The Gazette-Democrat

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, October 2, 2025 | **Anna, Illinois** | **$1.00** | **Volume 178, Number 43**

News Notes

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

Reminder…Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna is making plans for this year's Veterans Day parade in Anna. The parade is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 11, starting at 11 a.m. The theme for this year's parade is "Service to Our Nation." Letters of invitation and application forms recently were mailed by the post to last year's parade participants. The VFW is always looking for additional participants. Businesses, organizations, school bands, school clubs, local clubs and other groups which would like to be a part of the parade but did not receive an application can pick one up at the VFW post during its regular business hours. The post's regular business hours are from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Saturday. The post is located at 70 VFW Ln., just off old U.S. Route 51 between Anna and Cobden. The deadline for parade entry forms to be returned to the post is Nov. 4.

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Shawnee School District 84 is looking for the names of veterans who live in the district. Veterans will be honored at program planned by the district in November.

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The Anna Junior High School softball team is headed to state after winning a regional championship. Anna is scheduled to face Lebanon at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, in Pinckneyville.

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The Union County area had four straight days with rain last week. Rainfall totaled just over 2.5 inches.

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The City of Anna has adopted new regulations regarding the riding bicycles on sidewalks. Bicycles are not permitted on sidewalks in the city's central business district, as defined by Chapter 40 of the Revised Code. This area includes South Main (Jefferson to Davie) and Davie Street (Main to Freeman).

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Congratulations to Anna-Jonesboro Community School homecoming queen Mariah Downs and king Henry Hoehner.

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A Future Wildcats Cheer Camp for young people in grades pre-kindergarten through 8th grade is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 7-9. Camp participants will join the A-JCHS cheerleaders in a halftime performance at A-J's Oct. 10 Pink Out football game.

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Shawnee Elementary School in Wolf Lake is planning to host a Halloween party on Friday, Oct. 31. Festivities begin at 8:30 a.m. with a parade.

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A-JCHS is exploring the possibility of starting ESports as an official IHSA competitive sport.

(continued on page 2)

Shawnee educator named Rural Teacher of the Year



Honoring Mrs. Rose

Many special guests were in attendance for a ceremony honoring Shawnee's Mrs. Dee Rose. Mrs. Rose was named Illinois Rural Teacher of the Year by the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools. The special guests at the event included. State Rep. Paul Jacobs, David Ardrey, John Glasgow, Hailey Winkleman, Matthew Hickam, Sherri Schimpf, Trenton Colyer, Jason Stegle, Time Qualls, Jennifer Webb, Minday Livesay and Shelly Clover-Hill.

Shawnee School District No. 84 held a special ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 23 to honor district choir and band teacher Dee Rose.

Mrs. Rose was named the inaugural Illinois Rural Teacher of the Year by the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools (AIRSS).

The ceremony included a special performance by the Shawnee Marching Band and was attended by students and faculty, as well as the family and friends of Mrs. Rose.

Special guests for the event included Illinois State Rep. Paul Jacobs; David Ardrey, John Glasgow and Hailey Winkleman from the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools; and Superintendent Matthew Hickam and Assistant Superintendent Sherri Schimpf of the Regional Office of Education.

Members of the Shawnee District Board of education were also in attendance, including President Trenton Colyer, Vice President Jason Stegle, Tim Qualls, Jennifer Webb and Mindy Livesay.

Mrs. Rose started her career at Shawnee in 1995 as the junior and senior high choir teacher. In 2014, following district consolidation, she was named the district-wide chorus teacher and the junior and senior high band teacher.

"Mrs. Rose is one of those teachers that everyone flocks to, students and staff," said Shawnee Superintendent Shelly Clover-Hill during the ceremony. "She possesses this amazing 'we can do this' attitude, no matter the challenge before her. Which makes the students believe they can do anything as well."

"AIRSS is proud to announce our first rural teacher of the year, Mrs. Dee Rose," said Hailey Winkleman, media and advocacy manager for the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools. "Mrs. Rose impressed the election committee by embodying all aspects of an exemplary and visionary rural teacher leader: commitment to students, school and community."

"Her work has not only helped her music program to stay thriving, but has inspired and empowered her students to stay engaged with the school throughout their lives," Winkleman continued. "Congratulations Mrs. Rose. All rural and small schools in Illinois are fortunate to have you as a state role model for a rural educator of excellence."

"[To the] students, I couldn't be a teacher without you," said Mrs. Rose when accepting her award. "You are the reason I am who I am. Because if you didn't care, I couldn't care as much. So you make me want to be better, and you make me want to be more for you, so thank you very much."

"Some people spend their entire lives waiting to meet their favorite musicians. I teach mine," said Mrs. Rose.

After some rain in region, warm, dry conditions

After some much-needed rain fell in the region last week, warm and dry conditions returned, along with the possibility of another prolonged dry period.

As of early this week, the forecast for the period through Sunday did not include any rain. High temperatures in the 80s are expected. Lows in the 50s and 60s are in the forecast. The high temperature on Monday, Sept. 29, in the Union County area climbed into the upper 80s, with lots of sunshine and low humidity.

Severe Drought Persisted

The National Weather Service office in Paducah issued a drought information update for the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region on Sept. 25. Severe drought persisted across a large portion of the region.

Beneficial rain which fell last week resulted in some improvements across parts of the region. An update scheduled for this week was expected to show that last week's rain should have been enough to help ease, but not eliminate, drought conditions, the Weather Service office reported.

Rainfall amounts ranging from 1 inch to 5 inches which brought welcome relief to the region were reported last week. Localized higher amounts of rain were reported. A good amount of rain fell after the data cutoff for the Sept. 25 report.

Some improvement in drought conditions was reported in parts of Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky. As of Sept. 25, 53 percent of the region was experiencing severe to extreme drought.

Condition Monitoring Observer Reports over the past couple of weeks in the region indicated that ponds were drying up, grass was dying, crops were being impacted (including potential yields) and farmers had begun supplemental feeding of livestock. Soil moisture had shown quite a bit of improvement over the week prior to Sept. 25 in the lower Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys.

As of Sept. 25, all of the burn bans which had been issued in the region had been lifted. Reports had been received of low farm pond levels and instances of leaves turning color and starting to fall.

Long-range trends favor above normal temperatures in October. A lean towards drier than normal conditions also is favored. Drought is expected to linger through October. "The rain this past week helped, but we may go right back into a prolonged dry period which could lead to worsening drought in parts of the area in October," the Weather Service office reported.

Drought Monitor Update

A Sept. 25 U.S. Drought Monitor update showed that extreme southeastern Union County, the southern part of Johnson County, the northern part of Jackson County and all of Alexander, Pulaski and Massac counties were experiencing severe drought conditions.

Most of Union County, the northern part of Johnson County, all of Williamson County and the southern part of Jackson County were reporting moderate drought conditions.



A-J homecoming

A-J kick returner Leon Patterson (No. 1 in the blue jersey) evades a tackle while advancing the ball on a kick return in the first quarter of the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School homecoming game versus Benton in Anna on Friday, Sept. 26. A-J lost the game to the Rangers 56-7.

Weather

High of 95, low 57; 1.46 inches of rain

The Union County area received some much-needed rain during the period of Sept. 16-22. Rainfall during the period totaled 1.46 inches. Temperatures ranged from a high of 95 degrees to a low of 57.

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

Tuesday, Sept. 16: high 94, low 63.

Wednesday, Sept. 17: high 93, low 60.

Thursday, Sept. 18: high 95, low 57.

Friday, Sept. 19: high 82, low 63.

Saturday, Sept. 20: high 87, low 61.

Sunday, Sept. 21: high 87, low 63.

Monday, Sept. 22: high 83, low 66. 1.43 inches of rain.

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News Notes

(continued from page 1)

The sixth annual Cobden High School volleyball team's Purple Out Game is set for 6 p.m. Oct. 3. All of the proceeds will help to support the Taylor Tomazzoli Memorial Scholarship.

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An event to support Anna Junior High School basketball is planned from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 6 at Pizza Villa in Anna.

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University of Illinois Extension plans to present "The Wild World of Woolly Worms" from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 22 at Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna.

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A free financial aid workshop is scheduled from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 6 at A-JCHS. Help will be available to complete the FAFSA and the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

***

The National Weather Service office in Paducah shared the following message on social media on Sept. 26: "We noticed the radar didn't automatically switch to 'clear-air' mode overnight despite no precipitation around. Apparently, this is peak bird migration season (according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology). Their 'BirdCast' took data from our NEXRAD system and NASA research to estimate 50 to 70 thousand birds were flying overhead per hour during the overnight."

***

Rural Health Inc.'s fourth annual "Night of the Living Health Fair" is planned from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. The Halloween season community event will be at Rural Health Inc.'s main clinic in Anna. Resources from various agencies from throughout the region, games, candy and more will be featured. Families are invited to dress up and come out for the fun.

