

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Anna, Illinois

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News Notes

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

Congratulations, and thank you, to all of those who were involved in last weekend's ColorFest activities in Union County. Mother Nature even cooperated with some very nice October weather.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah on Monday was calling for "spectacular weather conditions repeating daily for the whole week," with lots of sunshine and high temperatures in the upper 70s to around 80. The weekend is expected to bring chances for showers and thunderstorms.

Congratulations to the Anna Junior High School softball team, which won a Class M state championship with a victory over Okawville.

Anna Junior High School cross country runners Kelly Smith and Jack Gaddis advanced to state as individuals.

Plans to restart a Neighborhood Watch program in the City of Anna are moving forward. An informational meeting was planned Tuesday evening, Oct. 14, at Anna City Hall.

The Anna Police Department is investigating a series of egging incidents which targeted vehicles in the City of Anna.

The Anna Police Department continues to be extremely busy.

Leaf and tree limb pick ups are being planned in November and December in the City of Anna.

Don't forget to check out this year's Pumpkin Town displays at the Anna City Park.

Donations continue to be welcomed to support the Union County animal control program. Dog food and financial donations are appreciated. County officials continue to urge the public to have pets spayed and neutered.

A bake sale to support the Union County Sheriff's Office's holiday season Shop with a Deputy program was among last weekend's ColorFest activities in Jonesboro.

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School 2024-2025 yearbooks have arrived and are ready for pick up.

Nearly 500 juniors and seniors from 12 area high schools experienced college life during last week's Shawnee Community College Day. Students learned about programs, met instructors and toured labs at the college.

Downtown Anna Plaza and Pavilion's grand opening celebrated at ColorFest



Ribbon cutting held Saturday

Mayor Steve Hartline used a special pair of ceremonial scissors to cut a ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of the new Downtown Anna Plaza and Pavilion along East Davie Street. The mayor was joined by city officials and staff members, Union County Chamber of Commerce representatives, other dignitaries and many community members who were on hand for the ceremony.

The City of Anna kicked off last weekend's community ColorFest celebration with a special event.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Saturday morning to officially celebrate the grand opening of the new Downtown Anna Plaza and Pavilion, which is located at 124 E. Davie St. The ceremony kicked off a full day of ColorFest activities in Anna. The ribbon was cut by Mayor Steve Hartline.

City administrator Dori Bigler welcomed those who came out on a bright and sunny October morning for the ceremony. Many people were on hand for the special occasion. She thanked all of those who were present "for joining us today for the official ribbon cutting of the Downtown Anna Plaza & Pavilion – a space that marks a new chapter in our city's growth and vitality. We are so proud to unveil this new gathering place in the heart of our community. This space is for all of us – a place to celebrate, to connect and to bring new life to Downtown Anna."

Honored guests who were recognized at the ceremony included:

State Rep. Paul Jacobs, R-Pomona; Mayor Steve Hartline and Anna City Council members Michael Bigler, Kathy Bryan, Torie Car-

ter and Martha Ann Webb; Union County Chamber of Commerce leadership, including Tracey Smith, Dori Bigler, Caitlin Toler and Tonya Loveless; and city staff members who helped to bring the vision for the project to life, including public works manager Jordan Chamness.

Bigler said the project would not have been possible without the city having been awarded an \$812,930.30 grant through the Rebuild Illinois Downtowns and Main Street program.

"We also want to extend our deepest thanks to our project sponsors and partners – your investment in this community has helped turn this idea into reality. We want to recognize the Bigler family for their pavilion sponsorship. And also Deaconess Illinois Union County for being gold sponsors. A plaque will be erected on the building with a list of all of our sponsors," Bigler said.

"A special thank you goes to Ryan Dodd and Dodd Architects, our project architect. Ryan is not only a talented professional, but he's also a proud Anna native with his office right here in town. His vision and commitment to this project ensured that the design reflects both our community's charm and its future.

"We also want to thank

Richard Howell of Horner Shifrin, who was the engineer on the project and also a Union County native.

"From planning and funding to design and construction, this project has been a team effort. It represents the power of public and private collaboration, and it reflects our shared commitment to revitalizing downtown and creating a welcoming space for residents and visitors alike.

"We hope this plaza becomes a place where small businesses thrive, neighbors gather and traditions grow for

years to come."

The project's general contractor was Evrad Company.

A list of project sponsors provided by the city includes:

Pavilion naming sponsor: The Bigler family. Gold sponsor: Deaconess Illinois Union County Hospital in Anna. Silver sponsors: Union County CEO class of 2024, Steve and Connie Vincent, the Herbert family, Annabelle Market, Shawnee Community College. Bronze sponsors: Southern Bank, Union County Women in Business, Moreland Eyecare, Robert and Khrista Lence.

Major grant funding announced

The Arrowleaf human services organization announced that it has been awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to lead the Southern Illinois Rural Health Special Track Opportunity, SIRHSO, initiative. In a posting on social media, Arrowleaf said the grant was one of only 10 in the nation.

Over the next four years, the award will create new jobs in the region and bring life-saving services like preventative screenings, nutrition-focused care and evidence-based models like Food is Medicine to rural communities. Arrowleaf announced that it is hiring a

programs coordinator, a registered dietitian and a case manager to support the program.

The program will be serving Alexander, Johnson, Massac and Pulaski counties in Southern Illinois and will involved a partnership with Massac Memorial Hospital, Rural Health Inc., Southern 7 Health Department and University of Illinois Extension.

Arrowleaf is a nonprofit human services organization that works to build well-being for the people of Southern Illinois throughout their lives. Arrowleaf's work is focused on behavioral health, developmental services and community collaboration.

Drought conditions updated

Above normal temperatures, low humidity and lots of sunshine were in the work week's forecast for the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported on Monday that showers and thunderstorms are expected to return for the weekend with the approach of a cold front. The Weather Service advised that there may even be a few severe thunderstorms on Saturday. Cooler temperatures are expected to arrive by Sunday.

This week's warm, dry conditions came as drought conditions eased somewhat in parts of the region.

A U.S. Drought Monitor update on Thursday, Oct. 9, showed that part of eastern Union County and northern Johnson County were experiencing no drought conditions.

Much of Union County, a sliver in northwestern and the southern part of Johnson County, northern Alexander County, northwest Pulaski County and southeastern Williamson County were experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Moderate drought conditions were reported in a part of northwestern Union County, much of Jackson County, southern Alexander County, most of Pulaski County, northwestern Williamson County and all of Massac County.

Severe drought conditions were reported in northern Jackson County.

Fall Colors at Cross set

The fall season will be celebrated at an upcoming special family friendly event planned at the Cross of Peace on Bald Knob Mountain near Alto Pass.

Fall Colors at the Cross is set for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 18-19, at the Southern Illinois landmark. Hours are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Musical guests are scheduled to be Dustin Griffith and Israel Lopez. Food trucks will be on hand. Activities for children are slated to include horse and carriage rides, bounce houses and face painting.

Parking will be \$10 per car. Donations will be accepted to support the Cross of Peace.

Weather

High of 83, low 40; 1.87 inches of rain

Temperatures for the period of Oct. 7-13 ranged from a high of 83 degrees to a low of 40. Precipitation totaled 1.87 inches of rain.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 7: high 83, low 64. 1.87 inches of rain.

Wednesday, Oct. 8: high 74, low 49.

Thursday, Oct. 9: high 73, low 45.

Friday, Oct. 10: high 71, low 40.

Saturday, Oct. 11 : high 77, low 49.

Sunday, Oct. 12: high 77, low 48.

Monday, Oct. 13: high 80, low 49.



Cheerleader campers

Graduates of the Future Wildcats Cheer Camp were joined by the A-J Wildcats cheerleaders in performing in pink at the halftime show of the A-J football game on Friday, Oct. 10.



