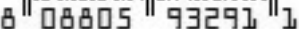


The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Volume 178, Number 48

(continued on page 2)

The next stop for the girls' team is Detweiler Park in Peoria, where the Wildcats will compete for a state championship on Saturday, Nov. 8.



THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

THE TALK AND COBDEN REVIEW

Serving Union County Since 1849

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Annual fall cast iron pour scheduled at SIU

A lecture by mixed media sculptor Joseph Bigley is part of this year’s free, annual fall cast iron pour activities presented by students in Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s School of Art and Design sculpture program.

The iron pour is scheduled to begin at noon Saturday, Nov. 8, in the school’s Foundry Complex at 1520-1560 W. Pleasant Hill Rd. In Carbondale. Those who attend will have the chance to create their own cast iron artworks on scratch blocks comprising resin-bonded sand used in making molds. The event will include other activities, such as t-shirt printing by Southern Illinois Print Works and demonstrations from the blacksmithing department.

Alex Lopez, an associate professor in the sculpture program, said organizers expect the metal to start flowing before 1 p.m. with the goal of finishing before 5 p.m. A variety of shapes and sizes of

scratch blocks will be available for everyone to participate, and their designs will be cast on site. The price range is \$20 to \$30 for blocks of different shapes, including hearts, squares, rectangles and ovals, he said. About 50 scratch blocks will be available.

The pouring activity will continue until all the pours are finished. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, and guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs. The event is cosponsored by Critical Forum, also known as C4, the sculpture club’s registered student organization.

Bigley, a lecturer in Appalachian State University’s studio art program and founder of the Western North Carolina Sculpture Center and Park, is scheduled to give a free, public lecture at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 in Faner Hall, Room 1326, on the SIUC campus. The lecture is sponsored by the Visiting Artists Program and Fine Arts Activity fund.

News Notes

(continued from page 1)

Cobden High School’s yDuring November, the Shawnee Hills Arts Council in Anna is featuring pottery and leather-works creations by local artist Linda Sitton. A reception was held Sunday afternoon, Nov. 2.

Low temperatures in the upper 20s are in the forecast for the Union County area this Sunday night.

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 second-hand 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 to the area communities it serves to increase awareness and offer support to people who want to quit.

A Feed the Need Campus Food Drive continues through Dec. 1 at Shawnee Community College’s main campus near Ullin, at the college’s extension centers in Union, Alexander and Massac counties and Legence Bank in Vienna. Donations can be dropped off at each of those locations.

Shawnee Community College hosted a regional high school band festival last week. Students and instructors from throughout the area attended for a day of instruction and advice, followed by an evening performance of a concert with a Halloween theme, “Mon-



Rain falls as October comes to an end
Rain was falling on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 29, in the Union County area. The photograph was taken in Cobden. Drought conditions continued to improve last week in the area. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported on Thursday, Oct. 30, that eastern Union County, northern Johnson County and southeastern Williamson County were not experiencing any drought conditions. Abnormally dry conditions were reported in western Union County, southern Johnson County, a portion of Williamson County and all of Jackson, Alexander, Pulaski and Massac counties.

Veterans Day ceremony set in Carbondale

To honor SIU and Southern Illinois veterans who served their country in the U.S. armed forces, the City of Carbondale and Southern Illinois University Carbondale plan to recognize Veterans Day on Nov. 11 at the flagpole at South Normal Avenue and West Grand Avenue on the SIU campus.

An 11 a.m. ceremony will include a proclamation from Carbondale Mayor Carolin Harvey; remarks by Tom Harness, a veteran and SIU alumnus; and the laying of a wreath with playing of “Taps” by the SIU Trumpet Studio under the leadership of Ricky Spears, assistant professor of practice in the SIU School of Music.

If the federal government is fully open, SIU Air Force and Army ROTC cadets will participate in a vigil at the flagpole from 6 a.m. until noon, with a changing of guards planned every 15 minutes.

Those who require accommodations or have questions can contact Paul Copeland at the SIU Carbondale Veteran Services office at 618-453-1317 or paul.copeland@siu.edu.

NSDAR plans Veterans Day Service

A Veterans Day Service will be held Nov. 11, at 11 a.m., to honor the area’s veterans. This program will be held on the Vienna Public Library lawn and is being sponsored by the Daniel Chapman Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR).

In case of inclement weather, the program will be held in the Vienna Public Library’s community room.

The featured speaker will be Master Sergeant Edward L. Ellis, retired. He is a native of Mound City, Ill.. Ellis is a highly decorated military Veteran of five deployments. He retired from active duty on Nov. 1, 2009 after twenty-three years of distinguished service.

Ellis currently lives in Marion where he is an Aerospace Science Instructor at Marion High School.

Patriotic music will feature Mason Montgomery and his daughter, Marcia Wells. Mr. Montgomery has generously dedicated years to providing music for local events, revival leadership, gospel music and special services.

Mrs. Wells is a music arranger and publisher. Currently, she serves as a pianist at Big Creek Baptist Church.

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County board reviews funding requests

A new fiscal year budget was on the agenda for a lengthy special meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners which was held Thursday, Oct. 30. The meeting was at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Funding requests presented by county officeholders and department heads were discussed. The requests came as work is being finalized to draft a budget for the county’s new fiscal year, which begins Dec. 1.

Before discussion began about budget requests, the commissioners approved a building permit for Wildcat Solar, which is planning a commercial solar energy project near Anna.

Some of the requests presented to the board and moving forward included, by department:

Union County Highway Department: Acquisition of a used bucket/boom truck for an estimated cost of \$120,000. The truck now used by the department dates to 1986.

Acquisition of a new pneumatic tire roller at a cost of about \$230,000. The equipment now used by the department dates to 1969.

Union County Ambulance Service: Acquisition of 10 new pagers at a cost of \$4,750. The pagers now used by the ambulance service are 15 to 17 years old and need to be updated.

Allocation of \$4,600 for the purchase of two inflatable lifting mats.

Establishment of an emergency first responder program, with an estimated start-up cost of \$5,000.

Union County Sheriff’s Office: Allocation of \$13,500 for the implementation of a Flock Safety automated camera system, with locations planned at seven major highway intersections in Union County. Local municipal and school district participation in the system is planned.

