

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Anna, Illinois

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News Notes

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

Temperatures fluctuated by more than 50 degrees during the past week in the Union County area. Some very light snow was even seen early Monday morning in some locations in the county. The low dropped to 19 degrees early Tuesday morning near Jonesboro.

Congratulations to the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School girls' country team on another outstanding season.

The City of Anna has set up an Angel Tree up in support of the Pay It Forward program. Gifts will be collected during the Light Up the Night parade planned during the Christmas in Downtown Anna celebrate on Nov. 29.

The first round of leaf and tree limb pick up is planned in the City of Anna. The city notes that those who would like to have leaves and limbs picked up must contact Anna City Hall at 833-8528 by Nov. 14. Leaves must be raked to the curb (but not into the street). Tree limbs must be no larger than 4 inches in diameter and no longer than 36 inches.

Entries for posters designed to celebrate local businesses and the holiday spirit are being accepted through Nov. 17 in a contest sponsored by the Union County CEO program. The contest is being held in conjunction with the upcoming Christmas in Downtown Anna celebration. Entries can be submitted by visiting the Union County CEO program's website and on social media.

A Small Town Christmas on the Jonesboro Square celebration is planned Saturday, Nov. 29. Special holiday season activities are planned, including a chance to write letters to Santa.

Cobden School's Junior and Senior Beta Clubs collected more than 1,000 pairs of socks during a Socktober campaign in October. Donations will go to the elementary food pantry and to Jesus Es El Senor to help those in need this winter.

The Anna Junior High School class of 2026 is planning to have a "Caffeine in the Car Line" event from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Nov. 21 at the school. The special event is sponsored by Kiki's CoffeeHouse in Anna.

Camp Ground Church in rural Anna will be celebrating their 175th of ministry on Sunday, Nov. 23. More information for the event will be published in next week's Gazette-Democrat.

Cobden School Beta Club and student council members attended a recent leadership workshop in Mt. Vernon.

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Veterans Day parade held in Anna

"Service to Our Nation" was theme of this year's Veterans Day parade in Anna. The parade was held Tuesday, Nov. 11, in Anna. The parade again was conducted by Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna. The parade followed its traditional route through the downtown Anna area. Big crowds were on hand to watch the parade – and to honor veterans for their service to the nation.

Anna commercial solar project moves forward

Plans are moving forward for the proposed development of a commercial solar energy project on the site of the City of Anna's now-closed landfill site.

The project was on the agenda at last week's regular meeting of the Anna City Council. The meeting was Tuesday evening, Nov. 4, at Anna City Hall.

The city had requested proposals for the possible development of a commercial solar energy system at the closed municipal landfill site, which is located along Kaolin Road between Anna and Cobden. Three proposals were received.

The proposals were reviewed at last week's city council meeting. After discussing the proposals, the council authorized city administrator Dori Bigler and city attorney Rhett Barke to pursue work on a lease agreement with AC Power LLC, a New York-based firm. The project would entail 55 to 75 acres at the former landfill site.

In other business at last week's meeting:

The nation will celebrate its 250th birthday 2026. The city is looking into ways to be a part of the special celebration. For many years, the city has hosted an Independence Day fireworks display at the Anna City Park.

Weather

High 73, low 20; very light snow; 0.03 of an inch of rain

Temperatures for the period of Nov. 4-10 in the Union County area ranged from a high of 73 degrees to a low of 20. Precipitation totaled 0.03 of an inch of rain. Very light snow was reported early Monday morning in some locations in the county

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

Tuesday, Nov. 4: high 69, low 37.

Wednesday, Nov. 5: high 72, low 46.

Thursday, Nov. 6: high 67, low 37.

Friday, Nov. 7: high 73, low 42.

Saturday, Nov. 8 : high 70, low 39. 0.03 of an inch of rain.

Sunday, Nov. 9: high 53, low 30.

Monday, Nov. 10: high 41, low 20.

The July 4th event has grown to include other activities. Ideas which are being considered for 2026 include a parade. Other Union County communities are being invited to offer input.

The council discussed rental/use of the city's new plaza venue which is located along East Davie Street. The plaza formally opened in early October. Mayor Steve Hartline as the city administrator and council members Kathy Bryan and Torie Carter to work on drafting guidelines related to the use of the plaza.

The city has received notification of a rate increase from the Anna-Jonesboro Water Commission. The commission provides water to the city. An increase of 15 cents per 1,000 gallons of water is planned. The city will increase its rate by a similar amount, effective in January 2026.

The council approved authorization to spend \$6,300 for a heating system at the city's wastewater treatment plant.

The city will be moving forward on plans to draft guidelines for the display of feather flags in the community. Safety concerns related to the signs, such as their potential distractions for motorists, are a key consideration.

Concerns are being addressed about the use of semi-tractor trailers on East Chestnut Street. Posting of signs prohibiting such use are being considered.

Infrastructure improvements in Southern Illinois highlighted

Southern Illinois infrastructure improvements were highlighted at a gathering on Wednesday, Nov. 5, in Carbondale.

Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT, joined local officials, transportation stakeholders, and labor leaders today to celebrate another historic round of investments in Southern Illinois infrastructure.

As part of \$400 million specifically identified to support 223 local projects, the governor announced a \$2 million investment in Carbondale to reconstruct and modernize Poplar, West Cherry and West College streets, as well as advance other projects across the region. The investment is part of the largest infrastructure program in state history, totaling \$50.6 billion over six years.

"The Carbondale Road Restoration Project is resurfacing and upgrading multiple critical roads that serve the most important focal points of this region," the governor said. "Across the state, our Rebuild Illinois program is getting shovels in the ground and putting Illinoisans to work on projects that are vital to community interest and helping grow the entire state. This ambitious program isn't just about rectifying the shortcomings of our past – it's about building something better for our future."

The Carbondale improvements will rehabilitate and modernize three streets in the heart of town: Poplar Street between West Mill and West Oak streets, West Cherry Street between South Oakland and South Illinois avenues and West College Street between South Forest and South University avenues.

Each of these routes provide connections to Southern Illinois University and SIH Memorial Hospital, two of the region's largest employers, as well as the Southern Illinois Multimodal Station, a new facility made possible through \$2.8 million in state funding that serves Amtrak, Greyhound and JAX Mass Transit.

The project consists of resurfacing the roads, fixing curbs and gutters, adding sidewalk ramps for people with disabilities, and including striping for dedicated bike lanes where possible. Construction is anticipated to begin within the year.

"The investment in these Carbondale streets will mean safer, more reliable options to get to your park, library school and other meaningful destinations in your lives," IDOT Secretary Gia Biagi said.

"Reconstructing Poplar, Cherry and College Streets is about more than fixing pavement – it's about strengthening the heart of Carbondale. These improvements will make travel safer, support our local busi-

nesses, and improve access to Southern Illinois University and SIH Memorial Hospital, two pillars of our community," Carbondale Mayor Carolin Harvey said. "Thanks to Governor Pritzker, IDOT and our friends in labor, this project represents the kind of partnership that drives real progress for Southern Illinois."

"This project is another great example of what happens when state leadership, local communities and organized labor work together to get things done," said Tate Wright, secretary-treasurer of Egyptian Building Trades. "Reconstructing Poplar, Cherry and College Streets will not only make Carbondale safer and more connected, but it will also create good-paying, local jobs for the men and women of the building trades. We're grateful to Governor Pritzker for his partnership and commitment to investing in Southern Illinois."

For IDOT's district covering Southern Illinois, \$1.1 billion is planned to improve state roads and bridges.

Among the projects advancing are:

\$14 million to reconstruct 1.4 miles and resurface 1.2 miles of Illinois 146 from Illinois 127 to U.S. 51 in Union County.

\$22 million to reconstruct a mile and resurface more than 13 miles of Illinois 34 from Illinois 37 to the Saline County line in Franklin County.

(continued on page 2)



Work continues on Anna City Park project

Work continues on a major project at the Anna City Park. Some of the work done so far includes extensive grading and the resizing of a pond at the park. Work also is underway on the installation of drainage pipes, as well as a concessions/restroom building. The project is scheduled to be completed by March of 2026.



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Infrastructure

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\$14.5 million to resurface and build new shoulders along nearly 7 miles of Illinois 152 from Illinois 127 to U.S. 51 in Perry County.

IDOT’s Fiscal Year 2026-31 Proposed Highway and Multimodal Improvement Program identifies a total investment of \$32.5 billion in roads and bridges, and \$18.1 billion for other modes, including \$13.8 billion for transit, \$2.9 billion for freight and passenger rail, \$1.2 billion for aviation, and \$200 million for ports and waterways.