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Southern 7 addresses animals, food service establishment guidelines

Southern 7 Health Department is reminding the public about federal restrictions which are in place regarding allowing animals inside food service establishments, including restaurants, grocery stores, bars and cafés, as required by the FDA Food Code.

Only service animals that are specifically trained to assist individuals with disabilities are permitted to enter food service establishments. Emotional support, comfort or therapy animals do not qualify as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and therefore are not permitted inside food establishments, the health department advised.

The restriction is in place to protect the health and safety of both the public and food service employees by preventing contamination and maintaining sanitary conditions where food is prepared, served or stored.

“We understand that many people love to bring their pets

along when shopping or dining out,” said Miranda Adams, Southern 7’s environmental health director, in a news release. “However, to maintain public health standards and ensure compliance with state law, pets must remain outside designated food service areas.”

Patrons with service animals should not be asked for documentation, but may be asked whether the animal is required because of a disability and what specific task it is trained to perform.

The health department encourages all residents and business owners to help maintain a safe and sanitary environment for everyone by following the regulations. For more information, contact Southern 7 Health Department at 618-634-2297.

Southern 7 Health Department is a public health department that serves communities of the seven southernmost counties in Illinois

County board meets

Commercial solar energy project approved, road reconstruction project grant announced

A commercial solar energy project and the awarding of state grant funding for a local road project were highlighted at last week’s regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners. The meeting was Friday morning, Oct. 10, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Solar Energy Project

The commissioners passed a resolution which approved a special use permit for the siting of a commercial solar energy facility near Anna. A public hearing on the matter was held Oct. 7.

The commissioners have adopted an ordinance governing the siting of commercial solar energy facilities and substations within the county. Union County Ordinance 2025-02 requires parties which desire to establish a commercial solar energy facility or substation to submit an application for a special use permit.

The resolution approved by the commissioners showed that Wild Cat Solar 22 LLC had submitted an application

for a special use permit for construction of a commercial solar energy facility to be located off of Lick Creek Road near Anna on privately owned property. The application was accompanied by all of the information, studies, maps, drawings and an executed agricultural impact mitigation agreement, as required by the county’s ordinance.

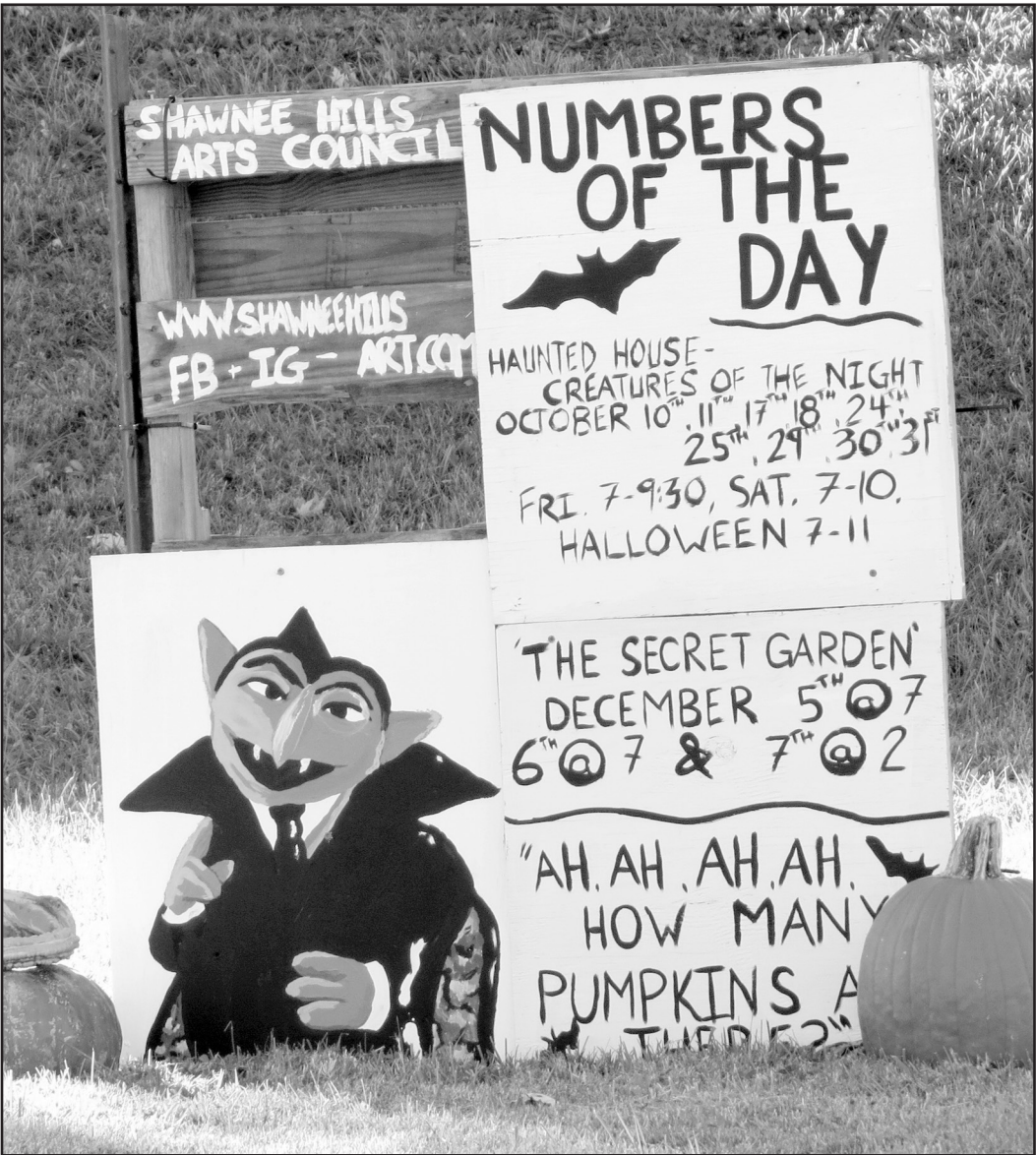
The commissioners have found that granting of the special use permit for the development of the commercial solar energy facility is appropriate.

The resolution passed by the county board on Friday took effect immediately. The 2.3 megawatt solar energy facility will be located on 16 acres of ground and is expected to be operational by mid-2026.

Grant Funding

County engineer Amy Ferris announced the awarding of \$1.8 million in state grant funds for a local road project. The Illinois Department of Transportation grant will fund reconstruction of Lake Road in the Dongola area. Work is planned in 2026.

Pumpkin Town on display



Pumpkin Town is on display during October at the Anna City Park. The annual display is a collaboration involving the Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau, the Union County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Anna. The theme for this year is popular sitcoms. Businesses, groups and individuals were invited to create displays. These are just a few of the displays at this year’s Pumpkin Town.

Overwhelming support for ‘Bundles of Joy’ Diaper Drive in area

In September, Southern 7 Health Department held its second “Bundles of Joy” Diaper Drive in response to the growing diaper insecurity in the southernmost seven counties in Illinois. Through generous support of local businesses and community members, more than 3,200 diapers were collected and will be distributed to Southern 7 WIC and Head Start sites.

Diapers and monetary donations were collected at a Dollar General Store sites in Cairo, Cobden, Golconda, Karnak, Rosiclare and Vienna, Big John’s Super Store in Metropolis, Edward Jones in Anna and Kroger in Anna.

The drive also collected various baby cleaning essentials and more than \$1,200 to purchase more diapers. In total, more than 12,100 diapers and \$2,200 have been collected since the program began last year.

“We are overwhelmed at the outpouring of support for the families we serve and appreciate the many donations from the community,” Southern 7 community outreach coordinator Shawna Rhine said in a press release. “These diapers will help ease the expense burden for so many families in our region, while keeping their children happy and healthy.”