Southern 7 offers drive-thru vaccination clinics in region

Southern 7 Health Department is planning to offer drive-thru flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinics for those 18 years of age and older throughout its service region in Southern Illinois. The clinics were scheduled to begin Sept. 30 and are set to continue through late October.

The health department encourages area residents to get their shots to reduce the overall burden of respiratory illnesses. According to the CDC, it is possible to have the flu, as well as other respiratory illnesses, including COVID. at the same time.

The health department announced the following schedule for the drive-thru:

Oct. 2: East Davie Street parking lot, Anna, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Oct. 8: Rise Market parking lot, Cairo, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 9: Goreville City Park, Goreville, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 15: Golden Circle Senior Center, Golconda, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oct. 15: Tamms Park, Tamms, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 22: Golden Circle Senior Center, Elizabethtown, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oct. 24: Massac County Fairgrounds, Metropolis, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

To be scheduled: Southern 7 public health clinic, Ullin.

Single dose, trivalent regular and high dose flu vaccine (for those 65 and older) and the new COVID vaccine will be available without an appointment at each drive-thru clinic while supplies last. Patients can receive one or both vaccines during their visit. Those getting a shot are asked to wear clothing that does not restrict access to the upper arm.

The CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine by the end of October before flu season begins; however, vaccinations can be given any time during the flu season. Flu vaccines have been used for more than 50 years in the United States. The composition of U.S. flu vaccines is reviewed annually, and changes for most seasons.

Trivalent flu vaccines protect against three different influenza viruses. Trivalent flu vaccines in the United States will include vaccine viruses or viral proteins from one influenza A(H1N1) virus, one influenza A(H3N2) virus and one influenza B/Victoria lineage virus.

The updated COVID vaccines more closely target the JN.1 lineage of the Omicron variant and other currently circulating strains, offering improved protection against the strains that are most prevalent now and could restore protection against severe COVID that may have decreased over time. CDC anticipates the updated vaccines will be more effective at fighting currently circulating variants. A prior infection with suspected or confirmed COVID or flu does not protect a person from future infections.

Vaccines are covered whole or in part by most insurance companies. Those who plan to get a vaccine are reminded to bring their insurance card with them.

Those who are under 18 or are unable to attend a drive-thru clinic are advised to contact a local Southern 7 public health clinic to make an appointment. For more information, call Southern 7 Health Department at 618-634-2297, download the Southern 7 app or visit www.southern7.org.

Southern 7 Health Department is a public health department that serves communities in the seven southernmost counties in Illinois, focusing on disease prevention, promoting of healthy lifestyles and ensuring access to healthcare services for the region.

VFW post plan to host October events

Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 and its auxiliary of Anna are hosting a number of events in the month of October.

Fish fry fundraiser

The Anna VFW is hosting an all-you-can-eat fish fry fundraiser on Oct. 3 at the post from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Dine in, carry out and drive thru orders will be available. Children under 12 eat for free for dine-in orders. All drive-thru orders must be called into Linda at 618-833-7737 no later than noon on Friday.

Those coming to the fish fry will be able to nominate a Union County charity, school, club or organization to support for the evening. At 7 p.m., a drawing will be held and one of those groups nominated will receive 10 percent of the net proceeds plus all tips for the night.

If you have any questions or would like to order drive thru, call Linda at 618-833-7737. Star Karaoke will be playing from 6 to 10 p.m.

Oktoberfest

The VFW will be hosting their annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. German foods will be available to purchase and enjoy and Mystify Music will be playing from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Potato bar

The Anna VFW and its Auxiliary will be hosting a baked potato and salad bar dinner from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7 for a $12.00 donation. Dine in and carry out available.

Pork butts

Saturday, Oct. 4, the VFW Auxiliary will be smoking pork butts for sale for $45 each. Reservations can be reserved by calling President Phillip Wright at 618-967-1374.



Back to 1998

Anna Elementary District No. 37 held a special public viewing of the contents of a time capsule which was buried on the school grounds in 1998. The event was held on Thursday, Sept. 25 in the lower gym.

The creation of the time capsule was part of the dedication ceremony for the new junior high wing of school building in Anna in 1998.

The contents of the time capsule included items illustrating life in Anna at the time, including notes from the students, documents from the school and local yearbooks. There were also news and media from national and local sources.

Cultural touchstones from the late 90s were also contained, including popular toys like a Tomoguchi and a Beanie Baby, as well as a VHS copy of the movie "Titanic."

Business partnership announced

The SIU Foundation, SIU Alumni Association, Southern Illinois Now (SI Now), the City of Carbondale Government, Carbondale Main Street and the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce have announced a plan to launch Salukis Build Here, a new initiative that encourages alumni to start, relocate or expand their businesses in Carbondale and Southern Illinois.

The partnership was scheduled to be formalized with a signing ceremony scheduled for Wednesday morning, Oct. 1, at the Alumni Association Courtyard Tent outside Woody Hall on the SIU campus.

Salukis Build Here celebrates alumni-owned businesses already thriving in the region and extends an invitation for more graduates to return, invest and build their futures in Carbondale and Southern Illinois.

The initiative is scheduled to culminate with a community celebration set for 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, at Hangar 9. The event will showcase alumni-owned businesses and create opportunities to connect with entrepreneurs and community leaders.

More information can be found at https://blog.siuf.org/?p=4760.

Find us online at
annanews.com



New king and queen

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School have elected a new king and queen for the 2025 homecoming season. Queen Mariah Downs and King Henry Hoehner were coordinated during a ceremony held at halftime at the football game on Friday, Sept. 26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is given of a public hearing to be held by the Union County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 11:00 am at the Union County Courthouse Community Room located at 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, IL 62952. The Union County Board of Commissioners will consider an application for siting permit pursuant to Union County ordinance 2025-02 titled "Ordinance Amending An Ordinance Governing Commercial Solar Energy Facility Siting". The application is brought by Wild Cat Solar 22 LLC, acting on behalf of property owner Barbara Throgmorton. A copy of the application is available at the Union County Clerk's office for examination. The solar project will be located on a 16-acre portion of land on parcels 05-16-03-234 & 05-21-03-725 situated off of Lick Creek Road in Union County. All interested persons are invited to be heard.

Union County Alliance of Churches
Recommendations

1 Thanksgiving Worship, Kornthal, 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

"HOW BEAUTIFUL THE FLOWER"
FORMER FLORIST SHOP REAL ESTATE AUCTION



215 W Vienna Street, Anna, IL 62906
Begins to End: September 16th, 2025 Tuesday 2:00 PM

This mixed-use property auction features the former Jan's House of Flowers, a 1900-built frame building located in Anna, Illinois. The property offers 1,154 square feet on the main level and 800 square feet on the second floor, plus an additional 450 square foot two-story building that requires rehabilitation. Situated on a 0.3-acre lot with R-2 zoning, the main building includes a shop front area, backroom with two walk-in coolers (not currently running), and an 18' x 18' work area. The property presents opportunities for residential conversion, continued commercial use, or mixed-use development for buyers willing to invest in renovations.

Seller: Autumn Winn Funkhouser

To Pre-Bid or for More Information Please Visit www.ollisauction.com Call us today to schedule a showing 1-800-272-9791

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A-JCHS 2025 homecoming parade

Marching bands from around Union County participated at the 2025 homecoming parade in Anna. The parade was part of the homecoming festivities and was held the afternoon before the game on Friday, Sept. 26



Shawnee Junior-Senior High School marching band.



Anna-Jonesboro Marching Wildcats



Cobden High School marching band.



Anna Junior High School band.



Anna-Jonesboro cheerleaders

Lick Creek School plans Fall Festival celebration

Lick Creek School is planning to host a Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 4. The big school and community celebration, which is a PTO fundraiser, is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the school. The festival will help to support a wide range of school activities.

A Motor Show is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Categories will include best car, best truck and best motorcycle. The entry fee is $15 per vehicle.

Activities which are scheduled from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., including:

•Games, including a pumpkin walk, a bounce obstacle course, rock painting, a candy wheel and more. Game tickets are four for $1. Game armbands are $10 each.

•Car smash, presented by Fox's Towing. Tickets are $1.

•Kiss a Sheep: Tokens will be sold as a staff member is selected to Kiss a Sheep. Tokens are $1 each. All funds go to the school's Teacher Appreciation Week.

•Lick Creek Jail: $1 to lock up a favorite teacher, friend or family member; with $3 for their freedom. Presented by Lick Creek FFA.

•Face painting, $2, presented by the Lick Creek Beta Club.

Auctions are planned at the Fall Festival. The schedule includes:

•3 p.m. to 6 p.m., dessert, silent auctions. 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., live auction.

A bake off will feature the following age divisions: pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade, 4th through 8th grade. Entries can be dropped off from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

A talent show is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The entry fee is $5.