This year’s multi-year program also made \$400 million available through special legislative appropriation backed by the governor to help further address local transportation needs, with consideration given to disadvantaged or economically distressed communities. Of the 223 awards, 177 are for roads, 34 for bike and pedestrian improvements, 10 for transit and two for ports.

IDOT is making several investments in local projects through the \$400 million appropriation, including:

\$2 million in Carbondale for road improvements.

\$2.2 million to complete the third and final phase of the Union Hill Road reconstruction in Jackson County.

\$918,000 to rehab the Pittsburg Road bridge in Williamson County.

IDOT’s latest multi-year program is both comprehensive and multimodal, with investments in roads and bridges, aviation, transit, freight and passenger rail, waterways and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. Projects are across state and local jurisdictions and in all 102 counties. The \$50.6 billion eclipses the previous record of \$41.4 billion set last year.

Passed in 2019, Rebuild Illinois is not only the largest capital program in state history, but also the first one that touches all modes of Illinois transportation. To date, IDOT has completed through Rebuild Illinois approximately \$20.8 billion of improvements statewide on 21,309 lane miles of highway, 815 bridges and 1,181 additional safety projects.

News Notes

(continued from page 1)

Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna recently welcomed Southern Illinois natives Justin and Ashten Webb of Marion, who shared their new children’s book, titled “Nelson & Winslow Celebrate the 618.” The book, inspired by the Webbs’ two dachshunds, Nelson and Winslow, celebrates the things that make Southern Illinois special.

A free presentation about wooly worms is set for 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna. The program is being presented by University of Illinois Extension’s AJMPU Unit.

A story time with Jonesboro’s police chief is planned at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at the Jonesboro Public Library.

In commemoration of Veterans Day, Shawnee Community College planned to host “Hometown Heroes Night” at women’s and men’s basketball games Wednesday evening, Nov. 12. Veterans and emergency services personnel were to have been honored.

Ribbon cutting, fundraiser held by Just Peachy Cleaners

Grand opening
Tiffany Bowels, owner of Just Peachy Cleaners, was joined by family, friends and members of the community to commemorate their official grand opening at their office in Anna. The event was also used to raise funds and resources for children in the care of the Department of Children and Family Services.

A ribbon-cutting celebration and fundraiser was held by Tiffany Bowels and the Union County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development to commemorate the official grand opening of Just Peachy Cleaners. The event was held on Saturday, Nov. 8 at their office in Anna, located on E. Vienna St.

Just Peachy Cleaners has been operating in the region for four years, servicing homes and businesses in Union County and beyond.

“We do an hour radius around the area, but we are growing, so we can do other

places too,” said Tiffany. “We do companies in Metropolis, Marion, we’re getting ready to include Cape.”

Just Peachy Cleaners specializes in commercial and business cleans, but they do residential jobs as well. Tiffany says that the strength of her staff helps to provide the right kind of service to their clients.

“We can specialize each home to their cleaners, or businesses to their cleaners. We are not once size fits all,” says Tiffany. “I have such a good-sized team that I can specify and fit the home or

business with the perfect cleaner for them.”

The grand opening celebration was also used to help generate funds and resources for the Department of Children and Family Services.

Children placed in temporary protective custody often lack personal comfort and hygiene supplies for the first few days before finding suitable foster care. Attendees to the event were encouraged to bring care items for these displaced children.

Bowels says that she saw the need in our area and wanted to raise awareness.

She summed it up in a quote she found online: “When we give to foster children, we are not just donating items, we’re giving hope, comfort and a reminder that they matter.”

“We are going to continue to take donations,” said Tiffany. “So after today, if you have stuff to donate or monetary donations that you want to bring by, we are going to keep this going. Maybe make it an annual thing.”

To donate, or to inquire about their cleaning services, contact Just Peachy Cleaners at 1 618-922-2414.

New state funding formula boosts support for Illinois libraries

A new state funding formula is designed to increase resources for underserved and rural public libraries in Illinois. Libraries in the Southern Illinois area are among those that will benefit from the program.

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias led a legislative effort to change the library Equalization Aid Grant formula, increasing the eligibility from 17 serving 77,000 residents to 108 public libraries serving more than 700,000 residents across the state while freeing up additional funds.

“While the federal government seeks to scrap programs and slash critical funding for libraries nationwide, Illinois is investing in our residents and communities,” Giannoulias said in a news release. “As a result, more underserved and rural libraries will have access to new funding, quality library materials and essential services. Now more than ever, libraries serve as pillars of our communities, and it’s essential they have the financial support and resources to enable them to thrive.”

Since the 1960s, the state has provided Equalization Aid Grants to support libraries that fail to meet an adequate funding threshold because of low tax bases, which means fewer tax dollars are available to support them. This creates financial disparities in available materials, programming, and even the structural conditions of library buildings.

Giannoulias spearheaded an effort, approved by the Illinois General Assembly, to raise the base minimum funding from \$7.50 per person in a library’s service population to \$17.50 per person, dra-

matically increasing funding for libraries in the most underserved communities. The funding allows libraries to implement needed physical or technological upgrades, purchase new learning materials and provide community programming.

The increased state funding announcement comes as the federal government moved to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services, IMLS, last March and has threatened future federal funding, which will cost Illinois libraries approximately \$6 million each year.

Meanwhile, libraries have taken on additional roles in supporting their communities, especially in recent years when it comes to providing access to information and support services for residents.

To be eligible for the grants, libraries must certify that they are compliant with the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights, that ensures reading materials are not removed or restricted due to partisan or personal disapproval. Libraries may also issue a statement prohibiting the practice of banning books. Currently, all 108 eligible libraries comply.

Support for Area Libraries Grants for some of the libraries in the Southern Illinois region include:

Jonesboro Public Library: Fiscal Year 2026 grant amount, \$5,599.14. The library previously was not eligible for the program.

Cairo Public Library: FY 2026 grant amount, \$15,653.26. The library previously was not eligible.

Mounds Public Library: FY 2026 grant amount, \$7,608; previous grant amount, \$1,417.25.

Vienna Carnegie Public Library: FY 2026 grant amount, \$10,366.46. The library previously was not eligible.

Sallie Logan Public Library, Murphysboro: FY 2026 grant amount, \$24,227.61. The library previously was not eligible.

Metropolis Public Library: FY 2026 grant amount, \$32,594.12. The library previously was not eligible.

“Libraries are foundational to vibrant and informed communities. With federal funding on shaky ground, these strengthened state investments are arriving at a pivotal time. Libraries are stepping up to meet growing community needs, yet many have been operating with insufficient resources for years. This new formula ensures that more Illinois residents, regardless of ZIP code, have access to strong, stable library services. We appreciate Secretary Giannoulias’ leadership in advancing equitable and sustainable support for our libraries,” said Cyndi Robinson, Executive Director of the Illinois Library Association.

"All communities deserve strong libraries with modern technology and relevant collections to serve their residents, and these equalization grants make a real

difference for those most in need. At a time when communities across our state are experiencing tremendous financial pressures, every single Illinois resident deserves access to strong libraries equipped with modern technology and relevant collections to help support them in their toughest times. We are grateful to Secretary Giannoulias and the Illinois State Library for investing in libraries that need this support the most," said Monica Harris, executive director of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System.

“We are grateful to the Secretary's leadership in the increased investment in public libraries, especially during a time when federal funding remains uncertain. This investment is a great benefit to residents. Our libraries serve as lifelines for millions of Illinoisans. From providing free internet access to offering children’s programming, libraries carry families through financially difficult times. Now, with rising inflation and the suspension of SNAP benefits, residents need libraries more than ever. This additional funding will help the selected libraries meet these growing community needs,” said Leslie Bednar, executive director of the Illinois Heartland Library System.

Worship at Kornthal

The Alliance of Churches worship at Kornthal will be held at 2pm, Sunday, December 23rd. Kornthal is located 2 miles south of Jonesboro off Illinois 127. Coming up, Christmas at Kornthal, December 9th at 6:30 pm.

Union County Alliance of Churches

Recommendations

1 Thanksgiving Worship, Kornthal, Sun 11/23 - 2PM

2 Potluck later at Old Depot-Anna at 6PM

3 “The Closet” clothing for everyone at your price, next door to Dollar General – Anna.

4 “The Old Depot” 6 pm. Free dinner, live praise, fellowship, everyone welcome, come as you are.

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Obituaries

Karen Kickasola Reichert

Karen Kickasola Reichert, age 77 of Grand Chain, Ill. passed away at 6:20 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025 at her home.