Diapers will be available to families enrolled in Southern 7 WIC and Head Starts programs while supplies last.

Clean diapers are a basic need of every baby and toddler, and are a growing problem in the United States. According to new data from the National Diaper Bank Net-

work, one in two U.S. families can’t afford enough diapers to keep their infant or child clean, dry and healthy. As a result, these babies are more vulnerable to painful rashes, urinary tract infections, toxic stress and more trips to the doctor.

The American Academy of Pediatrics reported that on average newborns need 10 to 12 diapers per day, or 300 for the first month of life, with an average cost of \$90 per month. The average child will use about 7,100 diapers before potty trained with a cost of \$78 to \$90 per month and the total average cost per year of \$936.

Such added expenses are often difficult for the families served through Southern 7. WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Supplemental Nutrition Program is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provides federal grants to states to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information about healthy eating and referrals to health care. WIC

is available at each Southern 7 Public Health Clinic with a current enrollment of 260 infants.

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services which serves families with young children ages birth to 5. Services include the areas of education, school readiness, social service, health and family involvement.

Southern 7 offers both Head Start and Early Head Start for income eligible families that live in the lower seven counties in Illinois. Head Start serves children age 3 to 5, while Early Head Start serves infants and children age 6 weeks to 3. Currently, 138 children under age 3 are enrolled in the program.

Those who were not able to visit a Diaper Drive in their area can still make donations at Southern 7’s public health clinics and at Head Start sites in Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski and Union counties throughout the year.

Information about Southern 7 WIC and Head Start is available by calling 618-634-2297 or by downloading the Southern 7 app.

Union County Alliance of Churches Recommendations	
1	Thanksgiving Worship, Komthal, Sun 11/23 - 2PM Potluck later at Old Depot-Anna at 6PM
2	“The Closet” clothing for everyone at your price, next door to Dollar General – Anna.
3	“The Old Depot” 6 pm. Free dinner, live praise, fellowship, everyone welcome, come as you are.
Alliance of Churches (618)-614-2974	

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Available for return to owners:	Over \$5 Billion
Reports:	15,420
Properties:	1,266,881
Cash:	\$246,562,623.81
Shares:	4,339,580
Returned to Owners 3/1/2025 - 8/31/2025	
Paid Claims:	185,134
Cash & Share Value Returned:	\$159,512,825.43



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A-J Wildcats play DuQuoin in “Pink out in The Pit” game

The Wildcats football team hosted DuQuoin in a conference game at The Pit in Anna on Friday, Oct. 10. The theme of the game was “Pink out in The Pit,” with A-J players, cheerleaders and fans wearing pink for breast cancer awareness. DuQuoin beat A-J by the score of 48-13, leaving the Wildcats still winless in the season with a record of 0-7. A-J will be headed to West Frankfort on Friday, Oct. 17 for a game against the Redbirds before returning home for the final game of the season on Friday, Oct. 24.



Sophomore Matthew Miller (No. 17) looks for daylight while returning a kick for the Wildcats in the first quarter of the game.



A-J Quarterback Chris Wright looks for an open receiver while evading DuQuoin defenders.

The Cat's Meow

by Cobden Spay and Neuter Coalition

Happy to report that at our Oct. 8 meeting we elected our new Board of Directors and officers. We are so grateful to these individuals for being willing to volunteer their time to serve. Our next regular meeting is Nov. 10 and is always open to all who are interested and concerned about the cat overpopulation problem and its humane solutions in Union County.

Fun! Fun! We are set to have our next Trivia Night Nov. 21 at Starview Vineyard from 6 to 8 pm. Many thanks to Regina for having us! We'll let you know more about the event as we move closer. Another very popular event and fundraiser is the annual chili cook-off in

January at Fuzzy's in Cobden. These efforts are to make it possible for us to continue our work of spaying and neutering cats. We are 100% donation funded, and 100% volunteer driven. Funds tend to dip this time of year, so we are especially in need of your kindness and generosity. We are also considering ways to create winter shelter for our known cat colonies. Please let us know if you can help in that area, too.

Please visit our website, cobdenspayneutercoalition.org, or our facebook page to see what we're up to. You may drop off or send donations to our account at Meller-James & Associates. CSNC is a 501c3

nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible.

Please spay/neuter/adopt companion animals. Meanwhile, if you see a companion animal in need, in trouble or suffering, please call someone before it's too late for them. Call your local animal control office, the police, or the Sheriff's Dept. It IS your business if an innocent being who cannot speak for himself needs your help!

Union County Fixin's

Homemade Corn Dogs
1 3/4 cup buttermilk
1 egg
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 tablespoon honey
1 1/2 cup corn meal
1 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
Package of favorite brand hot dogs, set out to room temperature
Wooden skewers soaked in water at least 30 minutes
Vegetable oil for frying
Mix buttermilk, egg, vegetable oil, and honey in a medium bowl and set aside.
In large mixing pitcher mix corn meal, flour, brown sugar, baking powder, and salt.
Add wet ingredients to the dry and mix well, removing any clumps.
Skewer hot dogs.
Pour batter into a tall glass at least 2/3 of the way full.
Heat vegetable oil in large electric skillet or 14-inch regular skillet to 350 degrees.
Dip skewered hot dog into batter until hot dog is covered.
Cook corndogs, three or four at a time, rotating after 3 minutes, until golden brown.
Set to drain on paper towel covered plate while cooking the rest.

Arts Council schedules several events

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council (SHAC) Board of Directors met on Oct. 6, 2025 to discuss upcoming events. Attendees included President Zack Rowatt, Vice-President Ethan Dillman, Treasurer Debra Davis, Secretary Nancy Kucera, Danica Morgan, Beverly Bain and Director Lee Hackney.

The next board meeting is Nov. 3, at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

A new event that SHAC will coordinate is Freedom Sings USA, happening in Anna on April 16 to 18, 2026. Freedom Sings USA is a non-profit that pairs professional songwriters with veterans, military personnel, and their families to help them tell their stories through song.

Also this month, the Shawnee Hills Arts Council (SHAC) is hosting a dual exhibition featuring the work of Kathy Wides and a historical retrospective on the 1925 Tri-State Tornado. The exhibitions run from Oct. 9 to 26

Kathy Wides Exhibit: A world traveler and innovative mixed media artist, Wides brings vivid imagination to her unique paintings.

1925 Tornado Exhibit: This display remembers the deadliest tornado in U.S. history. On March 18, 1925, the storm tore through Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. In Illinois alone, Murphysboro lost 234 lives, and West Frankfort saw nearly 150 fatalities.

Admission is free. Viewing hours are Thursdays and Fridays: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Creatures of the Night Haunted House is open to the public through Halloween. Hours are Fridays from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and all other days from 7 to 10 p.m. Extended hours on Halloween from 7 to 11 p.m.

The first hour each night is child-friendly. The cost is \$7 per person or \$30 for five.

The monthly Third Thursday Art Social returns on Oct. 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

This gathering lets artists work on individual projects or collaborate.

October's featured activity: create your own 40-page journal. Design and bind your own book. All supplies are free.

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct.

19, the Arts Center will host a unique presentation by Alan Dillard, who will share the fascinating craft of building and playing handmade cigar box guitars.

Literature lovers are invited to a short-story discussion on Monday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m., led by Tom Caldwell.

This month's story is "Silent Snow, Secret Snow" by Conrad Aiken. Bring your favorite drink and \$3 for pizza. RSVP by Oct. 19 to Tom at 217-994-3449.

The Salute to Veterans dinner is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. Dinner Catered by The Kitchen on Lafayette. RSVP by Nov. 4 by calling Lee Hackney's at 904-625-1109 or email vabchlee@gmail.com for tickets. Everyone needs a ticket. Veterans and Active Duty are free, all others are asked for a \$15 donation.