Union County state’s attorney’s office: Allocation of \$110,000 for salary and benefits to hire a second assistant state’s attorney. The office, which has been under budget

for the last two years, is faced with increased case loads and other demands. The new assistant also will focus on victims advocate work.

Union County clerk’s office: Allocation of \$7,300 for two early voting election tablets, along with \$500 for software.

Union County court system: Allocation of \$6,300 for a new stenographer machine.

The budget also will include allocation of funding for a new server to meet the technology needs of the courthouse. The estimated cost is \$135,000. The server now used in the courthouse is seven years old.

Weather

High 64, low 32; 1.33 inches of rain; Frost recorded

Temperatures ranged from a high of 64 degrees to a low of 32 during the period of Oct. 28 through Nov. 3 in the Union County area. Precipitation totaled 1.33 inches of rain. Frost also was recorded.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 28: high 57, low 52. 0.10 of an inch of rain.

Wednesday, Oct. 29: high 55, low 48. 1.14 inches of rain.

Thursday, Oct. 30: high 59, low 38.

Friday, Oct. 31: high 64, low 32.

Saturday, Nov. 1: high 50, low 42. 0.04 of an inch of rain.

Sunday, Nov. 2: high 55, low 34. 0.05 of an inch of rain.

Monday, Nov. 3: high 63, low 32. Heavy frost.

October Highlights

The high temperature for the month of October was 88 degrees, which was recorded Oct. 2. The average high was 73.

The low temperature for the month was 32, which was recorded Oct. 31. The average low was 49.

Precipitation for the month totaled 5.39 inches of rain. The most precipitation in a 24-hour period was 1.87 inches of rain, which was recorded Oct. 7.

Through the end of the month, precipitation for the year totaled 43.24 inches.

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.

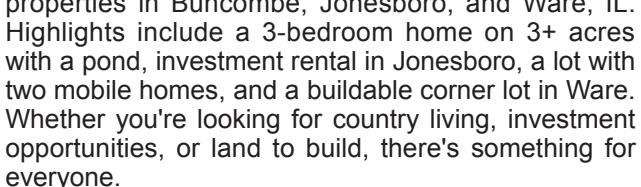
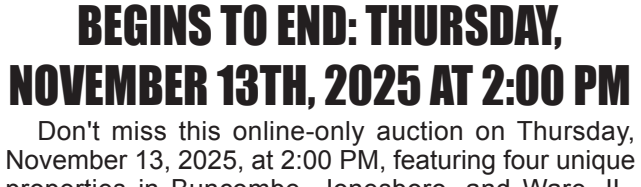
3

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Cobden Elementary School honors student readers

Cobden Elementary School has recognized students who reached their goals for October in the school-wide Accelerated Reading program. Students were required to read books and take comprehension tests on a computer to achieve their points. Photos provided.



25 Point Club

Pictured in front row, from left, Penelope Stroehlein and Alexander Olvera. Back row, Claire Flamm, Harper Stringer, Lane Bennett, Walker Schilling, Keegan Wilson, Samwell Meyers-Matthews and Miguel Garcia.



50 Point Club
Lilly Paulson



100 Point Club
Esleie Boyles

Cobden student among speakers at SIU event

In today’s rush of messages and opinions that look to sway people’s opinions, five Southern Illinois University Carbondale undergraduate students will share their thoughts on influence in a program set for Thursday, Nov. 6, in Morris Library’s John C. Guyon Auditorium.

This semester’s topic is “The Power of Influence: Who (or What) Shapes Us.” The free, public forum is from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. One of the students who is scheduled to speak is from Cobden.

“From the media we consume and the technologies we use to the communities we join and the voices we follow, our lives are shaped by countless influences. Some of these we choose, while others we may not even notice,” said Franklin Kimmell, a fourth-year doctoral student and graduate teaching assistant in communication studies who is organizing the forum for his fourth and final time.

The student speakers will encourage the audience to think critically about the power of influence in their daily lives, Kimmell said.

Open to all undergraduate SIU Carbondale students, the speakers forum allows participants from a variety of majors and disciplines an opportunity to showcase their public speaking skills and connect their academic and personal interests to the theme, he said.

Chosen from auditions, students who deliver 6- to 8-minute persuasive speeches will each receive a \$200 scholarship from the Society for Civil Discourse.

The students will “explore the forces that guide our choices, behaviors and beliefs. Whether those influences come from social media, politics, culture, advertising, peers or technology, this event challenges us to think critically about who or what is steering our paths and how we might reclaim the power to shape our futures,” Kimmell said.

The students who are scheduled to speak include:

Eric Guijon, second-year psychology, Cobden: Topic/thesis: “The Foundation of Influence: Nature vs. Nurture.”

Christopher DePalma, freshman, undecided, St. Louis, Mo.: Topic/thesis: “Parasocial

Open house

slated at SIU

Southern Illinois University Carbondale invites high school students, prospective transfer students and their families to the university’s next open house, which is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 7.

The free event, based at the SIU Student Center, includes a chance to meet with representatives of academic colleges and learn more about majors, attend a resource fair and academic showcase and take a campus tour with a Saluki Ambassador. Participants will hear from current students.

More information about the open house can be found online at siu.edu.

Relationships: Influence Without Interaction.”

Kaleb Rehmer, senior, communication studies, Chester: Topic/thesis: “How TTRPGs Have Influenced Our Interpersonal Relationships.”

Samuel McNeilly, second-year undergraduate, history and political science, Villa Park, Illinois: Topic/thesis: “The Heroes That Shape Us.”

Uzma Afsar, senior, architectural studies, Hyderabad, India: Topic/thesis: “The Architecture of Choice: How Physical and Digital Spaces Decide for Us.”

Showcasing aspiring talent

The forums, which are scheduled each semester, began in spring 2002, and are sponsored by the SIU School of Communication Studies and the Society for Civil Discourse. The society was founded in 1999, when SIU Carbondale alumna Barbara Jane Schwartz of Makanda established an endowment to provide space for students to be able to freely engage in civil discourse and support opportunities for students to exchange opinions and beliefs in topics of interest about the Carbondale campus and society.