She was a beloved momma, granny, and great-granny. She missed her husband, Skip Reichert, over the last six years.

She loved watching her grandkids play sports and playing with her great grandkids. Her Sundays were spent at church and visiting with her twin, Sharon, and friend, Brenda.

Her Wednesdays were spent visiting, eating, and playing cards with Grand Chain friends. he will be remembered for her love and ability of cooking for others, especially her cinnamon rolls.

Karen grew up in Unionville on a family farm. She worked at Allied before deciding to become a full time mother. Later, she worked at the Grand Chain Post Office, Grand Chain First State Bank and retired from Vienna's Banterra Bank.

She was a lifetime member of Mt. Sterling Cumberland Presbyterian Church. For a few years, they attended Milburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church and was very active with their Sunday school class.

She left behind her daughter, Penny (Tim) Bellamey, and son, Jasson (Leah) Reichert; grandkids, Alex (Amber) Bellamey, Lauren Grace (Wes) Belt, Madison Re-



ichert and Nolan Reichert; great-grandkids, Emmett, Elijah, and Hazel; her sister, Sharon Pegram, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Larry "Skip" Reichert; her parents, Lawrence (LT) and Pearline Kickasola.

Funeral services honoring the life of Mrs. Karen Reichert were held on Saturday, Nov. 8 at Wilson Funeral Home in Karnak. Rev. Doug Hughes will be officiated.

Interment followed at the Masonic Cemetery in Grand Chain.

Pallbearers were Alexander Bellamey, Nolan Reichert, John Hannan, Kevin Reichert, Jason Neelley and Sean Pegram.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Century FFA.

The staff at Wilson Funeral Home would like to express our sincere condolences to the Karen Reichert family.

Joe H. McMahan

Joe H. McMahan, age 87 of Anna, went home to his Savior, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025 with his family by his side.

He was born Oct. 11, 1938 in Wolf Lake, the son of Merritt Estin and Beulah E. (Bittle) McMahan.

He married Gale Scivally on Dec. 14, 1963 in Mt. Carmel. She preceded him in death on June 7, 2006.

Joe is survived by his two sons, Joseph McMahan of Anna, and Randy McMahan of Anna; five grandchildren, Cody McMahan of Anna, Andrew McMahan of Troy, Kyle McMahan of Anna, Darci McMahan of Anna and Sarah McMahan of Chicago; four great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; sister, Vickie (Gary) Sadler of Cape Girardeau, Mo.; numerous nieces and nephews; cousins; other relatives and close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Gale McMahan; two sisters, Millie Gardner and Patricia Schlenker; brother, Archie McMahan, and infant brother, Merrit Junior McMahan.

Joe honorably served his country in the United States Army and was a member of the American Legion.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Anna where he served as deacon for many years. Joe was an avid Car-



dinal Baseball fan and enjoyed going to the local coffee shops to socialize. He had several spots he would go to in the morning and afternoon with his friends when he was able.

Early in his working career he farmed and worked for Illinois Central Gulf Railroad and later retiring from the Canadian National Railroad.

Graveside services were on Sunday, Nov. 9 at the Anna Cemetery with Bro. Jack Thornton and Bill Littrell officiating.

Graveside military rites were conducted by the Army Funeral Honor Team. Interment followed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are preferred to the First Baptist Church in Anna. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Billy Mac Travis

Billy Mac Travis, age 68 of Jonesboro, died Monday, Oct. 27, 2025 at St. Louis Medical Center.

He was born Oct. 4, 1957 in Anna, the son of Billy Lee and Maxine (Lingle) Travis.

Billy Mac is survived by his son, Jeremy Travis of Murphysboro; daughter, Rachel Travis of Wolf Lake; grandchildren, Cray Peterman, Kenlee Metzger, Gage Travis,

and Brianna Travis; sister, Jennifer Brown of Anna; numerous relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Billy Mac worked many years as a tugboat captain until his retirement. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Memorial services are pending and will be announced at a later date.

Freida June Sheible

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of our mother, Freida June Sheible while surrounded by the comfort and love of all five of her daughters.

Our heavy hearts find comfort in the thought of mom being greeted by Jesus with her mother and step father, Ola Mae and Clarence Essex and her father and step mother Freeman and Nettie Rodgers.

Freida will be greatly missed by her five daughters Marcy Money (Clyde) Abernathy, Gigi Money (Ralph) Mize, Terri Money (Robert) Kisro, Karen Money (David) Frayser, Leslie Money (Chip) Markel. Freida loved all her sons in law just as her own.

Freida enjoyed hours of cooking in her kitchen amongst the chaos that ensued with the house full of her children and grandchildren.

Freida also enjoyed Scrabble and word games, sewing, canning, and hummingbirds.

After raising all 5 daughters, Freida ventured out of the home to start a new journey and at the age of 50 she enrolled in nursing school and worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse for the next 20 years.

Freida will be missed by her 13 grandchildren; Kari, CJ, Matthew, Justin, Kristin, Kaci, Erica, Kyle, Brendan, Sean, Austin, Shannon and Toni; and 19 great grandchildren who gave her much joy.

She will also be greatly missed by her special sister Jo Ann (Tony) Sissom; sisters, Lisa Rodgers, Joyce Bearden; brothers Hank (Tina) Rodgers, Gary Rodgers, Skippy (Phyllis) Rodgers, Mickey Rodgers, Ronnie Rodgers, Junior Rodgers, and Steve (Lisa) Es-



Paul Michael Spiller

Paul Michael Spiller, age 76, of Carterville, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on Dec. 21, 1948, in Anna the son of Paul L. and Margaret Ann (Brust) Spiller. On Nov. 14, 1967, he married the love of his life, Nancy K. Spiller.

Paul is survived by his devoted wife, Nancy; daughter, Robin (Jay) Hampton of Carterville and cherished grandchildren, Chelsie Coulter (fiancé Nick Scroggins) and Trevor Coulter (Elena Novelli) of Herrin.

He is also survived by his sisters, Janna Kasper of Anna and Cathy (Lonnie) Hinton of Vienna; sister-in-law, Betty (Jerry Bloch) of Snohomish, Wash.; brother-in-law, John (Shirley) Spiller of Prescott Valley, Ariz.; along with several nieces, nephews, extended family members, and many dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; in-laws, Richard and Lorena Spiller; and his beloved son, Paul Michael Jr.

Margie Williams

Margie Williams, age 90 of Tamm, Ill., passed away at home surrounded by family on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025.

She was born on July 28, 1935 to Hubert and Dot (Latamondeer) Merryman in Dorena, Mo.

Margie was a homemaker and spent many years volunteering her time and love at both hospitals in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Survivors include her children, Steve Williams, Jeff Williams, and Shelly (Bob) Britt; 11 grandchildren, Dena Blake-more, Bobbi Jo Clubbs, Brandy Renshaw, David Williams, Jeremy Britt, Kayla Williams, Daniel Williams, Robbie Britt, Casey Williams, Cheyenne Williams, and Brandon Williams; 14 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Annie Rice.



sex. Mom is loved and will be missed by her special sister-in-law and frequent cohort Phyllis Menees Rodgers.

Freida was preceded in death by her siblings Susan, Donnie, Harley, Lawrence, Stretch, and Dewey and special sister-in-law Joyce.

We would like to express our utmost thanks and appreciation to Providence Hospice and the entire staff of The Lutheran Home. We cannot speak highly enough of the care, support and many prayers that our mother, lovingly known to all as “Feisty Freida”, received while under their care. Mom was famous for her good attitude and quick wit even in her final days. Special thanks to her granddaughters Kaci and Bobbie for caring for her as hospice nurses.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests with gratitude, that memorial contributions be made in the form of donations to Providence Hospice.

Visitation was held on Monday, Nov. 10, 2025 at Crain Funeral Home in Anna. Interment followed the service at Green Lawn Memorial Gardens in Villa Ridge, Ill.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna, Illinois is in charge of arrangements.



Paul proudly served his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, abroad the aircraft carrier USS America. He was a lifelong member of VFW Post #3455 in Anna.

Paul worked in the communications field for 33 years before retiring in 2004.

A private interment will be held at a later date at the Cobden Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warrior Project at WoundedWarriorProject.org



Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her son, Tim Williams; four sisters; and one brother.

A Graveside Service was held on Thursday, Nov. 6, with Rev. Brent Gordon officiating at Richwood Cemetery in Tamm with interment following the service.

Crain Funeral Home in Tamm is in charge of arrangements.