The Reindeer 5K Run/Walk and 1-Mile Run/Walk and Fun Run is set for Nov. 29 at 8 a.m. Details and online registration forms can be found at zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/reindeer-5k-run-walk-1-mile-runwalk-and-fun-run.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel



Well, we had a couple of days of true fall temperatures before it climbed back up. Several deer hunters I know have said it's too hot to hunt. By the time you make your strike, the clock is ticking fast to get it cleaned and to the processors before the meat starts going bad. Hang in there, it's bound to turn cooler soon.

PAST of Union County members held their fall yard sale this past Friday and Saturday. The chilly temps on Friday made for perfect weather, but we sure had a heavy dew to contend with.

Sales were better Friday than Saturday, which was warmer. Saturday was Color Fest and we were in competition with a lot of other events, so that's understandable.

Those interested in joining PAST are welcome to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m.

Also, on Saturday, PAST of

Union County was pleased to have Barbara Bauer hold a story time at the Heritage House. The house was also open for tours with Barbara and Evelyn Gillespie. Andy Duncan came as an Abraham Lincoln impersonator and sat in at storytime and let me tell you, he looked quite close to the real thing and never stepped out of character. We appreciate his patronage too, as he even shopped our yard sale! Special thanks to Carrie Hess who tasked Beta Club members with showing him around and all she does for the community.

Mill Creek Baptist held a 25th anniversary and pastor appreciation pot luck for Brother Bobby Richardson. Several pastor friends of his made an appearance, as well as several guests. Brother Bob spoke from the book of 1 Peter 5: 1-4 and these passages tell just what a pastor is supposed to do and how he is supposed

to lead.

Hebrews 13:17 give us instruction on how we are supposed to comply with the pastor's message. A pastor (the shepherd) needs support not just from his family, but from fellow Christians (his sheep) for his calling is huge and not an easy task. We thank Brother Bob for his service to God and for shepherding his flock with our best interests at heart.

Those added to the prayer list are Sami Stokes for an appendicitis attack. James Sullivan who will be undergoing surgery this week, Mary Powles who'll be having knee surgery soon, and Gary Rider who awaits a biopsy report. Praises are given for a good outcome on Jack Richardson's surgery, and that Jesse Bauer is feeling better.

A reminder that Mill Creek Baptist will be hosting a Trunk or Treat with meal on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 5 p.m.

Gospel Singing

1st Annual Homecoming

October 18th

BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE

Come and see New Beginnings Quartet with Special Guest Brian Free & Assurance. Brian Free is the most award winning Tenor in Southern Gospel Music.

Singing starts at 7:00pm
Doors open at 5:45pm

At New Beginnings Community Worship located at 100 Jenny Lane in Anna. Going to be a great night of worship. For more informatin call Roger Crews in Anna, IL.

Obituaries

Annie Jean Rhodes

Annie Jean Rhodes, age 93 of Wolf Lake, passed away Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 at Mercy Southeast Hospital in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

She was born Feb. 26, 1932 in Wolf Lake, the daughter of Loren and Fannie (Land) Rhodes.

Annie is survived by a nephew, Thomas (April) Rhodes of Jackson, Mo, niece, Cheryl (Stanley) Hutchinson of Carmi, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Wanda Bradford and Loren Jim Rhodes. She will be dearly missed.

Graveside funeral services were held on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Jonesboro Cemetery with Kenny Verble officiating.

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES



Memorial contributions may be made to Beech Grove Baptist Church. Envelopes will be available at the cemetery and at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home. To view the obituary and leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendleman-hilemanfh.com.

Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro in charge of arrangements.

Nancy Muriel Gunn

Nancy Gunn, age 83, of Anna, passed away Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025 at home.

She was born July 1, 1942 to John G. and Ruby (Menees) Hubbs in Anna, Ill.

She was united in marriage to W. Leon Gunn on June 5, 1976. He preceded her in death Oct. 11, 2024.

Nancy was a member of the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Anna where she was active in the Women’s Association, Women’s Ministries, Vacation Bible School and a Sunday School teacher.

She was also a member of Zeta Psi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, Union County Hospital Auxiliary, life member of Stinson Memorial Library and P.A.S.T.

She was a 1960 graduate of Anna-Jonesboro Community High School and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in 1964 and a Master of Science in 1968. She taught third grade at Lincoln Elementary School for twelve years. She then worked in the office at Helena Cotton Oil Company, Inc. in Helena, Ark.

She is survived by her cousin, Mary Ann Bowen; 8 nieces and nephews, Barbara Throgmorton, Jackie Moore, Jerry Gunn, Carol Eskew, Donna Washam, Michael Phegley, Meredith Ann Kraushar, and Karen Lucarelli; great and great great nieces and nephews, and many friends.



She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, a brother, Jack Hubbs, and grandparents, Orley and Leatha Menees and W.W. and Annie Belle Hubbs, and cousins, Bill Goddard, Ron Hubbs, Peggy Goddard Esmond, and Jack Goddard.

Visitation was on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro and on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Anna.

Funeral services for Nancy Muriel Gunn were on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Anna with interment to follow at Anna City Cemetery. Rev. Mark Kirk will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Anna, and will be accepted at the funeral home.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro is in charge of arrangements.

To leave online condolences please visit www.crainsonline.com

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES

Margaret Ellen “Peggy” Wright

Margaret Ellen “Peggy” Wright, age 76, of Metropolis, formerly of Cairo, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025 at Mercy Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, Ky.

She was born on May 24, 1949 to Charles Herbert and Mildred B. (Clark) Roberts in Cairo, Ill.

Peggy was a graduate of the Cairo High School class of 1967. She attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for over 2 years. Peggy worked for Beussink, Hey, and Roe as a Bookkeeper for over 20 years.

She loved her pets, crafting, and camping. She was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Metropolis, Ill.

Survivors include her sons, John (Heather) Fowler, Chuck (Chrissy) Fowler, and Ryan (Kim) Fairchild; seven grandchildren, Jordan Fowler, Katie Feagin, Morgan Fowler, Sydney Watkins, Ally Fairchild, Dylan Fairchild, and Alexa Hagan; five great-grandchildren, Gabby Fowler, McKinley Feagin, Janson Feagin, Remi Watkins, and Raleigh Watkins; one sister, Carla (Craig) Shemwell; as well as well nieces,

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES



nephews, and other relatives.

Along with her parents, and husbands, Archie Fairchild and James Wright, she is preceded in death by two sisters, Sarah Ann Roberts (infant) and Florence Goatley.

Funeral Mass was held on Friday, Oct. 10, 2025 at 10 a.m. with Father Christopher Mujule at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Cairo, Ill.

Interment followed the Mass at Mound City National Cemetery in Mound City, Ill.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to St. Rose of Lima Parish in Metropolis, Ill.

Crain Funeral Home in Cairo is in charge of arrangements.

Dale L. Toler

Dale L. Toler, age 77, of Murphysboro, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 at Integrity of Cobden.

He was born on Aug. 15, 1948 to Lawrence and Lillian L. (Nance) Toler in Union County, Illinois.

Dale was a veteran of the United States Navy. He worked in Graphic Communications within the Printing Industry for many years and was a Life Member of the Graphic Communications International Local 518.

He was also a member of the Murphysboro Church of the Nazarene. Previously, he was a member of and taught Sunday to 5th and 6th Grade boys at the Church of the Nazarene in Oregon, Illinois. Dale enjoyed traveling by car and plane.

Survivors include nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his mother and sister, Shirley.

A Grave-side Service will be held on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. with Rev. Jim Frye officiating at the Alto Pass Cemetery in Alto Pass, Ill.

Military honors will be accorded by American Legion Post 127 and the US Navy funeral honors team.

Crain Funeral Home in Murphysboro is in charge of arrangements.