A catered reception will follow the forum in the rotunda outside of the auditorium.

Quickbooks

training slated

Shawnee Community College’s Workforce Development program is planning to offer Quickbooks training in Anna.

The training is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the college’s Union County Extension Center. LaKenya Taylor is scheduled to be the instructor. The cost is \$99.

More information and registration are available online at shawneecc.edu/business-and-workforce-development.

Trump administration OKs partial SNAP funding after judges’ orders

By Maggie Dougherty
Capitol News Illinois

CHICAGO – The Trump administration said Monday, Nov. 3, it would use emergency funds to partially fund SNAP benefits for November but would not tap into other funds to provide full coverage.

The means the more than one in six Illinoisans who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP benefits to buy groceries each month will get a smaller-than-normal share and have to wait days or weeks for their cards to be reloaded.

That’s bad news for Rockford home care aid Jasmine Winfrey, 34, who lives with her two children, Jayden and Yazmin. Winfrey says that with reduced SNAP benefits, she is unsure how she will put food on the table for herself and her kids.

“If I have to maybe not pay a few bills, then that’s what I have to do because my children cannot go hungry,” Winfrey said. “I am just very heartbroken, and I just don’t know where me and my children’s next meal may come from, so I’m very unsure and I’m afraid.”

Two federal judges issued separate rulings Friday, Oct. 31, both ordering the administration to continue funding SNAP amid the federal government shutdown. Both judges set a Monday, Nov. 3, deadline for the administration to decide whether it would provide full or partial coverage and determine where the money would come from.

The judges required that the government use emergency funds appropriated by Congress to at least partially cover November benefits, leaving open the option to draw from additional funding sources to fully fund payments for the month. U.S. District Judge John McConnell Jr. in his order cited the availability of \$23 billion in funds created by Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act amendments of 1935.

USDA Plan

The U.S. Department of Agriculture told the judges Monday, Nov. 3, that it would use \$4.65 billion in emergency funds to cover half of the benefits eligible households receive for the month.

Patrick Penn, deputy undersecretary of Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, or FNCS, at the USDA filed a declaration saying the department would not tap into other funding sources to provide full benefits to recipients.

“This means that no funds will remain for new SNAP applicants certified in November, disaster assistance, or as a cushion against the potential catastrophic consequences of shutting down SNAP entirely,” Penn wrote in the declaration to McConnell.

The department said in the declaration that it had “carefully considered” using some of the Section 32 funds referenced in the judge’s order but ultimately decided against it.

While acknowledging the legality of transferring funds between programs within FNCS, the department argued that Congress intended for the \$23 billion fund in question to support child nutrition programs including national school lunch and breakfast programs.

“Shifting \$4 billion dollars to America’s SNAP population merely shifts the problem to millions of America’s low-income children that receive their meals at school,” the USDA wrote.

There are no additional blocks of funding within FNCS available to supplement SNAP, the declaration noted.

U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., responded with disappointment to the partial funding decision on social media, referencing her own family’s experience with SNAP.

“As someone who grew up counting every last SNAP dollar, this is intentionally cruel,” Duckworth wrote. “Hungry children deserve full bellies. Not crumbs.”

Timing of Benefits

The USDA said states will be responsible for re-calculating revised benefits for eligible households and said it would provide revised tables to state agencies on Monday. As of the time of publication, the Illinois Department of Human Services, which administers SNAP in Illinois, did not respond to confirm receipt of the new benefit information.

In its declaration, the USDA acknowledged challenges with updating benefits, predicting that it could take states anywhere from a few weeks to several months to provide the reduced benefits.

“Given the variation among State systems, some of which are decades old, it is unclear how many States will complete the changes in an automated manner with minimal disruption versus manual overrides or computations that could lead to payment errors and significant delays,” the declaration stated.

IDHS said it expected November SNAP benefits to be delayed by days or weeks. It added the decision to fund reduced benefits “will make it significantly more complicated for states to issue the funds.”

Benefits left on cards from previous months can still be used to purchase food as usual, according to IDHS.

The department created a new SNAP Federal Impact Center page with information and resources for those affected by the reduction in benefits including links to food banks and pantries across the state. Food banks and pantries received \$20 million in support from the state, but it will not be enough to replace the lost and delayed SNAP benefits.

For mothers like Winfrey, food pantries are not a substitute for the fresh food and variety that SNAP benefits provide – things she said are important for her 9-year-old daughter and 15-year-old son.

“It’s important that my children have a meal every day because it will affect their belly, and they probably won’t be able to think straight if they don’t have food, (or) function at school,” Winfrey said. Amid the uncertainty created by delays and reduced benefits, some Chicago businesses are offering free meals this week to SNAP recipients. Manny’s Deli, a restaurant located near the University of Illinois, began offering free family meals to anyone with a SNAP card this week.

After strong public support online, the sandwich shop set up a fundraiser which has already received over \$48,000 in donations. The move also received a shoutout from U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., on the Senate floor Monday afternoon.

“Why has Manny’s found it necessary to feed those on SNAP? Because President Trump became the first president in history to deliberately disrupt the processing of... SNAP benefits,” Durbin said.

“Thankfully, Manny’s delicatessen in Chicago is willing to do what the Trump administration is not, working to make sure that nobody in their city goes hungry.”

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.



Shawnee Hills Arts Council project

Students in Shawnee Community College’s Highway Construction Careers Training Program have been working on improvements at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council facility along West Davie Street in Anna. The students replaced an awning, including its roof. Photographs of the work which was being done were shared by the college on social media.

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Obituaries

David William Hale

David William Hale, age 69 of Anna, passed away Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025 at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born on Dec. 13, 1955 in Carbondale, the son of Lester and Lorraine (Webb) Hale.

He married Linda Ford on Feb. 22, 1974.