A grocery raffle is planned. Tickets are $5 each. The prize will be a $100 Kroger gift card. All funds will go to teacher professional development.

Another raffle will feature following themes: Coffee and Chocolate Lovers, Let's Go Camping, Pets Lover's Dream, Cozy Autumn Night, Sweet and Salty, Game Night and Snacks. Tickets $1 each or six for $5.

Barbeque or fish dinners will be served for $12. The dinners will come with two sides, dessert and a drink. A barbeque sandwich will be available for $4.

Illinois offers amnesty program for those with past-due taxes

The Illinois Department of Revenue, IDOR, is encouraging individuals and businesses to take advantage of the 2025 Illinois Tax Amnesty Program, which offers an opportunity to settle outstanding state tax liabilities without paying penalties or interest.

Authorized by the Illinois Tax Delinquency Amnesty Act, the program allows taxpayers to pay eligible past-due tax liabilities and have penalties and interest forgiven on taxes paid in full during the amnesty period. Eligible liabilities are taxes due from periods ending after June 30, 2018, and prior to July 1, 2024, and taxpayers must make full payments Oct. 1, 2025, through Nov. 17, 2025.

"We encourage both individuals and business owners to use the amnesty period to resolve outstanding tax liabilities and achieve greater financial stability," IDOR director David Harris said in a news release. The program is designed to support taxpayers who may be facing financial hardships or economic uncertainties.

The state offered similar tax amnesty programs in the past, including in 2003, 2010 and most recently in 2019 after receiving approval from the state legislature. During the 2019 initiative, the state successfully recouped nearly $360 million for both state and local coffers.

Taxpayers who failed to file a tax return or incorrectly reported the liability due on a previously filed return for these tax periods, can file returns, make corrections, and pay the taxes. They must file an original return for non-filed periods or file an amended return to make corrections.

Eligible outstanding taxes must be paid in full during the amnesty window to qualify. Payments can be made online at mytax.illinois.gov using a checking or savings account, by mail, or in person through the Illinois Department of Revenue.

"We encourage taxpayers to make separate payments for each tax liability being paid, but if they choose to make one combined payment, they must clearly identify each tax liability being paid by tax type, tax period, and amount, so their payments can be applied correctly," Harris explained.

For full, detailed information about the 2025 Illinois Tax Amnesty Program, taxpayers can visit tax.illinois.gov/taxamnesty. Assistance also can be obtained by contacting IDOR's Taxpayer Assistance Division at 1-800-732-8866.

The Cat's Meow

by Cobden Spay and Neuter Coalition

Nine-month waiting list for cat or kitten intake. That's the story for one of our local cat rescues. And that is just a hint at the enormity of the problem. They do, however, have ample spay/neuter appointments available to the public for low-cost services. Finding Forever Animal Rescue in Marion, and Wright-Way Animal Rescue in Murphysboro. Please, please take advantage of these opportunities to take care of your cats and kittens. Or, just do it.

Thanks to our ongoing donors and service providers for their support and dedication to the effort to humanely reduce the local cat overpopulation. We also have several community cat caretakers who have established feeding routines for small colonies of cats, and we are, slowly, but surely, trapping, neutering, rabies vaccinating and returning these cats to their home areas. Not the absolute ideal of rehoming them all, but this is absolutely the long-term solution to the problem. So be kind and helpful to these generous and loving caretakers, and throw a few dollars our way for the vet care and services we provide.

Tremendous thanks also to the volunteers who are actively trapping and transporting these cats to the vets, then back home after services provided. We need more of you who are willing to help with these efforts.

Stop by to see us at Colorfest Oct. 11 in Anna. We'll have activities to raise funds. It will also be another opportunity to present ourselves to the community, and educate them about our critical work.

Please visit our website, cobdenspayneutercoalition.org, or our facebook page to see what we're up to. You may drop off donations 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, 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!

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

OCTOBER 5TH-11TH, 2025

Join the millions in celebrating 4-H week

4-H members in Illinois will join the 6 million youth across the country in celebrating National 4-H Week annually starting the first Sunday in October. Clubs around Illinois celebrate this week by highlighting the remarkable 4-H youth in their communities and showcasing the incredible experiences that 4-H offers young people.

Ideas to celebrate!

At home

Go green on Monday, October 6. Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint - anything goes!

Ask your county for a letter to the editor template and tell your local newspaper how you feel about 4-H.

Ask your adult if you can post "how it started, how it's going" on social media. Share a photo of yourself from earlier in your 4-H career along with one from today along with a short description of how 4-H has made you Beyond Ready in life or for your future career.

On Thursday, Oct. 9, take part in Beyond Ready: 4-H For Good Day. Shine a light on the impact you have made through service. Share your story or celebrate someone who is making a difference.

Post lawn signs in your windows/yard.

Write letters to your congressional leaders or local legislators about how important 4-H is to you.

Ask a local business if you or you and your club can decorate their windows for 4-H Week.

Plant a tree in honor of 4-H.

Ask local civic organizations like Rotary, Exchange Club, etc. if you could give a talk or demonstration at the meeting.

At School

Follow the 4-H Week Wearables Challenge.

Ask your school if you can share a 4-H fun facts or information over the school announcements/ newsletters/TV displays.

Ask local schools to add Join 4-H fliers to their backpack programs or make a flier about a 4-H week event to share.

Host a daily 4-H trivia contest over the school announcements. Have the winners come see you for a small prize.

Make or purchase buttons for members to wear around school this week.

Challenge each member of your club to invite to friends to your next club meeting.

Ask if you can decorate a school bulletin board or post fliers around local schools.

Ask the elementary schools in your area if club members can come read a story or do an activity this week.

Decorate the lockers of your 4-H members.

With Your Club!

NEW - Work with your county to submit a 4-H Proclamation to your local government

NEW - On Thursday, October 9 take part in Beyond Ready: 4-H For Good Day. Shine a light on all the great impact your club is making through service. Share your story or celebrate someone who is making a difference. Share in real life or share on social media by using the tags #4HBeyondReady and #National4HWeek

Have a poster contest with your members and ask local businesses to display them in their windows.

Ask your local grocery store if your club can display completed coloring sheets by club members in the grocery store! Supporting materials are here!

Host a 4-H reunion for alumni in your county.

Set up an information booth at a store, fair, or other celebration (with permission)

Decorate a bulletin board at your local library, Extension Office, or other public place.

Make 4-H Week Appreciation baskets and pass them out in teachers lounges, hospitals, first responder buildings, etc. This is a great way to show service learning and appreciation AND look for interested volunteers.

Ask the local newspaper if your club could contribute to a column or piece this week.

Ask a local morning or lifestyle show if you can appear on air as an individual or club to talk about 4-H and 4-H Week activities.

Host a Design a Sign contest or event with blank yard signs and permanent markers and ask local businesses, farmers, or alumni to display the signs. Themes ideas could include: "4-H Allows Me to Be ..." or "5 Things I love about 4-H"

Contact local radio stations to ask if you can record and submit PSA's to play during 4-H Week.

Carve pumpkins with a 4-H logo and take them to area homes, businesses or have a photo contest to see which ones get the most likes.

Create a 4-H promotion to run at the local movie theater during preview.

Ask a local restaurants if they would use 4-H placemats during their meal service for the week!

Ask a local pizza place to add stickers to their pizza boxes this week.

Ask a local coffee shop to add stickers to their coffee collars this week.

Organize a Bring A Friend day at your club! Plan a special event for the meeting you invite friends to!

Organize something special to honor business partners and supporters like green and white balloons, green and white M&M's, etc.

Share social media posts with alumni and supporters to post during the week

Host a phone-a-thon to call and thank local sponsors and donors

In your community

Ask a local bank to include bookmarks at their drive-thru facilities this week.

Ask the local library to pass out bookmarks with their checkouts this week.

Post 4-H fliers at schools, home school organizations, and youth-serving agency boards.

Ask to add your 4-H week events to local community or parent group calendars.

Ask local grocery stores, feed stores, and more to include fliers as bag stuffers this week.

Promote 4-H on local advertising signs, billboards, church message boards.

Have a county-wide or club community service day and have the members all report back what they did, then prepare an impact story about how important 4-H service is. Partner with your local Extension office to send out a media advisory for coverage of your event.

(From the AJMPU website)

4-H Motto, Pledge, Creed

4-H Motto

To make the best better.

4-H Pledge

I pledge:
My HEAD to clearer thinking,
My HEART to greater loyalty,
My HANDS to larger service, and
My HEALTH to better living,
For my club, my community, my country, and my world.

4-H Members Creed

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, plan and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to be kind, sympathetic and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, skillful and useful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, resist disease and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state and my community and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe, and am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

Illinois 4-H memories welcomed

Illinois 4-H is proud of the rich history of 4-H and our 4-H alums near and far.