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES



Betty Idele Crain

Betty Idele Crain, age 96 of Freeburg, formerly of Union County, passed away Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025 in Freeburg.

She was born on Aug. 25, 1929 in Detroit, Mich., the daughter of Bonny Bollinger and Joda (Kelso) Landers.

She married Loy Casper. He preceded her in death on Feb. 16, 1972.

Betty is survived by her children, Cindy Wenger and Bonny Rotman, 12 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, 13 great great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, son, Neil Casper, daughter, Mary Ann Jones, sister, Mary Boyd and brother, Eugene Bollinger.

Betty was a member of Anna Heights Baptist Church. She loved flowers and enjoyed quilting, crocheting and making ceramics.

She worked at Fellowship House in Anna before her retirement. Betty never met a stranger. She will be missed.

Graveside funeral services for Betty Crain were held on Friday, Oct. 10 at the Jonesboro Cemetery with Pastor Darryl Williams officiating.

Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.

To visit Betty’s memorial page and leave online condolences for her family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES



Margaret F. Acklin

Margaret F. Acklin, age 60 of Anna, passed away Friday, Oct. 10, 2025 at Deaconess Regional Healthcare in Marion.

She was born on July 19, 1965, the daughter of Edward Lee and Ruby (Musgrave) Acklin.

Margaret is survived by her good friends, Janice Burchyett and Joan Hagler, along with other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Thomas W. Acklin.

Margaret was a member of the Full Gospel Pentecostal Church in Alto Pass. She enjoyed spending time with her friends and being around children. She loved her church and the friends she had there. She will be missed.

Funeral services for Margaret Acklin will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 16 at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro with

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES



Robert Lovelace and Janet Lindsay officiating.

Interment will follow in Kelly Cemetery.

Visitation will take place from 9 a.m. until the service time of 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025 at the funeral home.

To visit Margaret’s memorial page and leave online condolences for her family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

This past Sunday, October 12th, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in our morning service, and his message was about Mary anointing the feet of Jesus. She said nothing; but used her treasure and her tears to show her love and gratitude. Her perfume changed the atmosphere of the room. Her love for Jesus made her a spectacle; yet God honored her sacrifice. His text was found in the seventh chapter of Luke in the New Testament.

Music Dee Rose led in worship accompanied by Praise Team members, Chris Rose, Conner Benbrook, Molly Jones and Kim Benefield. Dee Rose sang the song, “Mary’s Alabaster Box.”

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 videos and latest info on church events.

Jonesboro FBC is participating in the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box program this year. Shoe boxes are now available for anyone who would like to participate. Pick up your shoe box now and return by mid-November.

This week’s activities include a bonfire for the Youth held at the Tehandon home, on Sunday night, October 12th. Men’s Bible Study at 6 p.m., Monday, October 13; Dig In Children’s Program, Youth and Adult Bible Study on Wednesday,

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

Bro. Bradley’s sermons the past two Sundays were “To Whom Shall We Go?”, part 1 and 2”. His main scripture selection was John 6:66-71.

In the verses just before the selected passage, the writer of John related that many who had followed Jesus were caught up in the frenzy of the crowds seeing Jesus’ miracles including feeding the multitudes.

As Jesus tried to move from miracles to teaching that He was the Son of God; the crowds weren’t interested and quickly dissipated. Many in the crowd knew Him as the son of Joseph and Mary, and resented His claim to Sonship of God.

In the selected scripture, Jesus asked His chosen twelve disciples if they too would drift away and return to the way of the world. Simon Peter replied “Lord, to whom shall we go?”

God promises to never forsake us; we are the ones who fall away from Him. To reclaim a close relationship with God, we need to spend time studying our Bibles and time alone with God in prayer.

We are either running to Jesus or we are running away from Him. It all boils down to believing Jesus is the Son of

God. We must live and witness so that there is no doubt that we belong to Him.

During the announcements prior to Worship, Elder Rachel Bonner presented a “Pastor Appreciation” card and gift from the church to Brother Bradley and Amber Easton.

Aldi and Vodra Gerard took up the tithes and offerings; Sandra Boaz is our leading elder during October.

Having birthdays the first couple weeks in October have been Mastthew Boaz the 4th, Bill Smith the 7th, and Jim Vaughn the 8th.

Chad and Amanda Batts had a wedding anniversary October 11.

Chad and Amanda Batts and Dwight and Sandra Boaz spent the first weekend of October in Morris visiting with Mark and Michaela Boaz and family and helped Matthew Boaz celebrate his 16th birthday.

We invite you to join us each Sunday, beginning with fellowship and coffee at 9:15, Bible study for all ages at 9:30 is followed by Morning Worship at 10:30.

The church is located at the intersection of Camp Ground Road and Tunnel Lane east of Anna, north of Route 146.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

Sunday, Oct. 12

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team. The message “Godly Wisdom” was brought by Pastor Wright from James 3:13-18, Proverbs 9:10, 1 Corinthians 2:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:24.

The evening message “Harvest Minded For Souls” at 6 p.m. was brought by Pastor Wright from Acts 2, Galatians 6:7-10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Proverbs 18:24, Genesis 8:22, Mark 4:26-29, Proverbs 4:26.

Sunday, Oct. 19

Breakfast - 9 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship Service-10:35 a.m – \$5 Sunday - Communion

Missionary Service-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22

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

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

Saturday, Nov. 8, 4 p.m.

Fun & Games for all. Cornhole Tournament. Chili Cook-Off.

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

Fort Massac Encampment scheduled in Metropolis

The Fort Massac Encampment, which has drawn thousands of visitors to Southern Illinois every fall for 51 years, is scheduled to return to Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis Oct. 18-19.

Since 1974, the encampment festival has provided visitors with a chance to experience what life was like at Fort Massac during the 18th and early 19th centuries. The fort served as a frontier outpost along the Ohio River for personnel from France, Britain, and the early years of the United States from 1757 to 1814.

Event times are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19. The Fort Massac Encampment is hosted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

and sponsored by the Greater Metropolis Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Hundreds of military reenactors and other participants wearing period clothing will present the roles of explorers, traders, settlers and soldiers on the early Illinois frontier. The encampment features an opening “Posting of the Colours” ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Both afternoons, mock military battles and tactical demonstrations will be performed by reenactors on the Fort Massac grounds beginning at 3 p.m. A military retreat ceremony will close the event at the end of each day.

Family and children’s activities, musical entertainment and period craft makers demonstrating blacksmithing, basket-making, weaving and other skills will be staged throughout the encampment grounds.

Food and drink from dozens of vendors will be available for purchase. Options include burgoo, barbecue, chili, stew, chicken and dumplings, ham and beans, apple crisp, sausage and kraut, burgers, homemade root beer and lots more.

Admission is free. Parking is available at the Old Fairgrounds adjacent to the park. Trams will be available. Fort Massac State Park is closed to public vehicle traffic during festival hours.

Fort Massac State Park, which opened as Illinois’ first state park in 1908, is located on the Ohio River at 1308 E. Fifth St. in Metropolis. For more information about the encampment and the park, contact the site office at 618-524-4712.

Stocking of catchable trout delayed by weather

The stocking of catchable trout for the fall season is on hold until water temperatures are more suitable for the trout, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, announced Oct. 8. Unusually warm weather in Illinois this fall has delayed the cooling of lakes and ponds across the state.

Trout stocked in waters warmer than 68 degrees could experience high mortality. IDNR announced that it would stock the early catch-and-release sites as soon as water temperatures cool. Sites are expected to be stocked by

Oct. 31. The public will be provided stocking updates on IDNR’s ifishillinois.org website and social media channels for IDNR.

While the official opening date for the fall trout season remains Saturday, Oct. 18, IDNR advised that anglers should be aware that trout will not be present at many sites on opening day. The stocking delay also will affect the early-season catch-and-release opportunities at sites statewide.