David is survived by his wife, Linda Hale; children, Chrystal Dawn Hale, Robbie Wayne (Missy) Hale, B.J. Hale (Cristy Caylao-Hale) and Kimberly Ann Hale (Chris Bunch); grandchildren, Aubrea and Ethan Ralls (Alexis Crescitelli), Shawn Stone, Samantha (Jason)Phipps, Breaua Stone and Andrew Bunch; great-grandchildren, Saint Genesis Vicente, Ava and Weston Stone, Aiden Phipps, Dakota Merydith and Rees Phipps; sister, Vera Belcher; brother, Travis Hale; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, great-granddaughter, Kylee Phipps and brothers, Wayne, Jeff, Mack and Eddie Hale.

David was a faith-filled member of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. He walked with God and loved his church family and appreciated the many

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES



things they have done for he and his family.

He worked as a correctional officer for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, a job he truly loved. David was an accomplished pool player. He enjoyed boxing, teaching his children how to fight. A loyal and faithful husband, he loved his wife and spending time with her and the wonderful family they built together. He will certainly be missed.

Memorial services for David Hale were held on Saturday, Nov. 1 at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church 7240 Wing Hill Road in Cobden with Pastor Doug Bridgeman officiating.

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

Anita R. Harris

Anita R. Harris, age 89, of Jonesboro, passed away, Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025 at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

She was born Aug. 4, 1936 in Anna, the daughter of Charles M. and Clola Mae (Brown) Mayberry.

She married Richard “Don” Harris on July 31, 1954 in Jonesboro. He preceded her in death on March 5, 2025.

Anita is survived by her children, LaDona (Mike) Blue of East Alton, Ill., Alan Harris of Central City, Ky. and Brian (Sherry) Harris of Gainesville, GA; grandchildren, Jessica (Tim) Carter, Brandon (Trina) Blue, Ryan (Shontae) Harris, Tyler (Kayla) Harris, Brianna (Matt) Bedzyk, Danielle (Jay) Cosgrove and Derek Harris; 21 great-grandchildren and one on the way; Sister, Bessie Galiher of Granite City; numerous nieces and nephews; other extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Don Harris; brothers, Carl, Charles Jr., Bill and Harold Mayberry; and sister, Martha Mayberry.

Anita was a faithful member of the Trinity Pentecostal Tabernacle in Jonesboro for many years. She devoted her life to serving her God and others. She played the organ at church, and her beautiful voice could be heard singing every Sunday.

Anita loved to cook, each year she cooked at the Elco

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN
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church camp during the summer. Christmas was her favorite time of the year, she always made it a special time for her family with wonderful food and lots of love.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 7, 2025, at the Trinity Pentecostal Tabernacle in Jonesboro.

Interment will be in the Jonesboro Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025, at the Trinity Pentecostal Tabernacle in Jonesboro.

Memorial contributions are preferred to the Trinity Pentecostal Tabernacle. Envelopes will be available at the church and the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home.

To view the obituary and leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

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

Hector Francisco Gomez Gonzalez

Hector Francisco Gomez Gonzalez, age 41, of Ullin, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025.

He was born on Oct. 10, 1984 to Francisco Manuél Gomez and Limbania Gonzalez in Jalisco, Mexico.

Hector worked as a carpenter by trade and was very excellent on dry wall. He was Christian by faith and was a very caring and giving person that never met a stranger. Hector enjoyed the nature and plants. Hector was also a very social person, a true Libra.

Survivors include his mother, Limbania Gonzalez; fiancé, Charlene Stringer; children, Ian Gomez and Maia Gomez; brother, Juan Gomez Gonzalez; and sister, Melina Gomez.

Hector is preceded in death by his father, Francisco



Manuél Gomez.

No Services will be held at this time.

The family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to Crain Funeral Home to help offset expenses.

The cremation of Hector Francisco Gomez Gonzalez will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Crain Funeral Home in Ullin is in charge of arrangements.

Crain
Funeral home

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Sharon S. Kohler

Sharon S. Kohler, age 74 of Carbondale, formerly of Anna, passed away, Monday, Oct. 27, 2025.

She was born Jan. 12, 1951 in Jonesboro, the daughter of Kenneth H. and Dorothy (Bowen) Kohler.

Sharon is survived by her partner, David Futrell of Carbondale; three step-children, Tammy Wiesman and her children, Krystina (Austin) Sellars and Cody Wiseman, Dustin Futrell and his children, Allaysa and Mason Futrell, Dillon (Alyscia) Futrell and their children, Kason and Emily Futrell; three great-grandchildren; other extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Timothy Sadler; sister, Linda Webb and nephew, KW Carter.

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Sharon was retired from



Choate Mental Health. She worked thirty-six years as a mental health technician.

Graveside services will be held privately for the family. Interment will be in the Anna Cemetery.

To view the obituary and leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

Robin Henson

Robin Henson, age 62, of Jonesboro, Ill., formerly of Cypress passed away at 4:08 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 27, 2025 at the Deaconess Hospital in Marion.

Robin was born February 10, 1963 in Anna, Ill.

Robin was a graduate of the Vienna High School. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

Robin was a heavy equipment operator out of the Local 318 in Marion. He was an avid Harley Davidson enthusiast.

He is survived by his daughter, Danielle Wallen-Meyer of Jonesboro; son, Gary Henson of Marion; brother, Tracy Richardson of Cypress; three bonus brothers, Harold Richardson of Jonesboro, Bobby Richardson of Anna and Jack Richardson of Vienna; his mother, Sandy Richardson and bonus dad, Bob Richardson Sr. of Cypress.

Robin was preceded in death by his father, Robert Henson.

Funeral services honoring the life of Mr. Robin Henson were held on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025 at the Mound City National Cemetery. Rev. Jack Richardson officiated.

Full military honors e



accorded by the United States Army National Guard Funeral Detail Team and area veterans.

Those attending have been asked to bring a picture of Robin if you have one available and dress comfortably.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the family in care of Wilson Funeral Home, P.O. Box 206, Karnak, Illinois 62956.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wilson Funeral Home in Karnak.

We express our sincere condolences to the Robin Henson family.

To leave an online message for the family or to share a memory, you can also visit our website at www.wilson-funeralhome1928.com



Maxine Ellis

Maxine Ellis, age 87 of Jonesboro, went home to her Lord and Savior, Monday, Oct. 27, 2025.

She was born Feb. 16, 1938, in Jonesboro, the daughter of Leo K. and Lydia (Bartruff) Bernhard.

