Davis, Joseph Dewitt, Vonda Dexter, Addison Dillow, Victor Duckworth, Hunter Duke, Veronica Dunkin, Jennifer Proctor-Edwards, Richard Elliott, Alissa Farris, Lindsay Fitzgerald, Rebecca Garner, Samantha Gordan, Bret Green, Victor Hoehner, Audra Jackson, Dakota Johnson, Amber Jones, Stacie Jones, Deanne Jordan, Larry Jordan, Edward Kinsey, Alexandrea Koch, Tyler Ledbetter, Dusty Lee, Samuel Lipe, Tasha Lopez, Crystal McMahan, Alan Mighell, Jeffery Miller, Mary Miller, Michael Miller, Nicole Morehead, Nathan Pfaff, Kimberly Reagan, Krista Rentfro, Janet Rose, Regina Rose, April Runge, Zachary Sauerbrunn, Nancy Shearer, Nathan Shearer, Connie Sommer, Gary Sommer, Charity Staton, Blake Thurston, Christina Urban, Ricky Wright,
Salary Range: $40,000 - $54,999
David Hill, Jane Watson, Jerri Zahm
Salary Range: $55,000 - $74,999
Tracy Lance

PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER $2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

A&W Plumbing	6,804
ACE School of Tomorrow	4,719
AFLAC Insurance	3,733
American Fidelity Assurance Co.	15,625
American Fidelity Flex Spending	888
American Fidelity Insurance	28,943
Baysinger Architects, LLC	295,289
Beussink Hey Roe & Stroder LLC	23,500
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois	350,793
Business Card	113,155
Century Activity Fund	6,961
Century Federation of Educational Support Personnel	2,707
Century Federation of Teachers	14,338
Cintas Fire Protection	9,982
Clearwave Communications	46,249
Creative Data Systems	5,400
CRS OneSource	163,415
EMS Linq Inc.	11,243
Farmer Environmental Services, LLC	21,912
Five County Regional Vocational System	5,295
Global Life Liberty Mutual	9,774
Graphics Galore	2,600
Green Street Schools, LLC	30,035
Haddock Corporation	3,308
Heartland Mechanical Contractors	923,169
Heartland Services, Inc.	3,300
Hobart Sales and Service	2,957
HSG Mechanical Contractors	11,092
IASB	7,249
IL Department of Employment Security	9,690
IL State Payroll Taxes	137,184
IMRF IL Municipal Retirement Fund	92,178
Infinite Campus, Inc.	7,064
Insight Public Sector, Inc.	21,411
IRS Federal Payroll Taxes	408,104
JAMP Special Ed. Services	318,447
Jeffs Automotive	8,748
Joppa Maple Grove District	7,576
Knapp Oil Co Inc	28,759
Landon Sommer	2,797
Langhorst Construction, Inc.	18,232
Lees Sports	3,970
Liminex	5,784
Martin Roofing	267,990
Masons Masonry Restoration, Inc.	6,075
Michael Todd Mowery	4,650
Midwest Bus Leasing LLC	170,812
Midwest Terminal	64,107
North American Corp of IL	12,172
NWEA	5,930
Osborne Office Equipment	14,811
Oweens Abatement, LLC	42,194
Prairie Farms Dairy Inc.	24,983
Principal Life Insurance Company	23,711
PSIC	100,017
Remind 101	2,882
Renaissance Learning Inc.	4,338
ROE 30 Jackson/Perry	4,230
Rowe Pest Control	6,940
RP Coatings	65,780
School Financial Services, Inc	20,360
Sonitrol Security Systems	5,028
Southern Ill. Electric Coop.	72,301
SouthWater, Inc.	3,739
Stalker Sports Floors	213,563
Tegrity Management, LLC	10,150
THIS Teacher Health Insurance Security	35,497
TRS SSP	32,621
TRS Teachers Retirement System	223,932
UMB Bank	310,489
Varsity Scoreboards	6,925
Wrights Waste Disposal	6,200

PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OF $1,000 TO $2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

Assured Partners	1,014
Berry Concrete	1,132
Brown Electric Inc.	1,141
CDW Education	1,575
Embrace Education	2,030
Franczek	1,166
IASA	1,299
Jostens	1,016
Learning Without Tears	1,456
LearnWell	1,958
Midwest Bus Sales	1,597
Minkeysoft	1,776
Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC	1,156
Quill Corporation	1,943
River City Christian School	1,800
Savvas Learning Company	2,184
Southern Illinois LOCAL Media Group LLC	1,498
Teacher Strategies, LLC	1,080
Tiptons	1,619
Ullin Market Place	1,164
Vienna High School	2,357
W. J. Burke Electric Company	1,780

REPORT ON CONTRACTS EXCEEDING $25,000 AWARDED DURING FY2025

1. Total number of all contracts awarded by the school district:	11
2. Total value of all contracts awarded:	$2,087,911.16
3. Total number of contracts awarded to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and locally owned businesses:	4
*If there are no contracts of this nature, please enter "0" in box to the right.	
4. Total value of contracts awarded to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, businesses owned by person with disabilities, and locally owned businesses:	$1,552,228.05
*If there are no contracts of this nature, please enter "0" in box to the right.	