If you were a member of the Illinois 4-H program, you are one of 25 million Americans who share a unique bond.

Illinois 4-H launched a new initiative for an Illinois 4-H History project and is seeking to reconnect with Illinois 4-H Alumni to hear their 4-H stories and share their 4-H memories.

Illinois 4-H has a strong history dating back to 1899 with the start of W.B. Otwell forming the first boy's corn club in Macoupin County, Illinois, followed by A.B. Graham, founding the first 4-H club of boys and girls with officers and projects, and record requirements in Clark County, Ohio in 1902.

Illinois then established the first 4-H club, Union Pig Club, organized by C.C. Coots, in Macoupin County in 1915.

We are interested in gathering your memories, photos, or photos of memorabilia of those special moments in which 4-H impacted you.

Share your 4-H story online at https://go.illinois.edu/4-Hstory.

(From the University of Illinois AJMPU Facebook page.)

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National 4-H Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, having supported almost six million youth across the country thus far; and

WHEREAS, 4-H has helped youth in Union County, and surrounding counties to become confident, independent, resilient and compassionate leaders; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension, a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn by doing in hands-on projects in areas including health, science, agriculture and citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Illinois 4-H is delivered by University of Illinois Extension; and

WHEREAS, National 4-H Week showcases the incredible experiences that 4-H offers young people, and highlights the remarkable 4-H youth in Union County, and surrounding counties, who work each day to make a positive impact on those around them; and

WHEREAS, 4-H's network of 600,000 volunteers and 3,500 professionals provides caring and supportive mentoring to all 4-H'ers, helping them to grow into true leaders, entrepreneurs and visionaries;

NOW, THEREFORE, the sponsors on these pages join in proclaiming Oct. 2-8, 2022, as National 4-H Week, in our community, and encourage all of our citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact it has made and continues to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

Young people need positive relationships with caring adults

4-H volunteers play a critical role in the lives of Illinois youth. More than 23,000 volunteers across Illinois make a difference with more than 268,000 4-H participants each year.

As 4-H begins another program year, consider becoming a 4-H volunteer today.

According to the America's Promise Alliance, all children need support and guidance from caring adults in their families, at schools, and in their communities.

These include ongoing, secure relationships with parents as well as formal and informal relationships with teachers, mentors, coaches, youth volunteers, and neighbors.

Caring adults are the cornerstone of a child's development. Parents come first but children also need to experience the support from caring adults in all areas of their lives.

The Search Institute suggests that each young person needs three caring adults in their lives other than their parents.

Their research suggests that only 45 percent of middle and high school age youth surveyed have those three caring adults in their lives.

Seventy-one percent of parents surveyed said it would really help them as parents to have other adults who they trust to spend time with their kids.

Why volunteer for 4-H? Adults with no previous connection to 4-H may volunteer to share their talents, strengths, and experiences.

They may share their expertise in a specific project area related to their own career path, hobby, or interest area.

Other adults like to get to know young people in their community and to share in the decision-making opportunities related to community issues.

Still others decide to interact with 4-H members to meet new people, gain new skills, and get connected in their community.

4-H parents volunteer to spend time with their own children and with youth of similar ages and interests. 4-H alumni have the opportunity to give back to the program that helped them develop the life skills which have made them successful in their personal, professional, and community life today.

4-H offers a variety of long and short term volunteer opportunities.

These may include organizational leaders of 4-H clubs or groups that meet year round, project leaders for more than 100 different subject matter areas who meet for a specific time period, or activity leaders who help plan and execute a educational and/or social event, contest, workshop, or clinic for 4-H members in the county throughout the year.

4-H focuses on four key concepts of positive youth development in their programming efforts: belonging, independence, generosity and mastery.

4-H volunteers play a critical role in helping to instill these concepts in the lives of young people.

As caring adults, volunteers help youth set goals, provide service to others and develop a sense of the future.

For the health and safety of 4-H youth participants and volunteers, adults are required to complete the 4-H volunteer application process and attend an orientation session prior to becoming a 4-H volunteer.

To learn more about the 4-H volunteer opportunities in your community or your county, contact the local U of I Extension office at 833-6363.

Whether you have two hours a week or 12 hours a month to give to enrich the lives of youth through 4-H, Extension has a place for you.

Visit the website at https://extension.illinois.edu/ajmpu/4-h-youth-development to learn more about programs and volunteer opportunities.

4-H is the largest out-of-school education youth program in the United States. 4-H seeks to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, forming attitudes and developing life skills that enable them to become caring, competent and contributing members of society.

For more information about 4-H in Illinois visit https://extension.illinois.edu/ajmpu/4-h-youth-development.

What We Believe

BELONGING: We believe all youth can grow when they're surrounded by people who are cheering for their success. That's why we bring youth together in clubs, led by caring adults, who welcome them as part of a larger 4-H family.

INDEPENDENCE: We believe all youth should be active participants in their future and have opportunities for self-determination. That's why we allow youth to choose their 4-H journey based on their own interests with opportunities for discovery, skill building, and leadership.

GENEROSITY: We believe all youth should see themselves playing a part in their community's success, so they understand their value to the greater good in a global society. That's why we provide both individual and collective opportunities to serve and help others.

MASTERY: We believe all youth should have many paths to learning, so they can master skills needed for happiness in family, career, and community. That's why we provide mentors and opportunities for guided learning.

Why has 4-H survived and thrived for more than 100 years? It's our foundational beliefs that guide every action, every policy, every opportunity, and every interaction.

(From the University of Illinois Extension website.)

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Fall brings lots to do at state parks, historic sites, museums

Autumn began Monday, Sept. 22, which marked the official beginning of fall events at Illinois state parks, historic sites and museums. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, has announced upcoming events in the Southern Illinois area.

Oct. 4, Explore the Southern Illinois Outdoors Day, Giant City State Park near Makanda: Stop by the Giant City State Park visitor center between noon and 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, to visit with local nature enthusiasts and professionals to discover outdoor opportunities, such as hiking, biking, camping, birdwatching, foraging, hunting, climbing, kayaking and more. Participating organizations include IDNR, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Southern Illinois Audubon Society, Southern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, the Sierra Club, the Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center and more.

Oct. 4, History of American Pies, Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site, Vandalia: The Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site will host culinary historian Catherine Lambrecht, who will explore the diverse and changing history of pies in the United States during a free, public program on Saturday, Oct. 4. A question-and-answer session will follow, and visitors can bring their favorite family recipes to share.

Oct. 11, Kincaid Mounds Archaeological Field Day, Kincaid Mounds State Historic Site, Massac County: Visit Kincaid Mounds State Historic Site near Brookport for formal presentations on the Mississippian culture. Programs begin at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Event includes artifact displays, artifact identification, information tables and an optional walking tour of Mound 8. Hiking shoes are recommended. This free program is presented by the Kincaid Mounds Support Organization.

Oct. 18-19, Fort Massac Encampment, Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis: This annual event has drawn thousands of visitors to Southern Illinois and to Illinois' first state park for five decades. Visitors can experience what life was like at Fort Massac during the 18th and 19th centuries. Historical military reenactments, crafts, food, family-friendly activities and more are featured. Follow Fort Massac State Park on Facebook for additional information.

Oct. 25, Trek 'n' Treat at Giant City Giant City State Park near Makanda: Head to Giant City State Park at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25 for an easy, self-guided hike through the forest along the Devil's Standtable trail. Along the way, hikers will meet creature characters that will teach them about some of the wonderful and most misunderstood creatures that call Giant City home. Treats will be available for all hikers. Follow Giant City State Park on Facebook for additional information.

Oct. 25: Trunk or Treat at Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis: Fort Massac State Park plans to host Trunk or Treat at the park from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. The event includes a costume contest at 4 p.m. and free hot dogs, chips and drinks for participants.

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

This past Sunday, Sept. 28, we observed Communion; then, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in our morning service, and his message addressed what happened after Communion on the night Jesus was betrayed. Do we betray Christ for a little comfort? His text was found in the 26th chapter of Mattew which is part of the New Testament.

Music Dee Rose led in worship accompanied by Praise Team members, Chris Rose, Conner Benbrook, Molly Jones and Kim Benefield. Debbie York was our pianist. Kim Benefield sang a special, "Somebody Bigger Than You and I."

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.

This week's activities include a Men's Bible Study at 6 p.m., Monday, September 29; Dig In Children's Program, Youth and Adult Bible Study on Wednesday, October 1, from 6-8 p.m.

Recent birthdays: Debbie Fears, born September 28; Kerry Shipley, September 29; Zach Massey, September 30; Angela Smith, October 3; and Amanda Rich, October 4. Happy birthday to all!

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.; both Youth for 6th-12th grades and Sunday evening worship at 6 p.m. Our Children's Dig-In Program meets on Wednesdays, from 6-8 p.m. Youth 7th-12th grades meet 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays. Our Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study also meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship on Sept. 28, with Pastor Perry Wright leading our Opening Prayer.