She married Ronald Eugene Ellis on Sept. 5, 1959.

Maxine is survived by her loving husband of 66 years, Ron Ellis; children , Kevin (Patricia) Ellis of Anna, Paul (Tina) Ellis of Jonesboro, Keith (Melissa) Ellis of Jonesboro; grandchildren, Chris Ellis and fiancé Kasie, Courtney (Mitchell) Holshouser, Samantha (Trey) Holms, Jacob (Madyson) Ellis, Julia Ellis; great-grandchildren, Oliver, Jaxson, Connor, Hunter, Hayden, Wyatt, Lydia, Weslynn and one more on the way, other extended relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant daughter, Gayla Jean Ellis; siblings, Gladys Bernhard, Ella Mae Haas and infant twin brothers.

Maxine was a member of the Dongola First Baptist Church.

She was very involved in the Union County 4-H for many years. Maxine served in various

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES



capacities as group leader and home economics. As she herself enjoyed cooking, sewing, canning, and crocheting, through 4-H she was able to pass her knowledge and skill on to others.

Taking care of her boys and all of her grandchildren was her greatest joy. Her memories and love will hold a special place in everyone’s heart.

Funeral services were at on Friday, Oct. 31, 2025, at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro with Bill Littrell officiating.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Kornthal Church or the Dongola First Baptist Church. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Mary Ellen Lawrence

Mary Ellen Lawrence, age 75, of Tamms, passed away peacefully at her daughter’s home in Alexander County on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025.

She was born on Jan. 4, 1950 to John and Laverna (Darnell) Gast in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

No services are planned at

Crain
Funeral home

Charlotte Anne Browder

Charlotte Browder, age 80 of Anna, entered Heaven’s gates at 1:57 p.m. on Oct. 20, 2025 from Manor Court in Carbondale, after a nearly 9-month battle with glioblastoma, wild-type.

She was born on Sept. 9, 1945 in Grantsburg, Ill., the daughter of Charles and Gladys (Hickam) Cavaness. She married Clarence Browder on March 9, 1963. He preceded her death on Feb. 25, 2023.

Charlotte is survived by her daughter, Teresa (Bryan) Keller of Anna; her son, Carroll Browder of Dahlonge, Ga. and his fiancée Connie Consentino of McCaysville, Ga.; five grandchildren, Tyler Keller and fiancée KayCe Johnson of Makanda, Brent (Samantha) Keller of Springfield, Mo., Christine Browder of Canton, Ga., Jacob Browder of Lilburn, Ga., and Eli Browder of Dahlonge, Ga.; four great grandchildren, Noah Keller of Springfield, Mo., Cash Adams, Paisley Browder and Presley Browder, all of Canton, Ga.; her mother, Gladys (Cavaness) Smithey of DuQuoin; brother, Robert (Carol) Cavaness of Fairview, Wyo.; sisters, Janet Braun of Evansville, and Donna (Terry) Jenkins of Marissa, many nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

Charlotte was preceded in death by her father; step-father, Joe Smithey; husband, Clarence, of nearly 60 years, and sister Nancy Gearhart.

Charlotte was a member of United Missionary Baptist Church in Buncombe, Ill.

After receiving her GED in 1980, Charlotte began attending classes at Shawnee Community College in Ullin with her daughter. An interest in taking classes to help her work with youth alongside her husband’s ministry led her to graduate with honors in 1983.

Charlotte was a preschool teacher at Sunshine Preschool in Anna from 1984-1985. She

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

decided to continue her education,

Rebel “Reba” Short

Rebel “Reba” Short, age 84 of Anna, went home to her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025.

She was born July 25, 1941 in Elkhorn City, Ky., the daughter of Vince A. and Katie (Sifers) Belcher.

Reba is survived by her adoring family, her four children, Dean (Gail) Short, Steve (Susan) Short, Tina Short, Keith (Jen) Short, thirteen grandchildren, Chrissy (Gary) Hurst, Jason (Jade) Short, Laura (Brian) Koehler, Zachary Short, Katie (Michael) Goss, Sarah (Gabe) Mead, Scott (Stephanie) Short, Jessica (James) Lucas, Brad (Stephanie) Short, Sammie (Daniel) Guarino, Cassie (Kyle) Erschen, Stephanie Short, Zachary (Justine) Hendricks; nineteen great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; sisters, Betty Edmonds and Brenda (Scott) Harris; brother, Dempsey Belcher; numerous nieces and nephews; dear friend, Mary Powless; other extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Virginia Francisco; and sister-in-law, Norma Belcher.

Reba was a member of the Mill Creek Baptist Church for many years.

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FUNERAL HOMES

She was an extraordinary woman



receiving a bachelor’s degree in 1987 from S.I.U.- Carbondale, then a master’s degree in social work in 1988.

She was a Youth Crisis Supervisor at Southern Illinois Regional Social Services in Carbondale from 1988-2004.

Charlotte enjoyed sewing, quilting, scrapbooking, gardening, drawing, and crocheting. She was a talented artist and gifted seamstress who helped many young women and brides-to-be by designing and creating custom prom dresses and wedding gowns.

Charlotte, affectionately called Mammie by her grandchildren, devoted many years and much of her time traveling back and forth to Georgia to help her son care for his special child.

As a remembrance of her life the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the National Down Syndrome Society, the Glioblastoma Foundation, or Ebenezer Hall Cemetery Association.

Funeral services for Charlotte Browder were held on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025 at United Missionary Baptist Church, 125 United Missionary Lane, Buncombe, IL, with Bro. Wes Johnson, Rev. Michael Browder, Rev. John Campbell, and Rev. Darrell Neathery officiating.

To view the obituary and leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

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



who impacted so many lives over the years. Reba’s generosity was felt by so many, giving her time and love, expecting nothing in return.

She loved to paint, many of her family and friends have treasured paintings of her artwork.

A celebration of Reba’s life was held on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025 at the Mill Creek Baptist Church with Pastor Bobby Richardson officiating.

Memorial contributions are preferred to the Mill Creek Baptist Church. Envelopes will be available at the church and the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home.