Helen Elaine Bone

Helen Elaine Bone, age 78, of Vandalia, passed away on Monday, Oct. 27, 2025 at Integrity of Cobden in Cobden, Ill.

She was born on Oct. 25, 1947 to Henry and Ollie Bell (Jackson) Elder in Vandalia, Ill.

Helen was a homemaker and loved listening to Classic Country Music and she loved to sing and dance.

Survivors include her children, Tina (Bone) Mullenix, husband, Chad and Tony Bone (Dawn Brashear); four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; multiple nieces and nephews; sister, Mary Willing; and brother, LeRoy (Judy) Elder.

Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her siblings, Thelma Tornai, Alvey Elder, Eilene



Chapman, Shirley Fulton, Betty June Elder, and Junior Elder. No services will be held at this time.

The cremation of Helen Elaine Bone will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna, Illinois is in charge of arrangements.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

This past week was absolutely wonderful weather wise. The trees were gorgeous, the temperature very nice and rain light if you had any at all. Paige Ralls and I were remarking at work that we have had an extra spring burst of flowers in bloom. Her roses look wonderful and I have lilac, forsythia, and roses blooming, and our church has azaleas that are blazing in color. They won't last long with the forecast I've seen.

The grandkids and most of the adults at our home enjoyed a bon fire with s'mores Saturday. Later Saturday night, a cold front hit and brought with it a lot of wind, so a lot of those colorful leaves are now on the ground. We even saw a bit of lightning, but only a light sprinkle of rain.

The temperatures are going to drop into the 20's several nights and that's just unthinkable. Sunday morning was chilly, gloomy, and we had more sprinkles of rain. Of course, it's supposed to warm back up again, but it's fall so we'll continue with the ups and downs in temperatures.

Thankfully, I was able to finally get out to the cemetery to change out flowers and also worked on cleaning up the porches and patios, trading Halloween decorations for Thanksgiving. All my plants I intend to winter over are inside now, and the rest are on their own. Most left outside are annuals anyway. Soon we'll be dragging the ladder out and clearing gutters. Fall is nearly as much work as spring.

The way time is scooting along I'll be putting up Christmas soon! There are many folks who have already decorated their homes for Christmas. I fall under the family tradition of not putting up my tree until after Thanksgiving (although I've done it a time or two before). The same applies with mailing out Christmas cards. Of course, not too many folks do cards anymore.

It's kind of sad. Anyway, this year I'm looking to buy a new big tree, so it will have to wait until I find one I like and on sale. I am NOT doing a real tree inside...it's just too messy

Anna VFW events planned

Mystify Music will be at the Anna VFW from 7 to 11 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14.

Star Karaoke will be at the post from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov 16.

Monday, Nov. 17, the Anna VFW will hold a joint meeting of the Post and Auxiliary at 5 p.m. The auxiliary will hold their monthly business meeting at 6 p.m. and the post will hold their monthly business meeting at 7 p.m.

with carpet.

Mill Creek Baptist Church had their annual Soup & Chili Supper with Auction on Saturday night and it was a rousing success. The place was packed, not only with items but with people, as some counted 100 and some over that. In any event, all got into the spirit of competition and made the night highly entertaining.

We had quite a few first-time attendees, as well. Some looked a bit shell shocked afterwards, but reported they'd had a great time and left with desserts and gift baskets. We definitely need more chili next time, as soups seemed to be what most folks brought, and the chili went quick. However, desserts were plentiful. I for one had very few leftovers to bring home, and what I did have, I divided up with my daughter and her leftovers, so we both had a variety of stuff.

Brother Bobby Richardson gave his message Sunday morning from Philippians 4:8 -9, which has the Apostle Paul telling us to meditate on certain things. Paul lists these things: whatever is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, of any virtue, and praiseworthy. Brother Bob noted that meditating on God can be done by us all...no matter our age, our location, our level in our walk with God. He always hears us and as Paul said, He “will be with you”. We aren't to focus on the bad stuff either, but the list Paul gave us. Take time out of your day to spend some time with God in meditation. Find a quiet place, a place to be alone with Him, and just talk to Him, but be prepared to listen, as well.

Those added to the prayer list are: Caden Gurley, healing; Lula Belle Tripp, healing; Alyssa Novelli, upcoming procedure; Pat Mowery, her sister, Anita, and brother-in-law, and Glenna Branscum, for a car accident, and be with the families of Gerald Lingle, Bradley Schlenker, Sharon Kohler, Mary Ellen Lawrence, and Margie Williams in their passings.

Union County Fixin's

Quick and Easy Nut Clusters
1 cup milk chocolate chips
1 teaspoon shortening
1 cup broken pecans

In microwave safe bowl, place chips and shortening, then microwave 1 to 1 1/2 minutes or until smooth when stirred. Stir in nuts.

Spoon heaping teaspoonfuls onto parchment paper or wax paper lined cookies sheets, or into mini cupcake liners for gift giving. Cool until firm.

Place in air-tight container and keep in cool spot.

View Obituaries Online at
annanews.com

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

Sunday, Nov. 9
The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on Nov. 9. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team. The message “Soldiers Of The Cross” was brought by Pastor Wright from 2 Timothy 2:3, Romans 13:7, 1 Corinthians 4:2, John 14:15, Matthew 28:19-20, Revelation 2:10.
The evening service on Nov. 9 at 6 p.m. was canceled
Celebrating birthdays this week are: 12th Meranda Wright, 13th Scotty Thompson

Sunday, Nov. 16
Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service-10:35 a.m
Missionary Poverty Dinner-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 19
Wednesday Night Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.
Youth Group in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.
You may contact the church by calling the church office at 618-833-6702 and leaving a message if necessary or by calling Pastor Wright at 618-534-7103

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

Bro. Easton’s sermons the past two weeks have been “A Prayer for Spiritual Growth”; his main scripture selection was Ephesians 3:14-21.
How comforting it is to know or learn that someone is praying for us. The scripture selected is a prayer of the Apostle Paul for the church at Ephesus.
First, Paul prayed that the Jews and Gentiles in the Ephesian church would be unified. He also prayed for the church to be strong in their faith, and challenged them to keep Christ in their hearts.
There is nothing greater than the love of God - infinite beyond our comprehension and cannot be measured.
Paul went on to explain that his prayer was for the church at Ephesus to love as Christ loved, be concerned for others, and to grow spiritually. In this way, they would grow to be everything the Lord created them for.
This passage is also a challenge for The Church today: to seek unity with all believers, and love so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.
Like a well-established plant, we must be rooted and established in love through Jesus so that the storms of life with not

Roach yesterday, the 12th.
Rodney and Donna Jean had a wedding anniversary November 1.
This year has been the 175th year for Camp Ground Church. We will be celebrating this milestone on Sunday, November 23. We invite you to join us on this special Sunday as we tudy, worship, and enjoy a potluck and fellowship at noon.
We also 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.

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



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A Sense of Humor



Photo Credit Istockphoto.com/SednevaAnna

Mark Twain declared, “Humor is mankind’s greatest blessing.” Though we often think of laughter in frivolous terms, it is indispensable to our physical and emotional health. A shared laugh can brighten anyone’s day. Laughter can draw us out of our world of problems; a common sense of humor is vital to lasting relationships; speakers use humor to get and keep our attention. No wonder there is a lot of “sense” in humor. Because of our capacity to suffer deeply, God must have known we’d need humor as a part of our lives. As you worship this week, give God special thanks for laughter!

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Job	Psalms	Psalms	Psalms	Psalms	Psalms	Psalms
42.1-17	138	145	146	147	148	149
Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society						

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Apostolic Lighthouse Church



Breakfast and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
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Midweek service Wednesday at 7 p.m.