IDNR biologists are monitoring water temperatures statewide, and stocking will proceed as soon as conditions

allow. Once temperatures decline, IDNR hatchery staff will begin deliveries, incorporating the early-season fish into the regular fall stocking schedule.

All anglers who participate in trout fishing must have an Illinois fishing license and inland trout stamp, which are available at IDNR license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets. Locations are available on the IDNR website at dnr.illinois.gov. Fishing licenses and trout stamps can also be purchased online.

For information about all

site regulations, anglers are advised to contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all sites open at 5 a.m. on opening day. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite sites prior to the open date.

IDNR reinstated its Catchable Trout Program in 1994. The program is funded in part by those who use the program through the sale of inland trout stamps. IDNR stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the fall season. An addi-

tional 80,000 trout are stocked for the spring season, which begins each April. Go online for more information on trout seasons and locations.

Among the trout fishing locations in Southern Illinois are the following:

Jefferson County: Mount Vernon Game Farm Pond. Johnson County: Ferne Clyffe State Park Lake. Massac County: Fairgrounds Pond, Fort Massac State Park, Metropolis.

Randolph County: Derby Lake, World Shooting and Recreational Complex, Sparta; Randolph County State Fish and Wildlife Area Lake. Saline County: Jones Lake Trout Pond, Saline County State Fish and Wildlife Area.

SIU Symphony concert planned

The Southern Illinois University Symphony Orchestra plans to present a free, public concert on Tuesday, Oct. 21, beginning at 7 p.m. in Shryock Auditorium on the SIU Carbondale campus.

The orchestra performs under the direction of Rossana Cauti, an assistant professor in the SIU School of Music. The evening opens with Mikhail Glinka’s Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla, followed by the centerpiece: Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 2. The orchestra brings together SIU faculty, students and regional musicians in a collaborative artistic effort.

The sponsors on this page urge you to attend the church of your choice.



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Think of God’s promises to us as “stepping stones” that we can use when life challenges us. We still have to go through situations that are difficult, but remembering God’s promises keeps our mind focused and helps us remain hopeful. We read in Isaiah 43.2, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.” Not “if”, but “when”. And God will be there to guide you if you let Him. Learn more of His promises at your house of worship.

Photo Credit: Istockphoto.com/DCC8

Weekly Scripture Reading

Deut.	Deut.	Psalms	Psalms	Psalms	Psalms	Psalms
10.1-22	16.18-17.13	72	73	75	82	85

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Wednesday
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To support your community Church Page, contact Meta for more details at 1-800-293-4709.

The Gazette-Democrat

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HELP WANTED

The Voyage Senior Living of Anna is hiring for a full time housekeeper position \$16.50/hr. Call Katie at 618-833-5495. EEO/AA Employer

Pastor Needed Congregational Church of Alto Pass. We are seeking a Pastor. Mornings only. Time is flexible. Submit Resume to Congregational Church of Alto Pass 5 Poplar St Alto Pass, IL 62905.

MISC.

The Wolf Lake-Ware Fire Protection District is accepting bids for construction of a new building and remodeling of an existing structure. For bid specs, call 618-833-3740 and leave mailing/email address. All bids must be received by October 23, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE CLEAR CREEK LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 2021-MC-1 NOTICE

The Commissioners of the Clear Creek Levee and Drainage District have filed in my office on September 22, 2025, their Annual Report showing the amount of monies collected by the District since the last report and the manner in which the funds have been expended.

Any owner of land within the District may file an objection to the report with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Union County Courthouse, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, Illinois 62952, on or before October 30, 2025.

If any objections are filed within the time prescribed, the Court shall set a hearing at a time not later than four (4) weeks after the date of the filing of the report. If no objection to the report is filed, the Court may approve the report without a hearing.

Dated: October 1, 2025.
KERIE E. CLARK
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Union County, Illinois
8221-958676

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE PRESTON LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 2021-MC-2 NOTICE

The Commissioners of the Preston Levee and Drainage District have filed in my office on September 22, 2025, their Annual Report showing the amount of monies collected by the District since the last report and the manner in which the funds have been expended.

Any owner of land within the District may file an objection to the report with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Union County Courthouse, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, Illinois 62952, on or before October 30, 2025.

If any objections are filed within the time prescribed, the Court shall set a hearing at a time not later than four (4) weeks after the date of the filing of the report. If no objection to the report is filed, the Court may approve the report without a hearing.

Dated: October 1, 2025.
KERIE E. CLARK
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Union County, Illinois
8221-958677

(c) The name of mortgagor(s): Borrower - Ready Mix.
(d) Name of the mortgagee/grantee: Lender - MidAmerica National Bank.
(e) Date and place of recording of the Mortgage: September 22, 2023 with the Union County Clerk & Recorder.
(f) Identification of Recording: File No. 2023R2409, Document Id. 8078822.
(g) Estate Conveyed: Fee simple.
(h) Amount of original indebtedness: \$2,300,000.00.
UNKNOWN OWNERS, Defendants in the above-captioned cause, file your answer to the Verified Complaint for Foreclosure in this cause or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of Union County at 309 West Market, Room 241, Jonesboro, Illinois 62952, on or before on or before November 17, 2025, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment for foreclosure entered in accordance with the prayer of the Verified Complaint for Foreclosure and Other Relief.
Lynn K. White (#6278863)
Deionna Ferguson (ARDC # 6338072)
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8221-958789

TAKE NOTICE Certificate No. 2021-00025
TO: GAINES, PAUL & MARGARET, McKenzie Banking Company, Kyung Shi Hur Lee, Gordon Plumb and Monica Plumb, Union County Trustee and unknown owners, occupants or parties interested. A petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL
Parcel No. 04-30-02-743- S30 T11 R1W PT SE PT LOT 5 PT NE SE. 118 JEFFERSON
Said property was sold on 2/15/2023 for the general taxes for the year 2021. The period of redemption will expire on 1/26/2026. On February 4, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.
Vinod C. Gupta, Petitioner
8221-958567

TAKE NOTICE Certificate No. 2021-00054
TO: OKRASINSKI, JOYCE, Dustin Salzman and unknown owners, occupants or parties interested. A petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL
Parcel No. 06-24-04-724- S24 T13 R1W PT W SD W 1/2 S 1/2 SE.
Said property was sold on 2/15/2023 for the general taxes for the year 2021. The period of redemption will expire on 1/26/2026. On February 4, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.
Vinod C. Gupta, Petitioner
8221-958571

Activities planned at SIU for Earth Science Week

This year's observance of Earth Science Week at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is scheduled to focus on meeting energy needs in a sustainable way on campus, in the region and beyond, along with increasing awareness of rocks and minerals and earthquakes.

Started in 1998 by the American Geosciences Institute, Earth Science Week is aimed at promoting a better understanding and appreciation for the Earth sciences and to encourage stewardship of the

Haunted Hollow planned at Touch of Nature Center

Haunted Hollow is scheduled to return to Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 19. The center located about 8 miles south of Carbondale on Giant City Road.

Much like a carnival, the event features a wide variety of free activities, as well as some events requiring a nominally

River to River Trail Society hike planned

The River-to-River Trail Society has announced its third public hike of the 2025 fall hiking season for Saturday, Oct. 25 at Ferne Clyffe in Johnson County.