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



Take the time to honor veterans this holiday season



Larry R. Dillow, U.S. Air Force, 1955-1961. A/2C, 6th Air Force 509th Wing, guarding top secret military hardware SAC. Served during peacetime at Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, N.M. and Upper Heyford Air Force Base, Oxford, England. Awarded: Expert Rifleman Badge and Good Conduct Medal. Larry Dillow commented with "I served with some of the best men there ever was with the 509th Group."

The holiday season is a time when family and friends gather to reconnect and celebrate. For many families there are people missing from these celebrations, whether they sacrificed their lives defending the country or died honorably years after serving in the military.

As individuals plan to add spirit to homes and businesses through decorations and other touches, they also can consider adding a bit of the holidays to the places where their beloved service members lie in eternal rest. This is the main premise behind the Wreaths Across America organization.

The primary activity of Wreaths Across America is to distribute wreaths to be placed on graves in military cemeteries. On National Wreaths Across America Day, which takes place on a moving day each December at thousands of locations, volunteers place wreaths on headstones and read out the names of the service members.

The organization was founded by Morrill Worcester and his wife, Karen, as a way to teach all generations about the value of their freedoms and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company in Maine, remembered a trip to Washington D.C. as a child that included a visit to Arlington National Cemetery. In 1992, when Worcester's business had a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season, he remembered an indelible image of wreaths on graves at Arlington and devised a way to put those wreaths to use honoring the country's veterans.



Arlington National Cemetery was the first place to receive wreaths. Since then, the movement has grown to include cemeteries across the nation. In 2022, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers placed more than 2.7 million sponsored veterans' wreaths on headstones of our nation's service members at 3,702 participating locations.

Although veterans are remembered each Memorial Day and Veterans Day, they can be honored 365 days a year for their service and sacrifices. Wreaths Across America offers an important way to set aside time during the holiday season show appreciation for veterans who are no longer with us.

Those looking to get involved can visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities or bringing WAA into their communities.

A Salute To America's Veterans
75th Commemoration
OB/GYN • MEDICAL • DENTAL • PSYCHIATRY
RURAL HEALTH, Inc.
We specialize in you
Five Sites for Your Healthcare Needs:
Anna
513 N. Main Street
(618) 833-4471
Dongola
318 U.S. Hwy. 51 N
(618) 827-3545
Goreville
400 S. Broadway
(618) 995-1002
Metropolis
1003 E. 5th Street
(618) 524-7499
Vienna
803 North 1st Street
(618) 658-2811

We join everyone in saluting
our service men and women.
God bless America
and those who protect it!
Meeting the challenges
for more than 50 years!
Schaefer Enterprises
www.sewlparts.com
800-626-6046 • 618-833-5498
P.O. Box 136, Wolf Lake, IL 62998

VETERANS DAY
Join us in remembering our nation's heroes who served our country to preserve our freedom.
Thank you for your service to our country.
REMEMBERING OUR HEROES
City of Anna
Mayor, Commissioners
and City Employees



Union County communities honor veterans

Veterans Day was commemorated on Nov. 11. Banners honoring those who have served the nation can be seen along highways, streets and roads in Anna, Cobden and Jonesboro. The banners in the accompanying photo have been on display in Cobden. A Veterans Day parade, planned on Nov. 11 in Anna, once again was sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna.

Remember...Thank...Support...
Our Troops
The City of Jonesboro

Thank You to Our Veterans

We celebrate our freedom daily thanks to the men and women in the armed forces who serve and protect our country.

We Remember Our COURAGEOUS VETERANS

ASB
Anna STATE BANK
100 E. Vienna St. • Anna
833-2151
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC

Honoring Those Who Served

We'd like to say
"Thank You"
to our nations' veterans.

Your dedication and service to your country will never be forgotten.