423 S. Front St. Cobden, IL 51-3GC



You're Invited! CrossPointe Church

409 S. Green St, Anna, IL 62906 (Corner of West Spring and S. Green St)

Sunday
Worship Service
10:30am

Wednesday
Bible Study
7pm

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

The Gazette-Democrat Classified Section

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AD DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. MONDAY

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Help Wanted: Part-time or full-time in an office setting. Part-time: approximately 20-25 hours a week between the operating hours of 8-4, primarily Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday with some flexibility. Full-time: Monday-Friday 8-4. Benefits include paid holidays/vacation/sick leave/health/life insurance/retirement benefits for full-time. Minimum qualifications: At least 18 year of age, must be able to pass a background check, and have basic computer skills. For more information, please contact Alexander County Circuit Clerk's Office at 618-734-0107 or email alexcocls19@gmail.com

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE INTEREST OF:
MELODY B. NOBLE,
A Minor.
NO. 2025-JA-10
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
PURSUANT TO 705 ILCS
405/2-16
Lauren Brooke Morris, ANY
AND ALL KNOWN AND
UNKNOWN FATHERS,
and to ALL WHOM IT MAY
CONCERN:

TAKE NOTICE that on 7/30/2025 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by TYLER E. TRIPP, Union County State's Attorney, by his Assistant State's Attorney, Thomas E. Bucher, in the Circuit Court of Union County entitled "In the interest of MELODY B. NOBLE, a minor", and that in Judge Tyler R. Edmonds courtroom at Union County Courthouse, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, Illinois on Thursday, the 20th day of November, 2025, at the hour of 9:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Dated: _____
Date of Publication
8221-959546

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE INTEREST OF:
JONAH NOBLE,
A Minor.
NO. 2025-JA-9
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
PURSUANT TO 705 ILCS
405/2-16
Lauren Brooke Morris, ANY
AND ALL KNOWN AND
UNKNOWN FATHERS,
and to ALL WHOM IT MAY
CONCERN:

TAKE NOTICE that on 7/30/2025 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by TYLER E. TRIPP, Union County State's Attorney, by his Assistant State's Attorney, Thomas E. Bucher, in the Circuit Court of Union County entitled "In the interest of JONAH NOBLE, a minor", and that in Judge Tyler R. Edmonds courtroom at Union County Courthouse, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, Illinois on Thursday, the 20th day of November, 2025, at the hour of 9:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIAN-

23 degrees West along said West right-of-way line, 618.7 feet; thence Northeasterly at a right angle to the last described course, 100 feet to the East line of said right-of-way; thence Southerly and Southeasterly along said East right-of-way line, 1970 feet, more or less, to the Northeasterly extension of the Southeast line of Lot 15 in Block 12, said Block 12 being bounded on the North by Pine Street, on the West by Poplar Street, and on the South by Chestnut Street; thence Southwesterly along said Northeasterly extension of the Southeast line of Lot 15, 100 feet, more or less, to the West line of said 100 foot wide right-of-way; thence Northwesterly and Northerly along said West right-of-way line, 1405 feet, more or less, to return to the point of beginning.

Grantor reserves for itself, its successors and assigns all coal, oil, gas, ores and any other minerals whether similar or dissimilar or now known to exist or hereafter discovered of every kind in, on or under said premises, together with the right at any time to explore, drill for, mine, remove and market all such products in any manner which will not damage structures on the surface of said premises. Grantee will release for

itself, its successors or assigns the Grants, its successors or assigns from any liability for any damages attributable to removing said minerals and this release shall run with the land.

Grantor reserves the right for the continued maintenance, replacement and use of all existing driveways, roads, conduits, sewers, water mains, gas lines, electric power lines, wires and other utilities and easements on said premises whether or not of record including the repair, reconstruction and replacement thereof and Grantee agrees not to interfere with the rights herein reserved or any facilities used pursuant thereto.

AND
Lot Numbered Two (2) in W.R. Abernathy Addition to the Village of Alto Pass, Union County, Illinois.

Property Index Number 07-10-05-280-X5 & 14-00-11-015

On March 4, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. the Petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on February 5, 2025 for general taxes of the year 2023. The period of redemption will expire March 2, 2026.

Stuart E. Morgenstern, Attorney

for Petitioner
(618) 357-5315
Cert. # 2023-00081 &
202300185
8221-959366

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
ART LODGE,
DECEASED.
NO. 2025-PR-20
IN PROBATE
NOTICE OF DEATH,
INDEPENDENT
ADMINISTRATION,
AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Art Lodge of 51 Denny Drive Apt. 50, Anna, IL 62906. Letters of Office were issued on October 23, 2025, to Gary Lodge, 1594 Piney Ridge Road, Franklin, NC 28734, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

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 62952, or with the Independent Administrator, or both, on or before April 30,

2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Independent Administrator 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 Administrator and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: October 27, 2025
GARY LODGE
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY NO. 6244394
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
8221-959206

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE FIRST
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF:
SHIRLEY ANN BENNETT
deceased.
NO. 2025PR19
Notice is given to the creditors

of Shirley Ann Bennet of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of Office were issued on October 16, 2025 to Debora Hicks, 8830 N. Amboy, Citrus Springs, FL 34433 as Independent Administrator whose attorney of record is Philip J. Bernstein, 1189 Ridgewood Dr., Highland Park, IL 60035

The Estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (7555 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the Circuit Court, Union County, IL, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, IL, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 30, 2026, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the probate Act, the date stated in that notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Court must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

8221-959175

2026 Illinois primary election

More than 630 candidates file for state, federal, judicial offices

By Brenden Moore
Capitol News Illinois
SPRINGFIELD – Illinois

Treasurer Mike Frerichs won his first statewide race in 2014 by fewer than 10,000 votes against his Republican opponent. More than a decade later, Frerichs, at least for now, is unopposed for a fourth term as the state's chief investment officer.

No Republican filed to run for state treasurer by the close of the week-long filing period for the March 17, 2026, primary election, marking, according to Frerichs' campaign, the first time in at least 90 years a major party has failed to field a candidate for a statewide office.

It reflects the enfeebled position of the Illinois GOP, which has not won a statewide election in more than a decade and has been relegated to superminority status in the state legislature and on the Illinois Supreme Court. The party also holds just three of 17 congressional seats.

Frerichs likely won't get a free pass, though. A Republican can run as a write-in candidate and win if they secure at least 5,000 votes in the primary. Or the Illinois Republican State Central Committee can appoint a candidate to the general election ballot after the primary if they submit 5,000 valid signatures from registered voters.

In all, more than 630 candidates submitted petitions to run for state, federal and judicial offices, including dozens seeking to take advantage of a generational turnover in the state's congressional delegation. It is likely, however, that several candidates will be tossed from the ballot due to lacking the requisite number of valid signatures on their nominating petitions and other disqualifying mistakes.

Gubernatorial Field Takes Shape

Despite lack of interest in the state treasurer's race, the contest for governor has drawn seven Republican hopefuls vying to take on Demo-

cratic Gov. JB Pritzker, who is seeking a third term.

The GOP field includes the party's 2022 nominee Darren Bailey, former conservative think tank executive Ted Dabrowski and DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick.

A late addition to the field is video gambling tycoon Rick Heidner, who formed a campaign committee a couple weeks ago and filed his petitions on the final day of the filing period.

Bailey has been off the campaign trail since the death of his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren in a late October helicopter crash in Montana. Running mate Aaron Del Mar told Capitol News Illinois last week that Bailey was "taking time to think" about next steps but had received encouragement from President Donald Trump to stay in the race.

Bailey easily has the highest name recognition of the candidates after his statewide run four years ago, when he handily won the GOP primary before losing by 13 percentage points to Pritzker in the general election.

Dabrowski and Heidner have each raised more than \$1 million, the former through a handful of wealthy donors and the latter through his own funds, thus far, indicating that they will have resources to compete for the nomination.

Other Republicans who filed for governor include Gregg Moore of Broadview, Joseph Severino of Lake Forest and Max Solomon of Hazel Crest.

Pritzker, a self-funding billionaire, faces nominal opposition in the Democratic primary.

Other Statewide Offices

Meanwhile, two Republicans filed to run for secretary of state. Walter Adamczyk of Chicago filed last week. He previously ran as a write-in candidate for Chicago City Council in 2023. Joining the field on Monday was Diane

Harris of Joliet, who has previously run unsuccessful races for Congress, state Senate and state House.

The winner would take on incumbent Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, who is unopposed in the Democratic primary.

Three Republicans filed petitions on Monday to challenge Democratic Attorney General Kwame Raoul, who is seeking a third term and is unopposed in his party's primary.

Among them is former Chicago Ald. Bob Fioretti, who has unsuccessfully run unsuccessfully for Chicago mayor, Cook County board president, Cook County state's attorney and state Senate. Also running is JoAnne Guillemette of Chicago, who came in a distant third in the 2022 Illinois 16th Congressional District GOP primary, and Andy Williams Jr. of Darien, who dubs himself the "hood candidate" on his social media platforms.

Meanwhile, five candidates filed in the competitive Democratic primary to replace incumbent Comptroller Susana Mendoza, who is not seeking reelection. State Rep. Margaret Croke of Chicago, state Rep. Stephanie Kifowit of Aurora, Lake County treasurer Holly Kim of Mundelein, state Sen. Karina Villa of West Chicago and Champaign County auditor George Danos filed.