Menda Cash did our Call to Worship which was on Life Eternal. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fuits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." This was taken from 1 Corinthians.

We then gave Honor and Glory to God through the 100 Psalm.

Our Worship Team led in three songs, "This is Amazing Grace," "Unashamed" and "Agnus Dei."

Pastor Lupe's sermon was titled "Natural Born Citizens" Romans 13. Highlights included, Romans 13 reminds us that as citizens of a fallen world, we still live under earthly authorities that God has permitted for order and justice. Even though governments are imperfect, Christians are called to honor the law where it does not oppose God's will. Paul shows that our true citizenship is in heaven, yet we demonstrate our faith by living responsibly within society. In this broken world, we shine as light by loving others, living honorably, and putting on Christ daily.

Our Sunday School meets at 9 am on Sunday morning and is for all ages. Our Worship service and Children's Worship begins at 10:15 am. Our Prayer Time is at 6 pm on Wednesday evening. Our bus runs for all of these services and programs.

Please call the church office to talk to someone about riding the bus and to ask about other programs we have to offer.

Our church is located at 409 Morgan Street in Anna, Illinois. Our phone number is 618.833-5416

Our Facebook is AnnaFirstBaptistChurch. Our email is fbcanna409@gmail.com.

We invite you to call or come by to visit anytime. We invite you to our Sunday School and to our Worship Service. You will find our Church Family welcoming and warm people. We teach and preach Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We would love to tell you about Jesus and help you find Him as your Lord too. God Bless You and your family is our prayer for you.

IDOT hiring workers for snow, ice season

The Illinois Department of Transportation is looking to hire 161 seasonal positions to help with snow and ice removal in Alexander, Franklin, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Saline, Union, White and Williamson counties. Applications for snow removal operators and winter salaried highway maintainers, also known as snowbirds, must be completed online at https://illinois.jobs2web.com.

Both full-time winter highway maintainers and hourly winter highway maintainers are being hired to help maintain more than 45,000 lane miles statewide during the winter months. The positions are required to promptly respond to emerging weather situations for snow and ice removal and be ready to work in emergency conditions at any time, including nights, weekends and holidays. The starting salary for full-time is $6,044 per month, and hourlies are paid $27.79 an hour.

Applicants must have a valid commercial driver's license and email address and undergo a criminal background check. A pre-employment physical and vision test as well as drug and alcohol screening are required. A new law provides for veterans' preference for these seasonal positions, and veterans are encouraged to apply.

Applicants will be selected based on availability, job-related experience and qualifications. For additional information, including the application process, positions available in specific districts, details on pay and potential for benefits, visit https://idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/employment-opportunities.

Questions about these job opportunities may be directed to Tracy Hagston, Benefits and Temporary Employment Specialist, 618-351-5205.

A short, animated video on the snowbird program is available on IDOT's YouTube channel.

Union County Fixin's

Apple Cider Doughnuts by Alli Berkey

Coating:
1/2 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
Pinch of salt
Doughnuts:
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for dusting
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup thawed apple juice concentrate
1/3 cup sugar
1/4 cup buttermilk
4 Tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled
1 large egg
2 quarts vegetable oil for frying

Whisk coating ingredients together and set aside, in shallow bowl or large plate, to coat doughnuts after they are cooked.

Whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt together in medium bowl. In separate large bowl, whisk apple juice concentrate, sugar, buttermilk, melted butter, and egg together. Using a rubber spatula, fold and pat the flour mixture into the apple juice mixture until flour is moistened and no dry bits remain.

Dust counter heavily with flour. Turn dough onto counter and dust top of dough and hands before patting (gently) the dough into a 1/3 in thick round, about 10-11 inches in diameter. Using a floured round 3-inch cutter, cut 9 or 10 doughnut rounds. Before removing from counter, go back with a 1-inch floured cutter (clean medicine bottle work) and make a doughnut hole in center. Lightly dust a baking sheet with flour and transfer doughnuts. Pat together the remaining dough and repeat until dough is all used. Place baking sheet in refrigerator until oil is heated.

Heat oil to 325-350 degrees in a large Dutch oven. Add doughnuts. 3-4 at a time with the hole cut-outs, to oil. Flip every 30 seconds until they are done, about 2 minutes total. Make sure the oil stays between 325 and 350 degrees with each batch cooked. Transfer to paper towel lined baking sheet and start another batch. While that batch is cooking, roll first batch in coating and move to a cooling rack. Repeat until all doughnuts are done.



Anna Police Department responds to questions from Talk Back Night

The Anna Police Department has responded to questions from community members which were raised at a recent City Talk Back Night regarding the use of No Trespass signs and contact with law enforcement personnel. The department shared the following responses on social media:

No Trespass Signs

Recently many citizens have been asking about enforcement of trespassing issues. We wanted to make you aware of the following information.

Any residence with a clearly posted sign stating the words "No Trespassing" provides officers with the opportunity to make contact with and identify any trespassers. No one will be arrested without the homeowner's consent.

So what does this mean for you, our citizens? If you post a sign specifically stating "No Trespassing" at your home/property, and the sign is easily visible, then an officer can stop at your residence and speak to anyone we locate on your property who appears like they do not belong there. We can keep them there until they provide a valid identification. Then we can contact you as the homeowner to determine if you want to press criminal charges for trespassing. At no time are you required to pursue criminal charges, but it is your right for each incident.

While we understand the inherent unfairness of asking law-abiding citizens to do more to combat criminal activity, these are tools that help your police officers better serve you. It is through our continued cooperation and partnership that we can make a real change in our community.

We thank each and every one of you for your constant vigilance and courtesy. We hear your frustrations and we see your struggles. All we ask is that you keep working with us as partners to make our city the best it can be. We will get there together.

Feedback, Contact

One concern shared during our City Talk Back Night was regarding citizens making informational reports and receiving no feedback or contact from on-duty officers. The following is to assist in preventing this issue in the future.

When contacting Union County Sheriff's Office, who handles all police related calls in our city as our dispatchers, please use the following information:

If you are providing information but do not want to speak to an officer, tell the dispatcher: "Please let the officer on-duty know (tell them your concern). I do not need to speak to an officer."

If you want a phone call but can wait for an officer to be available, please say: "I want an officer to call me about this issue. It is not an emergency but I want to be contacted today."

If you want an officer to drive through your neighborhood: "Please have an officer drive through here a few times to keep an eye on this issue."

If you want an officer in person: "Please have the officer come to my home/business so I can speak to them in person."

These above phrases will help clarify your needs to our dispatchers so they can relay them to our officers. We want to ensure you are receiving the services you need.

While we understand this is an extra step we are asking from you, we do sincerely appreciate your cooperation in helping us make our community safer.

As always, if you have questions, please stop by our Police Department. Stay safe and have fun.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco) **By Suzan Harvel**

My husband and mother-in-law attended the Senior Fair in Carbondale this past week. They collected a lot of "goodies" from the various vendors and met with Senator Dale Fowler. If you are a senior and have never attended this yearly event, I encourage you to go.

A lot of information on health issues, products, facilities, and even some legal concerns are available. Folks will talk with you about your concerns and can direct you to the organization that can help you best. It's usually in late September, so make sure to watch for it next year or for the flyers in the mail, which is how we first learned of it.

Members of P.A.S.T. of Union County were gathered again on Thursday the 25th to finish clean up and make some repairs. Several members dropped off items for the yard sale being hosted during Color Fest on Oct. 10.

On Friday, the 26th, four members gathered to host the Jonesboro Junior High in a tour. The students asked a lot of questions, gave a lot of input, and seemed to enjoy the learning experience of a home that has been in the community for nearly 200 years. Being one of the tour guides, I was most impressed by these young people and their sponsors, and hope this tradition continues.

P.A.S.T. will once again be open during Color Fest not only for the yard sale on Friday the 10th, but also for a "Story Time", led by Barbara Bauer, for children being held at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 11th. Free color books and crayons, as well as, refreshments will be available afterwards. Please stop by with your children.

A building collapse was in the news in Vienna this week. A corner building near the square collapsed and required the closing of two other buildings, an insurance office and an antique store, for safety. The collapsed building was unoccupied and abandoned. Scary stuff, since I was in a building not far from that one last week.

Mill Creek Baptist Church held Sunday Services Sept. 28 with Brother Bobby Richardson bringing the message from the book of Joshua 28: 11-24. These passages remind us we need to not only fear the Lord, but to choose who we are going to serve: other gods or the Lord God Almighty. We need to choose now, not tomorrow or next year or when we reach our elder years. You don't know what the future holds. Remember every choice we make before God becomes a god. We are answerable to that. Every morning when we get up, we make choices. Good or bad. Those choices all too often follow us through life. As a Christian you can't be a part-time Christian. It's all or nothing. Our God requires all and Jesus gave His all for us. Start your day with prayer, asking God to lead you in making the right choices.