THE FIRST STATE BANK OF DONGOLA
Old and Reliable, Established 1906
Dongola 827-3541 • Ullin 845-3395
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC

Honoring All Those Who Served
Meller-James & Associates
Veterinary Service
2695 E Vienna St, Anna
(618) 833-7421

Remembering Our VETERANS
Brad's Collision Works LLC
511 E. Vienna Street
Anna, IL • (618) 833-3102

DQ *Remembering Our Veterans*
138 E Vienna St, Anna, IL 62906
(618) 833-2171

We thank all those who have served and we salute your courage and dedication.
Village of Dongola
136 E. Front St. • Dongola
827-4343

Thank You to Our Veterans
Cardinal Corner
409 Grand Tower Rd Grand Tower, IL

Anna-Jonesboro National Bank
Dedicated to our customers, committed to our community
201 South Main Street • Anna • 618-833-8506
512 E. Vienna Street • Anna • 618-833-2922
1002 Public Square • Jonesboro • 618-833-4547
Or Visit Us On The Web At: www.ajnational.com
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER Member FDIC

Service Above Self
Three words say everything about our nation's veterans.
HONOR OUR VETERANS
Veterans Day is November 11th
RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES AND MONUMENTS
Anna • Jonesboro • Cobden • Alto Pass
(618) 833-2131 or
(618) 833-8222

How to lend veterans a helping hand



Members of the military play an important role in keeping the peace and preservering the freedoms that democracy enables. Veterans of the United States Armed Forces are celebrated each November 11 on Veterans Day. It's important that residents in communities big and small take time on Veterans Day to recognize their brave neighbors who served in the Armed Forces. But support for veterans should not begin and end in mid-November. Indeed, there's much anyone can do to lend veterans a helping hand all year long.

• Volunteer with local veteran assistance organizations and programs. Serving in the military is not easy, and many veterans who serve or served confront serious issues upon returning from combat or leaving the military. The Committee to Evaluate VA Mental Health Services found that 23 percent of veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND) experienced PTSD, while roughy 16 percent suffered from depression. Various organizations work to help veterans in numerous ways, and volunteering with such groups can be a great way to lend active and retired Armed Forces personnel a helping hand. The Wounded Warrior Project is one such organization, and people can help to raise funds for WWP-backed fundraisers like 5Ks and galas that are held across the nation each year.

• Reach out to neighbors who served. Simply reaching out to neighbors who served in the military can be a great way to lend a helping hand. According to the American Community Survey, more than 2.5 million veterans ages 18 and over reported having a military service-connected disability rating of 70 percent or more. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs assigns disability ratings based on the severity of a disability (or disabilities), and that percentage-based rating represents how much a disability (or disabilities) decreases a veteran's overall health and ability to function. That millions of veterans are rated at 70 percent or more reflects a population in need, and not all of those needs are necessarily met by the VA. Those looking to lend a helping hand to veterans can offer to help those with disabilities manage daily life. Offers to shop for a disabled veteran's groceries, drive a veteran to doctor's appointments, help a veteran with lawn care or other household chores, or even invite a veteran over for dinner once per week are great ways to show veterans their sacrifices are appreciated and not forgotten.

• Propose and gather support for community events celebrating veterans. There's no end to the ways communities can recognize the veterans who live among them. Community-based events recognizing local veterans ensure residents know who among their neighbors served and helped to secure and protect their freedoms and way of life. When communities host events to honor local veterans, volunteer to serve at such events and work to promote them through word-of-mouth and avenues like social media. Residents can even propose new events that raise awareness about local veterans and encourage them to share their stories with their neighbors.

Veterans Day can serve as a catalyst that encourages residents to make a concerted effort to lend a hand to veterans in need throughout the year.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
SIU — ALUMNI ASSOCIATION —
MILITARY APPRECIATION BREAKFAST
9 A.M. - 11 A.M., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | TEDRICK WELCOME CENTER, SIU CARBONDALE
FEATURED SPEAKER
COL. GREGORY D. GADSON



In these uncertain times, we voice our gratitude to America's military personnel, both past and present, who have served, or are serving, our nation.
Union County Abstract Office, Inc.
Chicago Title Insurance Company
Susan T. Holderfield, President
304 West Market Street
P.O. Box AC
Jonesboro, Illinois 62952
(618) 833-6521



We salute your service, and wish you a happy Veterans Day

Thank You, Veterans!

We're proud of the members of our armed forces who keep this nation going strong, and pay tribute to the memory of those who have helped defend democracy around the world.

FARMERS STATE BANK

Alto Pass, Illinois

618-893-2464

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Member FDIC

For Your Health — The large and growing benefits of being smoke-free

BY DR. GRAHAM A. COLDITZ SITEMAN CANCER CENTER

It's important to celebrate big accomplishments. And when it comes to our health, the drop in U.S. smoking rates over the last six decades is certainly one to cheer.

Over 8 million deaths have been avoided during that time as more and more Americans have kicked the habit or not picked it up, translating to more than 150 million years being added to people's lives.