Only one Republican filed in the race: personal injury attorney and small business owner Bryan Drew of Benton, who ran unsuccessfully for circuit court judge in 2024.

The lack of well-known or prominent GOP candidates for the non-gubernatorial statewide offices is a departure from four years ago, when candidates included two state lawmakers, a former United States attorney and a county auditor.

Congressional Turnover
The retirements of Sen. Dick Durbin and three longtime U.S.

House members set off a massive upheaval in the state's congressional delegation.

It was reflected in filings for office. In total, 22 candidates, 14 Democrats and eight Republicans, filed to replace Durbin, while more than 60 candidates submitted petitions to run for five open congressional seats.

In the 2nd Congressional District, which stretches from Chicago's South Side to Danville, 10 Democrats and two Republicans filed to replace Rep. Robin Kelly, D-Lynwood, who is running for Durbin's seat.

In the 7th Congressional District, which includes Chicago's West Side and western suburbs, 13 Democrats and two Republicans filed to succeed retiring Rep. Danny Davis, D-Chicago.

In the northwest suburban-based 8th Congressional District, eight Democrats and four Republicans filed petitions. Incumbent Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Schaumburg, is running for Senate.

In the 9th Congressional District, which includes Chicago's far North Side and northern suburbs, 17 Democrats and four Republicans submitted petitions to succeed retiring Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Evanston.

Garcia clears way for chief of staff

One open seat that won't feature a bruising primary is in the 4th Congressional District on Chicago's Southwest Side. Four-term Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, D-Chicago, announced his intention to retire Monday, Nov. 3, a week after he filed petitions to run for reelection.

Filing late that afternoon was his chief of staff Patty Garcia. Once Rep. Garcia withdraws his name from the ballot, Patty Garcia will be the only Democrat listed, all but ensuring that she will be elected to Congress given the district's heavy Democratic tilt.

Garcia's impending retirement was first reported by the Chicago

Sun-Times.

State Rep. Marty Moylan, D-Des Plaines, made a similar move earlier in the day when he announced his intention to retire. Moylan had submitted petitions to run for reelection. The only other Democrat to file in the race was Moylan's chief of staff Justin Cochran.

With no time left for other candidates to circulate petitions, Garcia and Moylan essentially handpicked their successors instead of allowing for competitive primaries.

It's not the first time these moves have been made.

In 2022, state Sens. Tony Munoz, D-Chicago, and Steve Landek, D-Bridgeview, pulled their petitions to clear the way for their preferred successors. In Munoz's case, it was for now-state Sen. Javier Cervantes, D-Chicago, who was engaged to his daughter at the time.

Harmon-Welch showdown Averted

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, did not submit petitions for the 7th Congressional District Democratic State Central committee-man post being vacated by Davis. His decision averts a showdown with House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, who is seeking the party post.

The Democratic State Central Committee is the governing body of the state's Democratic Party. It consists of two people from each of the state's congressional districts. Members of the committee elect the state party chair, for instance.

Harmon told Capitol News Illinois that he was "looking at the race" but was waiting to see "how the field shapes up" before deciding whether to file.

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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LOCALLY

Anna-Jonesboro women’s club meeting focuses on honoring veterans



At the Arts Center
The Anna Jonesboro Women’s Club held a meeting at the Anna Arts Center. Pictured are, from left, Martha Ann Webb, PPR, Martha Schwegman, Vice President Barbara Bauer, President Jane Bauer, Lillian Milam, education, Betty Caraker, guest and Cherry Connolly.

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) Illinois Anna Jonesboro Women’s Club met at the Anna Arts Center.

The meeting was called to order by the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance. The club collect was said.

Jane introduced the guest speaker Bob Caraker. The program was on veterans.

Martha Schwegman gave the Devotion. Martha recited a poem she had memorized, written by Laurence Binyon and titled “For the fallen,” written for World War I. Martha discussed the rare

kind of courage embodied by veterans. They walked into uncertainty with resolve, faced hard ships with dignity, and carried the burdens of service long after the battles ended. Their stories are woven into the fabric of our nation and their legacy is one of strength, sacrifice and services.

Today we pause to honor the men and women who have served in the arm forces. Those who stood in the gap, who bore the weight of duty, and who sacrificed, comfort, safety, and time with love ones, so that others might live

in peace.

Barbara Bauer spoke on current events.

Cherry Connolly discussed how she could give free massages to veterans who qualified and signed up.

IDOT releases new Illinois highway map

The Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT, recently announced the release of the new Illinois Official Highway Map. The map includes updates to listings and locations of colleges and universities, Amtrak service, tourist attractions, recreational areas and more.

The map also commemorates next year’s 100th anniversary of Route 66, with updates that better represent the alignment of the historic road.

“While your first choice for directions these days typically is a phone, paper maps continue to be popular with the public,” IDOT Secretary Gia Biagi said in a news release. “They also are invaluable. You never know when cell service will drop in an unfamiliar area. It’s good practice to keep a paper copy on hand for these situations as well as for travel planning.”

The map’s cover features a sunset along U.S. Route 34 between Mendota and Princeton, near La Moille. The photograph was the winner of IDOT’s employee map cover contest, and was submitted by Trisha Thompson, IDOT’s Region 2 engineer.

For easy access to information, the maps come with QR codes to connect to IDOT’s Getting Around Illinois for travel conditions, Amtrak, the Office of Tourism’s Enjoy Illinois campaign, as well as Illinois Department of Natural Resources historic sites and parks.

The Illinois Official Highway Map is funded through the Federal Highway Administration and published by IDOT every two years on recycled paper. The map is printed with vegetable-oil-based inks.

To request a map, contact DOT.maps@illinois.gov. Free copies also will be available at interstate rest areas and other IDOT facilities.

Get Covered Illinois kicks off 2026 open enrollment

Get Covered Illinois has kicked off 2026 open enrollment and launched its “Here to Help” campaign across the state.

Open enrollment, which began on Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 15, 2026, is the annual opportunity for Illinoisans to enroll in, renew, or change their health insurance plans. Nearly 466,000 Illinoisans purchased health coverage through Get Covered Illinois during open enrollment last year, a 17 percent increase from the previous year.

This year, Illinoisans will experience a new marketplace. Enrollees will apply for and enroll directly on GetCoveredIllinois.gov now that Illinois has officially transitioned to a state-based marketplace. They will also have access to increased support that is more tailored to their needs.

There are other, less welcome changes happening this year. Marketplace enrollees across the country will face substantial premium increases. On average, Illinois enrollees will see a 78 percent increase in their monthly premiums for 2026, and some, particularly those living in Southern Illinois, will see significantly higher increases.

“While Illinois’ transition to a state-based marketplace is a milestone we are immensely proud of, it comes at a time when Illinoisans are facing rising costs,” said Ann Gillespie, director of the Illinois Department of Insurance, in a news release. “Policies implemented by the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans are forcing premiums up. Illinoisans shouldn’t have to choose between health care and keeping food on the table.”

Since 2021, the federal government has offered enhanced tax credits to make health insurance more affordable for millions of Americans. Those enhanced tax credits

are expiring at the end of this year unless Congress acts to extend them. There will still be tax credits available, but the amount will be less generous, and fewer people will qualify.

Despite rising premiums, Illinoisans still have options. “We’ve built a strong marketplace with hundreds of plan options offered across the state,” said Morgan Winters, director of Get Covered Illinois. “Every plan includes essential health benefits like no-cost preventive care, emergency coverage, and mental health services.”

There are also lower-cost plans available for most enrollees. Bronze plans offer lower monthly premiums than Silver or Gold plans, though deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs are typically higher than at other metal tiers.

Get Covered Illinois can help customers review and understand their options. “Operating our own marketplace means we can offer better support to Illinoisans,” Winters said. “This includes access to free, local help through our navigator and broker network. We also have a customer assistance center that can provide enrollment assistance tailored to our residents’ needs. Support is available in more than 250 languages.”

Get Covered Illinois launched the “Here to Help” campaign to bring awareness to new and improved support services available to customers this year. In a year when accessing health insurance may be more confusing and more expensive, Get Covered Illinois wants residents to know that help is available.

While premium increases impact the largest number of enrollees across the country, federal policies like the recent federal budget bill and the 2025 Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Final Rule create even more barriers to coverage for vulnerable

Southern Illinois Food Access Independent Grocer Summit held

The University of Illinois Extension Community and Economic Development team recently hosted the first Southern Illinois Food Access Annual Independent Grocer Summit.

The summit, which was held Oct. 15 at John A. Logan College in Carterville, welcomed 30 participants, including 12 grocers representing nine stores, along with 18 speakers, sponsors and exhibitors. The event brought grocery store owners and managers together to explore a variety of resources to help them thrive in a challenging marketplace.