To view the obituary and leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

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

View Obituaries
Online at
annanews.com

Obituaries

Gerald “Cowboy” Lingle

Gerald “Cowboy” Lingle, age 69, of Anna, passed away at 5:31 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31, 2025 at Carbondale Memorial Hospital surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on April 20, 1956 to the late Forrest (Tiny) and Beverly (Sue) Lingle of Anna.

He caught the love of his life in 1979 and he married Julie Wright on Nov. 21, 1981 at Anna Heights Baptist Church, and they spent 44 wonderful years together.

Gerald had one brother, Dana Lingle (infant). Gerald was the only grandson of the late Carl and Thelma Jennings of Calcom.

Survivors include his wife, Julie Lingle of Anna; daughters, Karla and the late Michael Rushing of Dongola, and Jeannie and Raymond Beegle of Anna; special children, Heather and Larry Turner and family, Timothy and Lora Williams and family of Dongola; grandchildren, Scarlet Helton (Dennie) of Johnson City, Mackenzie Beegle (Daniel Bauman), Laura Harris, Taylor Rushing, Raymond (Bubby) Beegle III, and Jacelynn Beegle; special grandchildren, Bryson, Bryleigh, Branson, and Lilly Kay Turner of Anna, also Ashlyn and Jessie Welch and Bradyn Williams of Dongola; great grandchildren, Isaac, Justus, Lane, Linda, and Lillian of Johnson City; sisters-in-law, Patricia Sims of Oklahoma and Karen George of Kingsport, Tennessee; brother-in-law, Derk Wright of Dongola; special nephew, Dalton (Caylar) Wright also of Kingsport, Tennessee; very special friends of the family, Leslie and Thomas Bauman of Dongola; special friend, John Nimmo along with several friends and family that Gerald loved dearly.

Gerald graduated high school in 1974 from Anna-Jonesboro Community High School. He went straight from high school to Shawnee Equipment in West Vienna, then went on to work at Anna (Illini) Ready Mix for 17 years. He was an avid farmer doing what he loved most. He had several nieces and nephews, and several children that called him dad and grandpa who he loved dearly. His special interest was tractor collecting. He also owned and operated K&J Stuff, selling toy tractors, pillows, blankets, and also managed Fox’s Flea Market and was an avid toy creator when it comes to toy tractors. He also enjoyed pulling tractors and watching bull riding and westerns. His Love was his family and watching his grandchildren and the bond that he had with each one. He also loved his dogs, Bully and Toto and loved life in general. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025 with Rev. LaRue Parr officiating at Crain Funeral Home in Anna. Interment followed the service at St. John’s Cemetery in Dongola. In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to Crain Funeral Home for a monument for Gerald. Crain Funeral Home in Anna, Illinois is in charge of arrangements.

Marvin Lamer

Marvin Lamer, age 89 of Carbondale, died, Monday, Oct. 27, 2025.

He was born Sept. 14, 1936 in Anna, the son of John and Hildagarde (Sweitzer) Lamer.

He married Loretta Clutts and together they have shared 69 wonderful years.

Marvin is survived by his loving wife, Loretta Lamer of Carbondale; son, Larry Lamer of Carbondale; grandson, Josh Lamer; brother, David (Karen) Lamer of Anna; and sister, Donna Leming of Carbondale.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Donald Lamer; and sister, Jane Norton.

Early in his career, Marvin worked for the ICC Railroad. He later worked for University Baptist Church until his retirement.

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES Graveside funeral services were



na-Jonesboro Community High School. He went straight from high school to Shawnee Equipment in West Vienna, then went on to work at Anna (Illini) Ready Mix for 17 years.

He was an avid farmer doing what he loved most. He had several nieces and nephews, and several children that called him dad and grandpa who he loved dearly.

His special interest was tractor collecting. He also owned and operated K&J Stuff, selling toy tractors, pillows, blankets, and also managed Fox’s Flea Market and was an avid toy creator when it comes to toy tractors. He also enjoyed pulling tractors and watching bull riding and westerns.

His Love was his family and watching his grandchildren and the bond that he had with each one. He also loved his dogs, Bully and Toto and loved life in general.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025 with Rev. LaRue Parr officiating at Crain Funeral Home in Anna.

Interment followed the service at St. John’s Cemetery in Dongola.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to Crain Funeral Home for a monument for Gerald.

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



on Monday, Nov. 3, 2025 at the Cobden Cemetery with Rev. Doug Cherry officiated.

Memorial contributions are preferred to the Lone Oak Baptist Church in Energy. Envelopes will be available at the cemetery and the Rendleman& Hileman Funeral Home.

To view the obituary and leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

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

River to River Trail Society hike planned

The River-to-River Trail Society has announced its sixth public hike of the 2025 fall hiking season for Saturday, Nov. 15 at Pot Belly Arch in Hardin County.

The hike is free and open to the public. This will be an in-and-out hike of high difficulty, 4.5 miles in length (4 miles of bush whacking), with 4 hours of hiking time.

The leader of the hike can be reached at 618-384-1321 for more information.

Hikers are asked to meet at 10 a.m. at the Camp Cadiz camping area.

The trail society stated that the hike is intended for people in very good health who have done some hiking.

Hiking sticks and boots or sturdy shoes are recommended. Hikers should bring their own water and snacks. Hikers are asked to not bring dogs.

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

Fall turkey hunt results reported

Turkey hunters in Illinois harvested 255 wild turkeys during the 2025 fall firearm season Oct. 18-26, compared to 294 harvested last year. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, reported that the record harvest was set in 2005 when 1,218 birds were harvested.

Union County was one of the top counties in the state for turkey harvest numbers.

This year 1,763 regular fall firearm season permits were sold compared to 1,756 last year. The largest number of permits sold was in 2007 when hunters purchased 4,968 permits, IDNR reported.

Fall firearm turkey hunting was open in 56 of Illinois’ 102 counties. The top counties for harvest this year were Jefferson (16), Jo Daviess (16), Jasper (11), Union (11) and Wayne (11). Approximately 57 percent of the harvest were female birds and 43 percent were male.