A Pastor Appreciation pot luck dinner will be held at Mill Creek Baptist Church on Sunday, Oct. 12 to celebrate Brother Bobby Richardson and his family. This is also an anniversary celebration of his pastoring at Mill Creek for 25 years. Please join us after services for the dinner and celebration.

Those added to our prayer list are: the families of Zion Richardson and Terry Tucker in their passing and the family of Jeremiah and Lexie Johnson as they say goodbye to their baby girl. Cathy Noble needs prayer for cancer issues, Brother Bob Richardson is having leg and foot pain, Debbie Cobb for health issues, Cassie Cobb for help with morning sickness, Heyward Hackney and family for new cancer issues, and Greg Keller has need of a heart transplant. Please remember these in your prayers.

News from

Camp Ground Church

Bro. Bradley's sermons the past two Sundays were "Remaining in Love, part 1 and 2". His main scripture selection was Hebrews 11:13-16.

The world hated Jesus and will hate us too if we truly live our life in a Godly way. Satan is attacking the church and us on all fronts. Every form of media seems to focus on division in our country. But in the church, we need to stay united, from our local congregation to the entire body of Christ throughout the world.

We should not be surprised when the world hates us; we need to make sure the world can tell that we are a Christian by the way we live.

Satan's only goal is to destroy those who have invited Christ into their hearts. Our job is to stand firm. Our only hope is in Jesus Christ.

Jesus was the essence of love; He commanded that we love each other as He loves us. There is no greater love that to lay down one's life for another person. Anyone who does not love remains in "death" because they have obviously not allowed God to live in their heart. We need to be so full of love for Jesus and others that we become outspoken for God.

Sandra Boaz is our leading elder during October.

Michael and Ashley Roach had a wedding anniversary Sept. 25.

It seems the beautiful weather is also stirring up all sorts of irritants. Several of our congregation have been dealing with respiratory issues to various degrees.

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, Sept. 28

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on Sept. 28. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team. The message "Be Strong & Courageous" was brought by Pastor Wright from Deuteronomy 31:6, Isaiah 41:10, John 16:33, Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Ephesians 6:10-11, Isaiah 40:29-31, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Romans 13:12, Colossians 3:12, 1 Peter 5:8-9

There was no Sunday Evening Service.

Celebrating an anniversary this week is September 28th – Bill & Linda Wright

Saturday, Oct. 4

Baby Shower for Trey & Sarah Morrison's Twin Baby Boys at 1 p.m. You can find the baby registery on my.babylist.com

Sunday, Oct. 5

Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service-10:35 a.m

Alabaster Offering Sunday.

Churches lay the foundation through Alabaster Offering for places where people worship, heal, and learn by encouraging global participation each year. Every Alabaster project grows from joint effort, love, and shared support of local contribution, bringing tangible presence and a sense of long-term commitment to a community. No Alabaster funds are used for administrative costs.

Sunday Evening Service, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 8

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.

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10 to 11

Charity Sale

Help support the teens. Here at the church.

If you have donations for the Charity Sale, please contact Trey Morrison for more details

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

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Too Much Information



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Email! Voicemail! Texting! Social Networking! Because our world is increasingly frantic, we need all the help we can get. We need to regain some control. In both mundane and significant matters, ask God to take control, for, "…to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." (Romans 8.6) The peace and strength you receive from Him will bring some order into your life. Pray with Him this week at your house of worship; the time you spend in God's House will be returned in good measure.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Proverbs	Proverbs	Proverbs	Psalm	Psalm	Psalm	Psalm
11.1-31	12.1-28	16.1-33	7	9	10	11

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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

The Gazette-Democrat Classified Section

Anna Office
618-833-2158
classifieds@annanews.com
AD DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. MONDAY

CLASSIFIED RATES
Classifieds .....35¢ per word
$8.00 minimum for each paid ad per week

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY RATES
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HELP WANTED

Dongola Unit # 66 is seeking applicants to fill the following position: Paraprofessional Specifics of the position are • 9 month position • Benefits include sick, personal and bereavement leave

• Health, dental and vision insurance is available • Board paid life insurance policy

• Applicant must be able to: work at a fast pace, able to lift heavy objects, possess some computer skills for required paperwork, display good organizational skills, possess a good work ethic and the ability to develop a positive rapport with students and co-workers.

Applicants must submit a letter of interest addressed to Dr. Paige Maginel, resume, valid paraprofessional license and three letters of reference to: Jamie Flores, District Secretary

Administrative Building Dongola Unit School #66 1000 High Street Dongola, IL 62926

Or emailed to jflores@dongolaschool.com DUSD # 66 is an equal opportunity employer.

Position will be filled as soon as possible.

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.

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

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.

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: Andrea Ellison Storage Units: 7 & 8 Property to be sold: Miscellaneous personal property Time/Place/Manner of Sale: October 11, 2025 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

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF JAMES W. TIERNEY, DECEASED. NO. 2025-PR-16 IN PROBATE NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of James W. Tierney, of Buncombe, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on September 18, 2025, to Angeline Couture, 2159 W. 129 PL, Crown Point, IN 46307 as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order of admission, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses in open Court or other evidence, as provided by Section 5/6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21.)

You also have the right, under Section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1), to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate.

Notice is further given to Michael Tierney, and Christy Tierney, believed to be the niece and nephew of James W. Tierney, as to all rights afforded to them under the Illinois Probate Act.

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, Par. 5/28-4), any interested person terminates Independent Administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of this Court.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before March 25, 2026, 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: September 18, 2025.
ANGELINE COUTURE
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8221-958214

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS DALTON DAVID MILLER, Petitioner, v. MOLLY ANN MILLER, Respondent. No. 2024-DN-24 PUBLICATION NOTICE

Notice is given of the Petition of Dissolution of Marriage filed on July 29, 2024, by Petitioner, Dalton David Miller, against Respondent, Molly Ann Miller a/k/a Molly Ann Redman.

Notice is given to Molly Ann Miller a/k/a Molly Ann Redman, who is named in a Petition filed in the above proceeding and whose address is unknown and not stated in the Petition.

YOU ARE REQUIRED to file an answer in this case or otherwise file your appearance on or before October 20, 2025, in the Office of the Clerk of this Court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois 62952.

IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE.

Mark A. Kochan
Kochan & Kochan, P.C.
1220 South Park Avenue, Suite C
Herrin, IL 62948
Tel. (618) 942-8850
Fax (618) 942-8601
Email: service@kochanlaw.com
8221-957871

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF WILLIAM E. MOREFIELD, DECEASED. NO. 2025-PR-15 IN PROBATE NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of William E. Morefield, of Anna, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on September 11, 2025, to Scott Hickam, 139 W. Vienna, Anna, IL 62906 as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order of admission, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses in open Court or other evidence, as provided by Section 5/6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21.)

You also have the right, under Section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1), to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate.

Notice is further given to ANNE MOREFIELD, believed to be the daughter of William E. Morefield, as to all rights afforded to her under the Illinois Probate Act.

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, Par. 5/28-4), any interested person terminates Independent Administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of this Court.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before March 18, 2026, 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: September 15, 2025.
SCOTT HICKAM
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8221-958085

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY - JONESBORO, ILLINOIS Freedom Mortgage Corporation PLAINTIFF Vs. Uzair Ahmed; et. al. DEFENDANTS No. 2025FC3 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 06/18/2025, the Sheriff of Union County, Illinois will on October 29, 2025 at the hour of 9:00 AM at Union County Courthouse 309 West Market Jonesboro, IL 62952, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Union and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

A PARCEL OF LAND BEING A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN. SAID PARCEL IS PART OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN BOOK 143, PAGE 276 IN THE UNION COUNTY COURT HOUSE IN THE NAME OF GEORGE PATRICK MYERS, DATED MAY 28, 1997. SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION, SAID CORNER BEING MARKED BY AN ALUMINUM FOREST SERVICE MONUMENT FOUND; THENCE N 87 DEGREES 48' 57" W, 367.87 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION TO AN IRON ROD SET. THIS BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID PARCEL AND THE POINT BEGINNING; THENCE N 87 DEGREES 48' 57" W, 572.34 FEET CONTINUING ALONG SAID QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION LINE TO AN IRON ROD SET IN THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROUTE 127; THENCE WITH SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE THE FOLLOWING FOUR (4) CALLS; THENCE ALONG A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH A CHORD BEARING S 04 DEGREES 24' 53" E, 125.21 FEET, A RADIUS OF 11,394.19 FEET, AN ARC LENGTH OF 125.21 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE S 04 DEGREES 43' 46" E, 276.20 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE S 85 DEGREES 16' 14" W, 15.00 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE S 04 DEGREES 43' 46" E, 150.00 FEET TO AN IRON ROD FOUND AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE LESLIE AND MICHAEL GRUBBE, PROPERTY (SEE BOOK 5, PAGE 101); THENCE WITH THE GRUBBE PROPERTY THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) CALLS; THENCE N 85 DEGREES 16' 14" E, 200.00 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE S 04 DEGREES 43' 46" E, 155.00 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE ALONG NEW LINES THE FOLLOWING FOUR (4) CALLS; THENCE N 84 DEGREES 22' 45" E, 48.14 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE N 39 DEGREES 04' 53" E, 152.86 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE N 17 DEGREES 20' 30" E, 295.54 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N 20 DEGREES 28' 12" E, 279.14 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

PIN 08-03-05-706-C
Improved with Residential
COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
2650 State Route 127 N
Cobden, IL 62920

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general 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.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, 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 successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

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: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-25-01950.