Sponsored by the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program, Winkler Wholesale Grocers, Prairie Farms and Group 4 Retail Equipment, the event earned a 100 percent recommendation rate in post-summit surveys and sparked new collaborations on energy efficiency, local food sourcing and workforce needs such as meat cutter recruitment and training.

Presenters discussed a variety of topics throughout the half-day event, including

grant and loan programs, digital marketing and artificial intelligence, energy efficiency opportunities, planning for transition, cooperating with local farmers and new refrigerant regulations. The summit also featured a panel discussion on adaptability and resiliency led by three store owners with more than 100 years of combined experience.

Southern Illinois Food Access is a program offered by Illinois Extension in the lower 22 counties of Illinois to address food insecurity and combat food desert proliferation. The program works with local grocers and food system partners to strengthen retail food access in rural areas.

Illinois Extension collaborates with more than 40 independent grocery stores and a dozen other food system partners to keep healthy, nutrient-dense foods on shelves in areas at risk of becoming food deserts.

Cobden church plans to host turkey bingo

A Thanksgiving season tradition is set to continue in Cobden.

Turkey bingo is planned Wednesday evening, Nov. 19, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cobden. The church has hosted turkey bingo for many years.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Bingo starts at 6 p.m. Turkey bingo will be in the church’s parish hall. The church is located at 101 N. Centennial St. in Cobden.

Twenty-five games will be played. Cards will be \$7 each, two for \$12 or five for \$30.

Complimentary desserts will be served during intermission.

populations like immigrants. Due to new federal rules, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, recipients are no longer eligible to enroll in marketplace coverage, and certain lawfully present non-citizens are no longer eligible for premium tax credits, making health coverage almost impossible for them to afford.

“The most vulnerable populations are at risk of going without health coverage,” said Illinois Department of Health-care and Family Services director Elizabeth M. Whitehorn. “Increased premiums combined with devastating federal Medicaid cuts will ultimately increase the number of uninsured Illinoisans. However, having our own state-based marketplace will allow Illinois to help as many people as possible gain access to quality healthcare coverage.”

Get Covered Illinois is urging residents who are concerned about losing health coverage to reach out to a navigator who can help them understand coverage options available to them. Brokers can assist customers in choosing marketplace coverage that meets their needs and budget.

“This year it’s critical people know that most of our customers still qualify for financial help,” Winters said. “We encourage customers not to leave money on the table.”

For coverage starting Jan. 1, customers must enroll by Dec. 15. Open enrollment ends Jan. 15. Visit GetCoveredIllinois.gov or call 1-866-311-1119 (TTY: 711) for more information.

Get Covered Illinois is the state of Illinois’ official health insurance marketplace and a division of the Illinois Department of Insurance.

Grants awarded to preserve Illinois history

The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board, ISHRAB, recently awarded grants to enable 11 historical records repositories across the state to digitize, preserve and expand access to archival materials that document Illinois’ cultural heritage. The board is overseen by Illinois Secretary of State and State Archivist Alexi Giannoulias.

The grants support projects that make historically significant records, from rare photographs and correspondence to community bulletins, board proceedings and film collections, more accessible to the public through online platforms.

Grant recipients include the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees. The board received a \$1,000 grant to digitize film collections housed in Morris Library’s Special Collections Research Center and make them publicly available on YouTube.

“History lives in our communities, not just in museums or textbooks. These grants help ensure that our shared story is preserved and available for everyone to access, regardless of where they live,” Giannoulias said in a news release.

“By supporting historical archives across Illinois, we’re opening new windows into the local culture, industry and civic life. The work these organizations are doing helps us understand who we are, where we’ve come from and how we build a better tomorrow, together.”

Funding for the grants was provided through a State Board Programming Grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, NHPRC. Since 2010, the ISHRAB has awarded 144 grants through the NHPRC to archives and cultural institutions in 34 Illinois counties.



Veteran stories

Jane Bauer, president of the Anna Jonesboro Women’s Club, presented Bob Caraker with a plaque from the club that read “God Bless America.” Bob was a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War. He discussed how they landed and took off and recounted the three times he had been shot down and rescued. Bob was a Chief Warrant Officer 2 in Vietnam and retired a CWO4 in 2002. He was active Army from 1966-1970 and was in the National Guard from 1980-2002. The ladies thanked Bob for his service. Photographer, Martha Ann Webb.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
ANNA COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED
DISTRICT NO. 37
ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Statement of Affairs for Anna Community Consolidated District No. 37, located at 301 South Green Street, Anna, Illinois 62906, has been completed and is available for public inspection. The report has been posted on the District's official website and published in accordance with Section 10-17 of the Illinois School Code.

Anna Community Consolidated District No. 37, situated in Union County, is an elementary district encompassing approximately 46 square miles and operating two attendance centers. The District employs 51 full-time and 8 part-time certificated employees, as well as 32 full-time and 1 part-time non-certificated employees.

The tax rates by fund for the fiscal year are as follows:
Educational – 1.127400%;
Operations and Maintenance – 0.212060%;
Bond and Interest – 0.351310%;
Transportation – 0.102460%;
Municipal Retirement – 0.101510%;
Social Security – 0.147550%;
Working Cash – 0.042910%;
Fire Prevention and Safety – 0.044310%;
Tort Immunity – 0.085362%;
Special Education – 0.017833%;
Capital Projects, Leasing, and Other Funds – 0.000000%.

Members of the public may view the complete Annual Statement of Affairs on the District's website or through the Illinois State Board of Education's online reporting system.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR TWO NEW SHERIFF'S VEHICLES

Request for Proposal (RFP) packets are available in the Union County Clerk's office and on our website at www.unioncountyiil.gov. Questions regarding specifications may be directed to the Chief Deputy, Anthony Pena via email at apena@unioncountyiil.gov.

Sealed bids should be submitted to the Union County Clerk by 4 PM on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at the Union County Courthouse.

The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids received and to waive or not waive any informalities or irregularities in bids or bid procedures, and to accept or further negotiate costs, terms, or conditions of any bid determined by the County to be in the best interest of the County.

Union County Clerk
309 West Market Street, Room 116
Jonesboro, Illinois 62952

Opinion and Commentary

Grandparents share real-life stories about life before vaccines

With measles and pertussis cases at their highest levels in decades, this alone has created a renewed sense of urgency as reports show that 1 in 6 parents in the United States are choosing not to vaccinate their children.

In an effort to prevent life-threatening illnesses in the communities they serve, Southern 7 Health Department is partnering with the Grandparents for Vaccines initiative to take the vaccination conversation to a whole new generation.

Grandparents for Vaccines is a new, volunteer-led organization that launched on Sept. 7, which was Grandparents Day. Their first op-ed in Progressive Perspectives, “Why Grandparents Must Lead on Vaccines,” sparked an overwhelming response, showing that the call for grandparents’ voices in this national crisis resonates far beyond our own community.

The organization is not led by policy, but by the story of lives, families and generations at stake.

“One of the main reasons people don’t understand the need to vaccinate their children is because they’ve never experienced a life without vaccines,” Southern 7 community outreach coordinator Shawwna Rhine said in a news release. “Grandparents have lived that life. Who better to help us understand it?”

Since the Grandparents for Vaccine launch, what began with just a few hundred sign-ups has now grown into thousands of grandparents nationwide who are eager to share their stories. From accounts of polio trials, children lost to measles and the profound relief when the Salk and Sabin vaccines changed everything, grandparents remind everyone that vaccines are not abstract policy debates but lifelines across generations.

Arthur Levin, founder and president of Grandparents for Vaccines explains: “This is a national movement of grandparents and allies using the power of memory, trust and experience to protect the next generation. As an untapped resource, we are changing the conversation about vaccines – replacing fear and misinformation with stories, wisdom and love. Together, we honor our legacy and shape a healthier future for every family.”

Many voices are now featured on the new Grandparents for Vaccines YouTube channel, a platform created to amplify never-before-shared experiences.

Southern 7 offers both Head Start and Early Head Start for income eligible families that live in the lower seven counties in Illinois. Head Start serves children age 3 to 5 and Early Head Start serves infants and children age 6 weeks to 3. Both programs offer full-day enrollment, with Early Head Start available year-round. A home-based option is available for families if requested. Head Start has dual enrollment with pre-kindergarten.

To learn more about Grandparents for Vaccines, visit grandparentsforvaccines.com or visit their YouTube Channel. Grandparents who want to share their life story before vaccines with others can visit grandparentsforvaccines.com/share-your-story/ or contact Shawwna Rhine at 618-634-2297, extension 971161.