Preliminary 2025 fall firearm turkey harvest results for area counties, with comparable totals for 2024, included:

Alexander County: four in 2025, the same as in 2024. Jackson County: six in 2025, compared to 10 in 2024. Johnson County: seven in 2025, compared to six in 2024. Pulaski County: one in 2025, compared to two in 2024. Union County: 11 in 2025, compared to 10 in 2024. Williamson County: seven in 2025, compared to five in 2024.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

The Trick or Treaters were well received and I know my own grandchildren have enough to last until after the first of the year! I loved viewing costumes of my friends and relatives’ children and grandchildren online, in an array from nostalgic, to funny, to odd or at least in need of an explanation for me to understand it, then on to traditional scary, or superheroes. All were cute, even the adults that dressed up.

Friends of mine in Poplar Bluff, Mo. sent me photos of the party they throw annually, and which I’ve attended in years past, and this year’s party included all six of their grandchildren. I, of course, sent photos of mine taken at Trunk or Treat, and then we called and laughed at how much our lives have changed since we were in our 30s and were showing off our kids.

We also veered off into discussions on how much treat or treat has changed since we were children. Most don’t do the door to door, unless they live in small communities. Our grandchildren mostly hit parties and Trunk or Treat events at trusted venues. What’s more heartbreaking is how fast they all grow up. Time flies away too fast. Still the goal was a load of candy, fun costumes, and an enjoyable time. So, mission accomplished there!

Members of P.A.S.T. of Union County met Tuesday, Oct. 29 in regular business. Website and brochure updates are underway. The Christmas luncheons are planned and being advertised (see attached flyer). Members are still needed to help out during the luncheons. A display on P.A.S.T. is being assembled at John A. Logan for viewing throughout the month of November, with a costume and other items on display. Quilts from the P.A.S.T. collection will also be on display in the spring for JALC’s quilt event.

The Back Porch Company will be performing Carols at Candlelight at St. Anne’s Historical Church on Sunday, Dec. 7. More information will be posted soon. Members also announced that Christmas Cantatas will be held at Anna Heights Baptist and Cobden Baptist on Dec. 6 to 7. Check with those churches on times and more specifics.

A review of the yard sale was discussed and a decision was made to have another in the spring. Story Time was well received and discussion was held on future themes. P.A.S.T. will be holding a series of Sunday stories in March. Dates will be posted when finalized.

Barbara Bauer will host a quilt turning event titled “Stitches in Time, 250 years of American History” written by Barbara Bauer in quilted art.

Union County Fixin’s

This is a recipe chosen from a flyer dedicated to Anna’s 102-year-old Willard Memorial Hall and its future destruction on the campus of the Anna-Jonesboro High School grounds.

The flyer was published in February of 1977.

Old Time Recipes by Mrs. Laura H. Holman
Red Cabbage

Select two small, solid heads of hard red cabbage, divide the in halves from crown to stem, lay the split side down, and cut downward in thin slices. The cabbage will then be in narrow strips or shreds. Put into a saucepan a tablespoon of clean drippings, butter or any nice fat; when fat is hot, put in cabbage, a teaspoon of salt, three tablespoons of vinegar (if the latter is very strong use but two) and one onion in which three or four cloves have been stuck, buried in the middle; boil two hours and a half. If it becomes too dry and is in danger of scorching, add a very little water. This is very nice.

Luncheon dates:
Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$25 per person

P.A.S.T. Holiday Luncheons

We Wish You . . .

Make Your Reservations Now

To reserve your table call or email Linda Hileman:
618- 697-1870 or hilemanl4@frontier.com

For more information, visit <https://www.pastofunionco.org>

It will be held at the Vienna Public Library in Vienna on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2:30 p.m. during a Johnson County Historical Society meeting.

Lee Hackney from the Anna Arts Center gave us information on a Freedom Sings event on April 16 to 18, 2026. Donation are needed to fund this wonderful and needed event. This program pairs a veteran up with a singer/songwriter and a song is created that chronicles the veteran’s service. If you are interested, check out www.heroesunited.org.

The Anna Arts Center is also holding its annual Civil War Weekend on Feb. 27 to 28 at the Arts Center and the annual Constitution Week Celebration will be held as a joint event once again in September celebrating America’s 250 birthday, and the document we hold most dear.

The Here & Now Shop is hosting Patriot Quilts December 2025 to January 2026. They will be passing out free 8-inch muslin squares for people to create a patriot square. Return it to the Here & Now Shop by Feb. 10, 2026. Quilts will be made from those squares and viewable at an event sponsored by the Shawnee Hill Arts Council in July. If you are interested in joining SHAC, please contact Lee Hackney or attend the next meeting on Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Anna Arts Center on Davie Street.

Events are being booked at both the P.A.S.T. Heritage House and at St. Anne’s Historical Church for holiday events and weddings, both for this year and next. Please think of P.A.S.T. when you’re planning your event, send inquiries to pastunionco@gmail.com.

Finally, a new member, Alice Sterns, was welcomed into the P.A.S.T. organization and members look forward to working with her. A November meeting will not be held, instead the president will send out a notice on any news that needs relaying. The December meeting will be held on Dec. 30 at 6 p.m.

Fall is teasing us with hints of winter. The few nights we’ve hit the freezing or frost mark and were more than a little rude. We received a decent amount of rain too. My sister-

in-law, Martha, and I were just talking of how we’ve actually received some color in the trees, because of that, which I’m thankful for. I’m hoping we get a few good weekends for bonfires and s’mores without having to wear parkas. The wooly worms I’ve seen around the house are mostly brown with black, but I get confused as to what that means, but the almanac is predicting us to be in the very cold and snowy region and I do know what that means. Brr...and time for new tires on my car.

The world lost a wonderful lady and member of our church this past week. Reba Belcher Short was a most gracious lady. A devout, generous, full of laughter, artistic, family centered, and loving woman. Even though she has been in a nursing facility for a while due to her health, just knowing she’s gone from this place is heart wrenching. We know she’s with Jesus and that’s where she wanted to be when she had to leave her family and friends. Her services were held at Mill Creek Baptist on Saturday, Nov. 1.