I3273214
8221-957922

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY - JONESBORO, ILLINOIS Freedom Mortgage Corporation PLAINTIFF Vs. Uzair Ahmed; et. al. DEFENDANTS No. 2025FC3 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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PIN 08-03-05-706-C
Improved with Residential
COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
2650 State Route 127 N
Cobden, IL 62920

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general 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.

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If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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I3273214
8221-957922

Bailey enters Illinois governor's race, pledging new approach to Chicago area

By Ben Szalinski
Capitol News Illinois

BLOOMINGTON – Darren Bailey's second campaign for governor will take a different approach to Chicago and its suburbs following his unsuccessful 2022 bid, the downstate farmer and former Republican state lawmaker told supporters Thursday, Sept. 25.

"This journey is going to look different than it did four years ago," Bailey said at the second leg of a three-stop campaign kickoff tour in Bloomington. "We're out to win. We're on a mission."

Bailey began the campaign in downstate Carterville before taking a helicopter owned and piloted by his son to Bloomington, then departing for his opening rally in Oak Brook later in the evening.

Bailey, who called Chicago a "hellhole" four years ago, is emphasizing that his campaign will focus more on the city and its suburbs than in 2022. He chose Cook County Republican Party chair Aaron Del Mar as his running mate, and his campaign logo now includes the skyline of Chicago. Bailey told reporters he believes voters in the Chicago area are more dissatisfied with Gov. JB Pritzker than in 2022.

"The people in Cook County, in Chicago are affected much more, I believe, than they were, you know, four years ago," Bailey told reporters. "So staying on, you know, the message is really pretty simple and pretty obvious. I mean, taxes are too high. Opportunity doesn't exist. Our children are moving out of the state, and people just simply can't afford to be able to live and work here."

Bailey argued he and Del Mar can relate more to an average person's economic struggles than Pritzker: their billionaire opponent if they win the March 17 primary. They said affordability will be their top issue.

Bailey pointed to a poll in August by a conservative policy organization that showed Pritzker's approval rating below 50 percent for the first time. He said he believes there's growing momentum for a Republican candidate, despite Pritzker winning the past two elections by double digits.

"The climate here in Illinois is a lot more obvious and conducive than it was three and four years ago," he said. "People have woke up and they've realized that, 'wow, why did we just go through these last three years?' And that they're tired of it."

After losing to Pritzker, Bailey lost a congressional primary in 2024. Democrats didn't show any disappointment in seeing him on the ticket again. Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association President Mark Guethle said in a statement Bailey's decision to run again is "fine by us!"

New Running Mate

Bailey said he had not been planning to run for governor until a few weeks ago. Friends encouraged him to consider picking Del Mar as his running mate, he said, despite the pair's history of disagreements. They met earlier this month to iron out their differences.

"We put it aside; we let the bygones be bygones," Del Mar said. "And we came out and we said we're going to run together as a team. We're going to bring everybody from the southern area, from the country. We're going to bring everybody from the north."

Del Mar has long been active in suburban Republican politics and was McHenry County businessman Gary Rabine's running mate in the 2022 GOP primary for governor. He told Bailey's supporters on Sept. 25 that he had been planning to run for governor himself.

Bailey's 2022 running mate was Stephanie Trussell, a DuPage County resident and conservative radio host.

Who is Darren Bailey?

Bailey owns and operates a more than 12,000-acre farm in Clay County south of Effingham. He's made the farmer lifestyle a pillar of his statewide campaigns as he often discusses learning the values of hard work and family from the farm. In 2022, Bailey ran a TV ad about building his business by working with his hands. It drew a contrast to Pritzker who inherited wealth, though Pritzker also had a long philanthropic and business career before becoming governor.

He was first elected to the Illinois House in 2018, but his political profile exploded in 2020 after he filed lawsuits challenging Illinois' stay-at-home and mask orders in the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lawsuits helped lionize Bailey among Illinois conservatives who believed the public health restrictions were illegal for the governor to impose.

Bailey won a race for Illinois Senate in 2020 and then launched his 2022 campaign for governor hoping to capitalize on his growing reputation as the most vocal opponent to pandemic mitigations in the legislature.

Bailey's past results

Bailey cruised to victory in the 2022 Republican primary with 57 perccent of the vote in a field of six candidates. He trounced the favored candidate of establishment Republicans, Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin, who also had a fundraising advantage over Bailey.

But Irvin struggled to articulate his positions on issues while Bailey appealed to conservative voters. Some of that appeal came with the help of Pritzker's campaign, who, along with the Democratic Governors Association, ran TV ads attacking Bailey during the primary as "too conservative" for Illinois. The ads boosted Bailey's conservative credentials in the partisan contest, helping Bailey win 100 of 102 counties.

He struggled to gain traction in the general election against Pritzker, though. Bailey's tough-on-crime message failed to land with voters and Pritzker cruised to a 13-point victory that was called within minutes of the polls closing. Bailey won 42 percent of the vote, including just 24 percent of Cook County voters.

Bailey came back to the campaign trail in 2024 and billed himself as a more conservative alternative to Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Bost in the 12th Congressional District in Southern Illinois. Bost was an ally of President Donald Trump, who endorsed Bost over Bailey, despite endorsing Bailey's candidacy for governor. Bailey came up about 2,700 votes short.

Bailey told reporters on Sept. 25 he had not spoken with Trump but would consider seeking his endorsement.

Bailey joins the Republican primary field of DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick, conservative researcher Ted Dabrowski and Lake Forest businessman Joe Severino.

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 Foundation.

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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

FAQs about fall vaccine guidance

Southern 7 Health Department is working to keep the public updated about the latest information from the Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, and the federal government on the new fall vaccination guidance, especially for COVID-19.

IDPH has compiled a list of frequently asked questions, FAQs, about vaccines for Illinois residents. The local health department shared that the main take-away for Illinois residents is that COVID-19 vaccines are provided without consultation with your doctor first, however. As always, IDPH and Southern 7 Health Department encourage you to talk to your doctor, pharmacist or local health department provider if you have any vaccination concerns.

What is Illinois' fall vaccine guidance?

Flu vaccination is recommended for all people ages 6 months and older.

RSV immunization is recommended for:

All pregnant people during weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy.

All infants under the age of 8 months without maternal RSV vaccine protection entering their first RSV season.

Children ages 8 months through 19 months who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease.

Adults ages 50 years through 74 years at increased risk of severe RSV disease.

All adults ages 75 years and older.

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for:

All children ages 6 months through 23 months.

Children ages 2 years through 17 years who have at least one underlying risk factor, who have weakened immune systems, who have never been previously vaccinated for COVID-19, who live in congregate settings or live in households with those at risk for severe COVID-19.

Children ages 2 years through 17 years whose parents/guardians want them to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

All pregnant people and those who are planning pregnancy, those who are postpartum (after pregnancy), or during lactation.

All adults 18 years and older.

What does the standing order issued on September 23, 2025 do?

The standing order signed by IDPH director Sameer Vohra on September 23, 2025, aims to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines in settings like pharmacies by allowing health care professionals who may need a physician's order to administer vaccines, such as pharmacists and nurses, to give COVID-19 vaccines according to IDPH guidelines. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have accessed COVID-19 vaccines through community settings like pharmacies and local health departments, and the standing order helps maintain continuity of access in these settings.

What did the Governor's Executive Order issued on September 12, 2025 do?

It protects access to life-saving immunizations amid unprecedented uncertainty and actions at the federal level. The order establishes a Statewide Vaccine Access Initiative, led by the Illinois Department of Public Health in partnership with multiple state agencies, to ensure Illinoisans can get the vaccines they need and the science-based guidance they deserve. It requires the IDPH Director to issue a Standing Order to allow eligible providers in pharmacy and other appropriate clinical settings to administer vaccines recommended by IDPH. The standing order was released on September 23, 2025.

Why are immunizations, such as those for COVID-19 and other seasonal illnesses, important?