The hike is free and

Vinod C. Gupta, Petitioner
8221-958568

TAKE NOTICE Certificate No. 2021-00083
TO: BAILEY, BETTY JEAN; Mueth, Jon Evan and unknown owners, occupants or parties interested. A petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL
Parcel No. 10-01-06-636-A1 S1 T11 R3W PT NE SW
Said property was sold on 2/15/2023 for the general taxes for the year 2021. The period of redemption will expire on 1/26/2026. On February 4, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.
Vinod C. Gupta, Petitioner
8221-958569

TAKE NOTICE Certificate No. 2021-00086
TO: MARR, PAUL & PAMELA, First National Bank, John & Jackie Kelley and unknown owners, occupants or parties interested. A petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL
Parcel No. 12-25-07-162-A SEC 25 T12 R3W NW CR NW NW
Said property was sold on 2/15/2023 for the general taxes for the year 2021. The period of redemption will expire on 1/26/2026. On February 4, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.
Vinod C. Gupta, Petitioner
8221-958570

TAKE NOTICE Certificate No. 2021-00092
TO: PLOTT, STELLA MAE, FAIRE LINDA FAYE, Johns, Joshua & Nichole, Harley-Davidson Credit Corp, Perry D & Sharon S Wright and unknown owners, occupants or parties interested. A petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL
Parcel No. 14-00-07-508- S19 T12 R1WLOTS 5 & 6 MC ELHANEY'S HEIRS 3RD ADD.
Said property was sold on 2/15/2023 for the general taxes for the year 2021. The period of redemption will expire on 1/26/2026. On February 4, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.
Vinod C. Gupta, Petitioner
8221-958571

TAKE NOTICE Certificate No. 2021-00094 & 2021-00097
TO: ODUOLA, KAREN, Jefferson Capital Systems LLC, Union County Trustee and unknown owners, occupants or parties interested. A petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL
Parcel No. 14-00-07-547- S19 T12 R1WLOT 45 MC ELHANEY'S HEIRS 3RD ADD. 100'
& Parcel No. 14-00-07-562-

S30 T12 R1WLOT 10 J & D CRAVER'S ADD. 72'X 98' 204
Said property was sold on 2/15/2023 for the general taxes for the year 2021. The period of redemption will expire on 1/26/2026. On February 4, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.
Vinod C. Gupta, Petitioner
8221-958572

TAKE NOTICE Certificate No. 2021-00099
TO: STANLEY, RICHARD & TAMSEN and unknown owners, occupants or parties interested. A petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL
Parcel No. 14-00-07-590- S30 T12 R1WLOT 35 J & D CRAVER'S ADD. 62'X 98'
Said property was sold on 2/15/2023 for the general taxes for the year 2021. The period of redemption will expire on 1/26/2026. On February 4, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.
Vinod C. Gupta, Petitioner
8221-958573

TAKE NOTICE Certificate No. 2021-00134
TO: KIRBY, RYAN, City of Anna, Union County Trustee and unknown owners, occupants or parties interested. A petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL
Parcel No. 14-00-09-314- E PT LOTS 4, 5, & 6 BLK 11 FOREST PLACE ADD 209 L1
Said property was sold on 2/15/2023 for the general taxes for the year 2021. The period of redemption will expire on 1/26/2026. On February 4, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.
Vinod C. Gupta, Petitioner
8221-958574

TAKE NOTICE Certificate No. 2021-00153
TO: MCDERMOTT, BETTY & NOLAN TRACY, Union County Trustee and unknown owners, occupants or parties interested. A petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL
Parcel No. 14-00-10-709- LOT 22 ORIGINAL PLAT OF MOYLE CREEK.
Said property was sold on 2/15/2023 for the general taxes for the year 2021. The period of redemption will expire on 1/26/2026. On February 4, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.
Vinod C. Gupta, Petitioner
8221-958575

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK, a

National Chartered Bank, Plaintiff,
vs
ADAM LEE MAYS, WENDY J. MAYS, MIDLAND FUNDING, LLC, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
Case No.: 2022-FC-19 NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above captioned matter on December 19, 2023, the Sheriff in Union County, will by public sale on November 5, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Union County Courthouse, in Jonesboro, Illinois, sell at public venue to the highest and best bidder, for cash, or cashier's check drawn on a federally or state chartered bank or savings and loan, the following described real estate:

Legal Description
A PARCEL OF LAND BEING PART OF THE SOUTH-EAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A ½" IRON ROD AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 35, THENCE N 84°32'19"W, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE THEREOF, A DISTANCE OF 620.30 FEET TO A ½" IRON ROD, THENCE DEPARTING FROM SAID SOUTH LINE, N 00°48'15"E, A DISTANCE OF 639.31 FEET TO A ½" IRON ROD, THENCE S84°54'05"E, A DISTANCE OF 620.00 FEET TO A ½" IRON ROD ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID QUARTER-QUARTER, THENCE S 00°48'16"W, ALONG SAID EAST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 643.25 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 9.102

ACRES, MORE OR LESS, IN UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS. AS PER SURVEY BY SCOTT A. RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR #2996, DATED JANUARY OF 2014. SUBJECT TO EXISTING EASEMENTS OF RECORD IF ANY AND THAT THEREOF FALLING IN MOSCOW ROAD AND PETRAS LANE. ALL IN ACCORDANCE OF "TRACT #1" ON A PLAT OF SUREY DATED JANUARY 17, 2014 AND RECORDED FEBRUARY 11, 2014 AS DOC. NO. 2014R0247, AND FURTHER INDEXED AT PLAT BOOK 11, PAGE 908, MADE BY SCOTT A. RICHARDS, ILLINOIS LAND SURVEYOR NO. 2996, IN THE UNION COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF UNION AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1770 MOSCOW RD., DONGOLA, IL 62926
TAX ID: PART OF TAX NO. 02-35-01-271
Potential buyers may contact John R. Schneider of the law firm of Johnson, Schneider & Ferrell, L.L.C., 212 North Main Street, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, Phone Number 573-335-3300 for information regarding this real estate.

At said sale, the Court will give the purchaser a certificate showing the amount of the bid, a particular description of the property sold, and the time when the purchaser will be entitled to a deed for such property unless same shall have been redeemed according to law.

Keri Clark
Circuit Clerk
Document prepared by: JOHN R. SCHNEIDER JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C.
212 North Main Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Telephone: 573-335-3300
Facsimile: 573-335-1978
www.johnsonschneider.com
8221-958492

At said sale, the Court will give the purchaser a certificate showing the amount of the bid, a particular description of the property sold, and the time when the purchaser will be entitled to a deed for such property unless same shall have been redeemed according to law.

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REAL ESTATE

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Rock, Mineral Clinic

Also on Friday, SIU's geology program plans to host a Rock and Mineral Clinic from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Parkinson Building Room 101F. Members of the public are invited to bring in any rock, mineral or geological sample for identification. They also can learn about basic examination techniques and SIU's geology program from Daniel Hummer, associate professor of geology, who will be on hand for the clinic, along with members of the SIU Geology Club.

For more information, visit the website, call 618-453-1121 or email ton@siu.edu and bringing signed forms for each family member.

For more information, visit the website, call 618-453-1121 or email ton@siu.edu. Volunteers from SIU and the community are also welcome to assist with the event.

More information, including driving instructions to the meeting area, can be found online at the River to River Trail Society's website at www.rivertorivertrail.net

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THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

REMEMBERING OUR HEROES

*A Salute To Our Veterans,
publishing Thursday, November 6th, 2025*

Filled with photographs of our vets and highlighting some of their heroic stories, this commemorative section will honor the accomplishments of area men and women, living and deceased, who have served our nation in the armed forces.

*Please complete the form below and send us a photo to include your vet in this keepsake publication. Copies of photos are encouraged, however, if you send us an original, we'll return it to you.
Deadline for submission is Friday, October 24.*

VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

The Gazette-Democrat

(618) 833-2158

Area Veterans To Be Honored

Area veterans, both living and deceased, will be honored in a special section of The Gazette-Democrat to be published in conjunction with Veterans Day. All are invited to submit pictures and information about military service to be included in the section at no charge.