These are amazing numbers. But they're also numbers that we can keep building on. Around 1 in 10 American adults still smoke, and that continues to have a huge impact on individuals, families and our nation. It leads to nearly half a million premature deaths each year, with over 16 million people in the U.S. having a smoking-related disease.

Lung cancer leads this list, which is probably no surprise. But smoking causes at least 15 other cancers as well. And it affects nearly all parts of the body, raising the risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, eye disease, arthritis, infertility and many other conditions.

Quitting smoking lowers the risk of nearly all of these, and the benefits start almost immediately after the last cigarette — and grow from there. Over time, the risk of many conditions equals that of someone who has never smoked. And it's almost never too late to see gains. Quitting at age 65, for example, can add four or more years to someone's life. And it's not just more years — quitting at any age can improve overall quality of life. This means improved health and also benefits in other areas of daily life, like food tasting better or having more energy to play with our kids and grandkids.

There are great resources available for people who want to quit — or are just starting to think about it. While many are able to stop on their own, getting help can double the chances of success. Healthcare providers and local health departments are a good place to start. Free resources are also available at smokefree.gov and 800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669), and include specific programs for teens, veterans and others.

Quitting isn't easy — and it can take a number of attempts – but thousands of people are able to stop for good every day, and the rewards are truly worth the effort.

Supporting our friends or family members who are trying to quit can also be an important part of their success. This can be as simple as providing encouragement, helping them avoid situations that might trigger the urge to smoke, or helping them find information and resources about quitting.

We can also help our kids and grandkids lay a foundation for smoke-free lives by talking to them openly about the dangers of smoking and vaping — and modeling healthy behaviors for them by not smoking ourselves and keeping homes and cars smoke-free.

With the progress we've made against tobacco, it can be easy to shift our focus to other parts of health and wellness, especially with competing posts filling our news and social media feeds. But it's important not to lose sight of the impact tobacco can have on the health of individuals and our nation. It remains the No. 1 cause of premature deaths in the U.S., and getting smoke-free or staying smoke-free is the single most important step most of us can take for our — and our families' — well-being.

Dr. Graham A. Colditz leads prevention research at Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and WashU Medicine in St. Louis. Much of his work focuses on translating research findings into tools and tips that help people lower their risk of disease and improve their health — including the 8IGHT WAYS® to Prevent Cancer series.

SIU's Touch of Nature hosts Inclusive Archery Hunt for veterans, hunters with disabilities

BY MAXBIYA ENGLISH

Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center, Southern Illinois University Carbondale's experiential learning facility, hosts the Inclusive Archery Hunt for veterans and hunters with disabilities Nov. 12-15. Organizers say the event remains the largest inclusive deer hunt in Illinois, with 43 people registered this year.

Hunt participants will have exclusive use of Touch of Nature's 3,400 acres of land. Public mountain bike trails are closed during the hunt weekend. Hunters are encouraged to bring a helper and their own gear. Volunteers are also on hand to sight-in bows and help with whatever else the participants need. Extra bows and supplies are available for those just getting into the sport.

After the hunt, volunteers process the deer on site and donate part of their own harvest — ensuring every hunter leaves with venison to take home.

The National Wild Turkey Federation's Illinois Wheelin' Sportsmen program partners on the event, with Michael Howie serving as the NWTF's hunt coordinator. Since 2000, Wheelin' Sportsmen has helped people with mobility impairments take part in hunting and shooting sports.

This year, the hunt also teams up with Disabled American Veterans women's chapters for the first time to encourage more female veterans with disabilities to participate.

To learn more about the hunt or arrange a visit at a different time, contact Rockette Jaros, outdoor education and inclusion coordinator, at rockette.jaros@siu.edu or 618-453-3954.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Inclusive Archery Hunt brings veterans and hunters with disabilities to Touch of Nature's 3,400-acre property.

Sheriff's office alerts public about phone scam in area

BY GEOF SKINNER

The Union County Sheriff's Office is alerting the public about a phone scam which is currently being reported in the area.

"It has come to our attention that individuals are receiving phone calls from scammers claiming to represent Medicare and attempting to obtain personal information," the sheriff's office reported in a posting on social media.

"These calls are scams," the sheriff's office warned. "Medicare will not call you unexpectedly to solicit business or ask for sensitive personal information."

The sheriff's office shared precautions which community members can take.

Never provide your Social Security number, Medicare number, banking information or other personal details to an unsolicited caller.

Do not trust a caller simply because they claim to represent Medicare.

If you receive a suspicious call, hang up immediately.

If you are unsure whether a call is legitimate, contact Medicare directly at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Members of the public are asked to share information about the scam alert with their family, friends and neighbors, especially senior citizens, who are often targeted by such scams.

"Stay alert, protect your personal information and don't become a victim," the sheriff's office advised.



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