Southern 7 working to increase smoke-free education awareness

While the number of Americans who smoke declines each year, whether it’s cigarettes or vaping, smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths in the United States, with secondhand smoke contributing to an additional 41,000 deaths nationwide.

November is Tobacco Cessation Month. Through funds received from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Southern 7 Health Department is reaching out in its communities to increase awareness and to offer support to people who want to quit.

No matter a person’s age or how long he or she has been smoking, studies show that quitting can improve a person’s health immediately and even more over the long term, and is the most preventable cause of serious illness and death.

According to the American Cancer Society, quitting smoking lowers a person’s risk of cancer, heart and lung problems, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, COPD, lung infections and circulation problems or issues around the heart and other body parts.

Over the next several months, Southern 7 Health Department plans to offer increased community support that includes, but is not limited to:

- School-based educational sessions addressing the risks associated with vaping and e-cigarette use.
- Educational materials and Smoke-Free Illinois Act window clings distributed to local food and non-food establishments to support awareness and compliance.
- Collaboration with local medical providers including physicians, hospitals, dentists and mental health professionals through the Illinois Tobacco Quitline Referral Partnership – an initiative that facilitates access to tobacco cessation education and support services for community members.

Observance of the Great American Smokeout on November 20. Celebrated for nearly 50 years by the American Cancer Society, this day is an opportunity for people who smoke to commit to healthy, smoke-free lives – not just for a day, but year round.

“While it’s your personal choice to smoke, realizing that smoking is a primary cause of severe illness including cancer and heart disease could save your life,” Southern 7 community outreach coordinator Shawwna Rhine said in a news release. “Throughout the month of November, and especially on November 20, we are simply asking that if you smoke, try stopping for at least one day to consider your health benefits from not smoking.”

There are many ways to quit smoking, and some work better than others. The free Illinois Tobacco Quitline, ITQL, can connect smokers with counselors and resources to help them increase your chances of quitting successfully.

For more information, visit ITQL online at www.quityes.org or call 866-QUIT-YES. Southern 7 Health Department is available by calling 618-634-2297 or downloading the Southern 7 app for a nearby clinic.

Please read this...

Old Man Winter pays an early visit...

Thank goodness for the weather...it’s brought us all sorts of things to ponder for this week...

Late Monday afternoon, the story of “The Spy Who Came In From The Cold” flashed through the dust bin between my ears. I have never been a spy, unless you want to count trying to “spy” on the world around me to see what there is to see.

As the sun was setting Monday, I decided that it was time to get in a daily walkabout before darkness fell. I just made it. In anticipation of the slight change in the weather we had experienced, I dressed in what I thought would be enough layers to keep me warm. I even donned my favorite stocking cap, which was purchased back in the day...just ahead of the arrival of a Polar Vortex, which wasn’t even a “thing” at the time. That purchase turned out to be one of the best ever...at least when it has come to keeping warm.

Turned out I was pretty close to having enough layers to keep warm for Monday’s walk. About halfway through the journey, though, it occurred to me that some gloves might have been nice, too. It’s a bit challenging to use a camera when one’s fingers are slightly frozen.

The walk wasn’t bad...except for when I had to be heading into a chilly, no, make that just plain old cold, wind that was blowing out of the northwest. I was really glad to get back home and come in from the cold...maybe just like that spy... (A brief follow up...according to the website for the National Weather Service office in Paducah, at about the time I decided to go for a walk, the temperature was 35 degrees, the wind was blowing out of the northwest at 10 miles per hour and the wind chill was 27 degrees. No wonder it felt cold.)

Meanwhile...

Nope. That could not be possible. I looked outside early Monday...and had to look again. And again. Faced with some uncertainty, I asked The Other Half if I was seeing was what I thought I was seeing. Were those snowflakes on her vehicle that was parked in the driveway next to the house?

Yup. Seems that some light snow indeed had fallen in our little corner of the world very early Monday morning. It didn’t amount to much. It just did not seem right. After all...wasn’t the temperature in the 80s just a little while ago?

Snowflakes weren’t the only sign of Old Man Winter’s first visit of the season. A look in the back yard showed a thin layer of ice on the Gulf of Cobden. The ice covered a layer of leaves which had fallen on the water. I hoped our back yard frog had found someplace warm.

Of course, there’s an old adage that says if you don’t like the weather in Southern Illinois this morning, wait until this afternoon and it will change. Looks like that might hold true as the week comes to an end. The high temperatures on Friday and Saturday are expected to be back in the 70s.

By the way, once I got back home at the end of my walk Monday afternoon, I noticed that the “volunteer” pumpkin vine (or vines) which had been growing in a bed next to the house did not do well in the frigid cold. Neither did a tomato plant which had been growing in the same bed.

Fortunately, we had picked two nice pumpkins which were growing on the vines. Before the bitter cold arrived, we also had picked as many of the green tomatoes that we could find in The Other Half’s garden. The tomatoes were wrapped in some newspaper to be stored away in the hope that they will ripen. A few have already done so. We also are hoping to have some garden tomatoes for Thanksgiving. Can’t tell you where we learned about wrapping green tomatoes in newspaper...but the trick seems to work, offering further proof that newspapers are still needed.

Meanwhile...

The sun was shining bright shortly after 4 o’clock in the afternoon on the sixth day of the 11th month of 2026. Once again, Bob and one of the people he tolerates in his life were sitting on our porch swing...just taking it easy.

I had assumed that since we were easing into the month of November that mosquitoes would have flown south for the winter. Wrong. One of the little winged blood suckers joined Bob and I on the porch swing. I shooed the bug away. Seeing a mosquito in early November just did not seem right. Then again, seeing snowflakes which had fallen on The Other Half’s vehicle on the 10th day of November just not seem right either. Oh, well...

Meanwhile...

The weather last Friday afternoon was exceptionally nice for the seventh day of November, so The Other Half and yours truly decided to take a ride to the Trail of Tears State Forest to enjoy autumn’s color displays. We saw lots of bright yellows in the sunshine...and more green than we were expecting. We did a little bit of walking...and didn’t even need a jacket.

Saturday afternoon, we did a little bit of retail shopping therapy and went on a stroll together in our hometown. The weather was still nice. Clouds overhead hinted that a change could be on the way...

Meanwhile...

Recent Critter Sightings have been kind of sparse. There was the turtle at the park in Jonesboro that was seen enjoying some warm sunshine. Lots of lady bugs...as in lots and lots of lady bugs...one afternoon last week when the sun was shining and it was nice and warm outside. A couple of mosquitoes. A good number of squirrels. And a rabbit trying to keep warm last Sunday afternoon...which is the Critter in the other picture; at the time the picture was taken, frigid weather was arriving...accompanied by a cold, cold wind.

Sports events slated at A-J

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School is planning to host a “Meet the Teams” event and a “Future Wildcats Basketball Night.”

“Meet the Teams”

The “Meet the Teams” event is set for 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, in the Union Hall gymnasium.

A-J girls and boys basketball players, bowlers, cheerleaders and wrestlers for 2025-2026 will be introduced.

“Future Wildcats Basketball Night” is set for Saturday, Nov. 22, in the gym. Girls and boys basketball games are slated.

The schedule for girls games includes: 3 p.m., Jonesboro vs. Anna (JV). 4:15 p.m., Anna vs. Jonesboro (varsity).

The schedule for boys games includes: 5:30 p.m., Jonesboro vs. Lick Creek. 6:45 p.m., Anna vs. Jonesboro (varsity).

Times for the games could fluctuate.

By Geof Skinner



Even with a fur coat, this rabbit still looked like it was trying to find a way to stay warm late last Sunday afternoon.



A turtle was casting a shadow in bright autumn sunshine one morning last week at the Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro. Hopefully, the Critter found a nice, warm place to go by the time Old Man Winter paid an early visit.



November ‘supermoon’

A “supermoon” made an appearance on Nov. 5 in the night sky over Union County. National Geographic shared in an article that was posted online that the moon was putting on its “brightest and largest show of the year. It’s the second in a series of three consecutive supermoons closing out 2025. Sometimes called the ‘beaver moon,” this full moon’s name, traditionally used by various Indigenous peoples of North America, marks the season when beavers build their winter lodges and when trappers once set out before rivers froze.” The article noted that last week’s moon was in orbit about 17,000 miles nearer to Earth than on average. The top photo shows the moon on the night of Nov. 5. The second photo shows the moon rising on the evening of Nov. 3.