To be included all you have to do is:

1. **Submit a picture** with your name printed on the back. Newspaper clippings and photo copies won't work. We'll take good care of your photo and return it to you.
2. **Provide information** about your military service using as much as you can of the form below.
3. **Repeat last year's article and photo.** You may update information or photos. **You must let us know if you want last year's article repeated!**

Current information on veteran or person submitting form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please send this form with photo to:
The Gazette-Democrat
P.O. Box 877
Carbondale, IL 62903
You may also email photo and information to
veterans@localsouthernnews.com

Military Service

Veteran's name _____

Branch of service _____ Years in which you served _____

Military unit _____ Rank _____

Military job/specialty _____

Primary places of service _____

Campaigns or operations _____

Awards or achievements _____

Is veteran living or deceased? _____

Additional notes and comments: _____

Opinion and Commentary

Illinois Celebrates National Women’s Business Month

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, DCEO, is celebrating National Women's Business Month throughout October by recognizing the significant contributions of women-owned businesses across the state.

There are nearly 561,000 women-owned businesses in Illinois employing more than 661,000 workers and bringing in \$165 billion in revenue each year. During this monthlong celebration, DCEO will be elevating resources and events to help bolster Illinois’ women-owned businesses and aspiring female entrepreneurs.

“I’m proud to celebrate the wealth of women-owned businesses across our state – and the thousands of talented women who’ve helped establish Illinois’ vibrant business community as the best in the nation,” Gov. JB Pritzker said in a news release. “Here in Illinois, we’re focused on promoting equity so all business owners can thrive, and my administration is committed to supporting Illinoisans as they establish and grow their businesses.”

Through DCEO’s Office of Economic Equity & Empowerment Equity, OE3, the state works to create an inclusive business environment for communities that have faced systemic challenges to growth, including women business owners and entrepreneurs, as well as businesses owned by people of color.

DCEO prioritizes creating an equitable business environment through targeted initiatives and resources like the Connecting HER to Illinois Business Resources Guide, which includes cross-sector resources available throughout Illinois for women-owned businesses.

“DCEO’s core mission is to create a more equitable economic ecosystem for all Illinoisians,” DCEO director Kristin Richards said. “Throughout National Women’s Business Month, DCEO will be promoting events alongside community partners to help build upon the momentum and success of women-owned businesses across the state. Whether it is manufacturing, agriculture or technology, DCEO offers support and resources to Illinois women striving to succeed in all industries.”

Drill promotes earthquake safety

Preparing for an earthquake is highlighted when the annual Great ShakeOut drill takes place at 10:16 a.m. on Oct. 16. Millions of people worldwide will participate in earthquake drills at work, school or home.

Southern 7 Health Department is encouraging families to be ready for an earthquake by practicing the Drop, Cover and Hold On drill – and practice it often.

According to shakeout.org, you may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake, before strong shaking knocks you down or drops something on you. Practicing helps you be ready to respond.

Southern 7 offers some scenarios that families can practice:

If you are inside a building, move no more than a few steps, then Drop, Cover and Hold On:

Drop to the ground (before the earthquake drops you). Take Cover by getting under a sturdy desk or table. Hold On to it until the shaking stops.

Stay indoors till the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit. In most buildings in the United States you are safer if you stay where you are until the shaking stops.

If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, you should find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, streetlights and power lines, then Drop, Cover and Hold On. Stay there until the shaking stops.

If you are driving, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. Once it does proceed with caution and avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged.

Ground shaking during an earthquake is seldom the cause of injury. Move as little as possible to avoid falling debris or flying glass. Most injuries occur when people try to move more than a short distance during the shaking. Now is the time to identify safe places such as under sturdy furniture or against an interior wall. The safest place should be within a few steps to avoid injury.

In the past 25 years, scientists have learned that strong earthquakes in the central Mississippi Valley are not freak events but have occurred repeatedly in the geologic past. The area of major earthquake activity also has frequent minor shocks and is known as the New Madrid Seismic Zone, NMSZ. The NMSZ is made up of several thrust faults that stretch from Marked Tree, Ark., to Cairo in Southern Illinois.

To learn more about protecting yourself during an earthquake, call Southern 7 Health Department at 618-634-2297, extension 971123, or visit www.shakeout.org.

Anna VFW post has events set for October

On Friday, Oct. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m., the Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna will be offering chicken and dumpling quarts for \$12 or half gallons for \$18. Please call Linda at 618-833-7737 to reserve your quarts or half gallons no later than Wednesday, Oct. 15.

The Anna VFW will be holding a joint meeting of the post and the auxiliary on Monday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. to discuss upcoming events. The auxiliary will have their monthly meeting following at 6 p.m and the post will have their monthly meeting at 7 p.m.

The VFW post and their auxiliary will be hosting Glo Bingo on Saturday, Oct. 25 with a portion of the pro-

Please read this...

Rocky returns...an egg-citing moon...and fossils...

By Geof Skinner



When the moon hits your eye...like a big ol’ egg in the sky...

This week...your writer is pondering another visit by a special friend, a moon that looked like an egg...and a story about a fossil in a somewhat unexpected place...

Monday evening, after finishing a daily walkabout, I glanced at the calendar... Yup. October 13. We’re about halfway through the first month of autumn. Never would have guessed it while wandering through the great outdoors, where the weather was nice and warm...almost like summer...

Speaking of Monday evening...

That was when Rocky paid another visit to our front porch. This time, Rocky was going solo. Thank goodness we had a big red stick out on the porch. That’s because Rocky was a persistent little Critter. And he did not take kindly to being interrupted during his snack time. He stood his ground. And I am pretty sure he hissed at me, too. Thanks to the big red stick, though, Rocky was encouraged to wander off into the dark, where he probably began plotting his revenge. Stay tuned...

Meanwhile...

Last week in this space (well, I think it was last week), I mentioned the headline phone call I received from a fellow traveler on The Journey Through Life who wanted to alert me about a phenomenon in the sky. In this case, it was the way the moon looked.

Seems that the moon appeared to be shaped something like an egg. As often happens in such situations, I took a bunch of pictures of the moon. None of the pictures really offered a hint of the moon looking like an egg.

Well, on the night of October 9, I headed back out into the dark to take some more pictures of the moon. This time, I wanted to get some pics of the “super moon” which was appearing in the October night sky.

Turned out the super moon did indeed appear to look like an egg. Well, that’s what I thought, anyway. Take a look at the picture which accompanies this column. See what you think...

By the way...have you happened to notice the moon shining

SIU welcomes students for Percussion Day

Between 50 and 70 middle school and high school percussion students from throughout Southern Illinois were expected to visit Southern Illinois University Carbondale on Wednesday, Oct. 15, as part of SIU Percussion Day.

Students from Anna-Jonesboro Community High School, the Cairo School District, Shawnee Junior/Senior High School in Wolf Lake and Vienna High School were among those expected to attend the event.

Workshops were scheduled during the morning Altgeld Hall on the SIU campus. A free, public performance featuring the SIU Percussion Ensemble and SIU Drumline was planned during the afternoon in Shryock Auditorium on the campus.

Percussion Day focuses on “the development of music education throughout Southern Illinois, as well as supporting our educators with additional resources they can take back to their classrooms,” said Christopher Butler, assistant professor and assistant director in SIU’s School of Music.

Students received hands-on instruction and an exercises packet on the foundational elements of drumming and keyboard percussion, Butler said.

Jonesboro celebrates ColorFest

ColorFest was celebrated Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10-11, in Jonesboro. ColorFest featured a big car, truck and motorcycle show, live music, children's activities, vendors, food and more.



Many entries were featured in a car, truck and motorcycle show which was held on the Jonesboro Square.



Music, vendors and more were set up on the parking lot next to the post office. The Night Train Band performed Saturday morning.



Train rides were available for the young...and the young at heart.