Immunizations are among the most important and effective public health tools in our lifetimes. The immunizations that are in use today, from childhood vaccinations against diseases like measles and polio, to seasonal shots to protect against influenza and COVID-19, have been shown through decades of research to be safe and effective. They protect the most vulnerable among us by helping to slow or prevent the spread of certain diseases, and reduce individuals' risk of contracting serious illness.

Why is Illinois issuing its own policies and guidance related to immunizations?

Since 1964, Illinois and other states have relied on the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, ACIP, to set vaccination policy and keep residents safe from preventable diseases. State officials say that in recent months the credibility and transparency of this committee has been altered by the current federal administration through a series of decisions, which have included the abrupt dismissal of CDC leaders and the membership of ACIP.

These moves have raised serious questions about the quality, reliability, and strength of the scientific evidence driving the guidance coming from the current ACIP. To ensure Illinoisans receive transparent and science-based information, Illinois is now taking steps to bolster our own statewide process to give Illinois residents information about, and access to, the critical immunizations that can prevent serious illness, keep people healthy, and save lives.

Will insurance cover COVID-19 vaccines?

Federal insurance programs, fully-insured plans subject to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and state-regulated insurance programs will cover COVID-19 shots. In recognition of the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine in preventing serious Illinois, most private insurers have also indicated their intention to continue covering the COVID-19 vaccine.

What about recommendations for other routine child and adult vaccines?

For routine, non-seasonal vaccines, IDPH recommends that health care providers continue to follow the CDC immunization schedules issued as of August 7, 2025, which are based on years of science, research, data and best practices.

Where can I find COVID-19 vaccines if my local pharmacy does not have any available?

If your local pharmacy does not have COVID-19 vaccines available, you can check several other options including your Local Health Department, LHD, community health centers, clinics and other authorized vaccination sites. The Illinois Department of Public Health maintains a vaccine locator tool on its website at dph.illinois.gov to assist families with locating vaccines for children eligible for the Vaccines for Children, VFC, program and for uninsured and underinsured adults.

Do these new fall respiratory virus recommendations impose any mandates?

These recommendations are not mandates. They represent the best scientific-backed guidance to help Illinoisans, in consultation with their providers, make the best choices to protect themselves and their families from preventable illnesses.

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet?

Oh…my…goodness…

Early Tuesday morning. It's about time to use our wonderful 21st century technology to send some important contributions to the local newspaper.

There's just one problem. Our wonderful 21st century technology is not working. "Check tel line" our old school landline is telling me. Must be the big ol' storm that we are not having. Maybe our wonderful 21st century technology does not like sunshine, a clear blue sky and a light breeze…

IMPORTANT UPDATE…after the unexplainable interruption which, fortunately, lasted for a few minutes, our wonderful 21st century technology returned.

It's possible that a squirrel once again chewed through some sort of connection involving the wonderful 21st century in our hometown. Apparently, gnawing rodents are a problem.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT UPDATE…just saw the "Check tel line" again. Sigh…

ONE MORE REALLY IMPORTANT UPDATE…our wonderful 21st century is back again. For now…

Meanwhile…

Doesn't seem possible. A glance at the "official" "retired" editor's calendar confirmed that October arrives this week. When it comes to keeping track of such things, my "smart" watch is falling a little bit behind these days. The watch, which was acquired at an auction long, long ago at an auction. The watch, like the person who wears it, both are getting a little bit older.

My time piece has been extremely reliable over the years. It shows me the time. The day. The date. That's pretty much all I need to know when I look at my wrist. To me, that's pretty smart.

Meanwhile…

Speaking of October…

The arrival of the 10th month of the year means that Christmas is not all that far away. And, for once, I actually have done some holiday shopping. My hope is to be finished before Halloween… when all of the Christmas season commercials start showing up on television.

Meanwhile…

CUBS WIN! CUBS WIN? CUBS WIN!

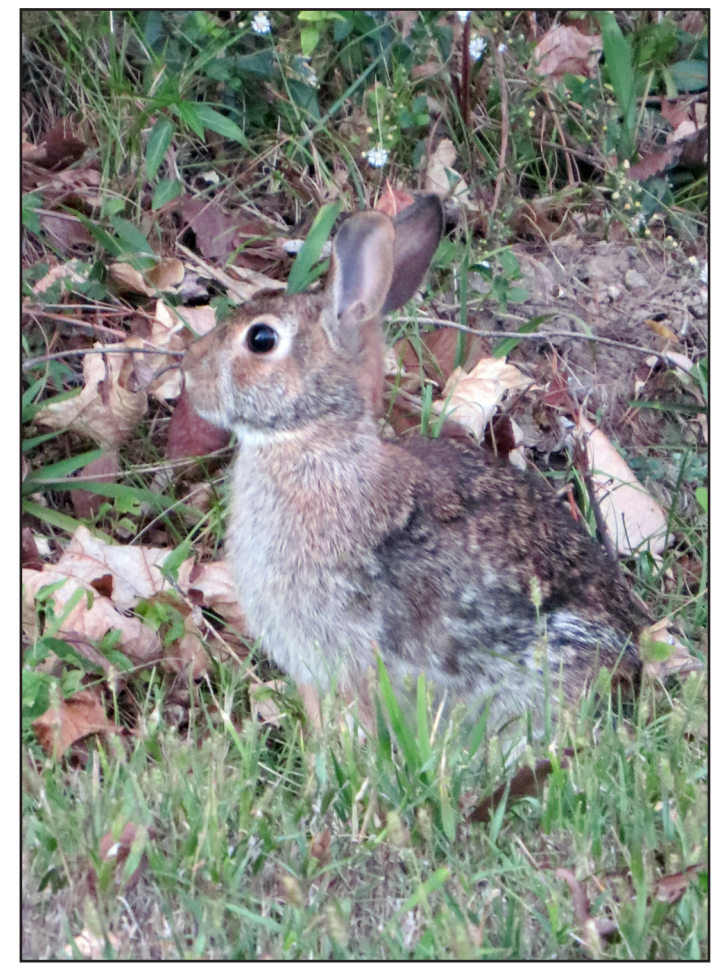
CARDS DON'T. That is all…

October's arrival brings with it a little bit of "October baseball." For some teams and their fans anyway. Truth be told, and this is really hard to write, I am happy for all of the Cubs fans out there. I had contacts with a couple of Cubs fans during the past week in the midst of The Other Half's recent big adventure in the health care system. She and the Cubs both are doing well.

Meanwhile…

Recent Critter Sightings have included…

Black wasps. Zillions of the Critters. For some reason, they have "invaded" our humble abode. Fortunately, they seem to harmless. I have made a game of of scooping them into a cup and setting them free in the great outdoors to do whatever black wasps do.



Little Bunny Foo Foo took a break from hopping down the bunny trail when it was spotted Sunday evening during a daily walkabout. There were no field mice to be seen.

A rabbit that looked like it had a really rough day…rather recently.

A cat…lounging on a sidewalk…I just let the Critter stay put…

A groundhog…spotted in the backyard Monday morning… munching on one of The Other Half's sweet potato plants. A rap on the window sent the Critter on its way…for the moment…

Not the Critter itself…but some muddy footprints that were left by a raccoon that paid a visit to our front porch. Maybe it wanted to sit on the porch swing.

Cobden Women's Club keeps busy: peaches, purpose and community pride

from the Cobden Women's Club

The Cobden Women's Club has had a sweet and spirited season these past few months—full of cobblers, community, and compassion.

August kicked off with the ever-popular Cobden Peach Festival (Aug. 8–9), where members and friends dished up peaches and cream and homemade cobbler.

While the festival was bittersweet after the loss of beloved longtime president LouAnn Hartline, the club honored her memory the best way they knew how—by serving with love and plenty of peach slices. A huge thank-you goes out to Flamm Orchards, the many friends and families who donated cobblers, and the peach-peeling-and-slicing crew that made it all possible.

September brought a shift from sweet treats to heartfelt purpose as the club helped host the Southern Illinois "Out of the Darkness" Suicide Prevention Walk with the Village of Cobden.

The event united the community in a powerful way, raising more than $10,000 for the Illinois Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Over 40 businesses pitched in raffle prizes, and sponsors SIH and Rural Health joined forces with community partners to provide resources.

Special thanks go to the BMen, who built and donated crosses for the walk, and to every participant who helped shine a light on hope and healing.

The Cobden Women's Club continues its mission of service, meeting the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church on Walker Street. Funds raised throughout the year support a variety of local efforts, from Bald Knob Cross and Operation Christmas Child, to Shop with a Cop, Wreaths for Cobden Cemetery, the Cobden School Food Pantry, and more.

Interested in joining this spirited group of women making a real difference? Contact Dianna Yates at 618-534-8936 for details—because in Cobden, there's always room for one more helping hand.