Mill Creek Baptist Church is hosting its annual Soup and Chili Supper with Auction on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. Please join us for the bidding on gift baskets and desserts as well as the fellowship with other during the supper. Silent bids on the gift basket will go on during the supper and bidding on the desserts will follow after the meal. Proceeds go to the church.

Prayer requests are for the families of Reba Short, Robin Henson, David Hale, and Tony Slusher in their passings. Also added were: Lula Belle Tripp for a fall; Harold Richardson for health; Timmy Hanney for serious health issues; Leah Parks for surgery; Suzan Harvel for surgery; Gabe Mead for surgery; Corey Jones for personal, Sue Abernathy for health; and Sandy Richardson for cancer and the loss of her son, Robin Henson.

Union County issued a warning to motorists that the Lick Creek exits and the Goreville northbound exit onto and from I-57 will be shut down for the next two weeks. Alternate routes are suggested.

The Cat's Meow

by Cobden Spay and Neuter Coalition

It takes a village. A concerned and compassionate village. And we have the great joy and good fortune to live in one. A kitten tumbled deep into an opening between the walls of two buildings in town a couple of weeks ago. It was heard crying desperately by neighboring businesses and residents. They found that they, alone, could not rescue this tiny baby, and called for help. The city, and its resources, responded, made numerous different attempts to get the kitten out of her predicament and concluded they would only be able to rescue her with some “deconstruction” of city property.

Initially unwilling to proceed with that approach, they left the situation for further consideration. By early the next morning, all other options exhausted, the city did, in fact,

remove bricks from a wall and rescued that sweet baby. To make this story complete, one of the business owners adopted the kitten.

However the powers that be within the city came to this decision, the fact is that they did what was necessary to save one tiny, precious life. She would have surely died in that space had they not done so. Kudos to all the compassionate rescuers and concerned citizens who got to save a life. Any day you can save a life is a good day!

Don’t forget, just three weeks until our “Thank God It’s Trivia” night at Starview Vineyard in Cobden on Friday, Nov. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. Donation for participants is \$25 each, or \$150 for a table/team of eight. Great fun, great competition, great conversation! Plus we have some great door prizes. Won’t you join us in

a delightful evening of fund-raising to continue our work? Message us on Facebook to sign up.

Please visit our website, cobdenspayneutercoalition.org, or our facebook page to see what we’re up to. You may drop off or send donations to our account at Meller-James & Associates, or mail them to CSNC, P.O. Box 542, Cobden, IL 62920. 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!

“The Preaching Pen”

What does it mean to preach Jesus Christ?

In Act 8, we read to two very important accounts. These incidents outline for all mankind the “conditions of pardon” that man must undergo to be pleasing to God. Each event provides man with the opportunity to remove sin and approach God with a clean and righteous heart. In Acts 8:35, the scriptures record that Philip “preached Jesus.” But what does that exactly mean?

What did Philip tell him?

First, as a servant of the scriptures, Philip knew God’s Word; we must know the scriptures as well. Like Philip, we must preach the Word, not our feelings, not our opinions 2 Timothy 4:2. Just as Philip preached the saving gospel of Christ, so should we; we should never substitute the social gospel of self or of the world Romans 15:16. Philip’s teaching was based upon the Holy Spirit’s interpretation of God’s will. We must preach 2 Tim 3:16-17. Man has no business bringing his own private and personal interpretation of 2 Peter 1:20 when teaching others.

Second, we must proclaim the good tidings (of great joy, Luke 2:10). This is the effect of God’s Word upon the human heart. Philip preached the facts about Jesus Christ. Men of the Twenty-first Century, as with the men of the First Century, need to know about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and Acts 10:36-43. Next, Philip preached the promise of Jesus Christ. That promise exists today as the Lord’s Church, named after HIM, the Church of Christ. Jesus spoke of such a church in Luke 4:43. Finally, Philip taught the eunuch about the necessity of baptism, the Gospel’s command. There is no salvation apart from HIS Church. The only entrance into it is through the avenue of baptism, Acts 2:38; 41; 47.

This is what preaching Jesus Christ meant in the book of Acts. It still means it today; have you been baptized? If you are struggling to understand what you need to do to belong to the Lord, why not let us help you? We are ready to study with you and help you grasp ahold of eternity.

Ryan Thornsberry,
Anna Church of Christ

The Gazette-Democrat Classified Section

Anna Office
618-833-2158

classifieds@annanews.com
AD DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. MONDAY

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\$8.00 minimum for each paid ad per week

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY RATES

Per inch\$14.00

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2006 Dixon Kodiak Zero Turn Lawn Mower. Well Maintained \$1200 obo 618-614-0441

HELP WANTED

City of Anna, General Clerk The City of Anna, IL is accepting applications for the position of a General Clerk. Applicants must be 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. The position will be 40 hours a week, 8 am to 4 pm. Candidates must have a positive attitude, be able to multitask and work well with the public and employees. Duties include but are not limited to: greeting customers, answering multi-line phone system, collecting and posting payments, entering data and creating customer bills. Must be able to operate basic office equipment, proficient computer skills (including Window Office), and basic accounting knowledge. This position is under the Local 773 Collective Bargaining Agreement and the starting pay is \$24.60/hour. Applications will be available for interested candidates at Anna City Hall or online at cityofanna.org. Please return resume and employment application to the Human Resources Department at Anna City Hall, 103 Market Street Anna, IL 62906 or by email to mmcreynolds@cityofanna.org. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

AUCTION

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: Brittany White Storage Units: 17 & 19 Property to be sold: Personal/Miscellaneous Time/Place/Manner of Sale: November 15, 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

ART LODGE,

DECEASED.

NO. 2025-PR-20

IN PROBATE

NOTICE OF DEATH,

INDEPENDENT ADMINIS-

TRATION,

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, 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 ADMINIS-
TRATOR
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 Debra Hicks, 8830 N. Amboy, Citrus Springs, FL 34433 as Independent Administrator whose attorney of record is Phillip 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT

UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF

IRENE STAMP,

DECEASED.

NO. 2025-PR-18

IN PROBATE

NOTICE OF DEATH

INDEPENDENT ADMINIS-

TRATION,

AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of IRENE STAMP, of Wolf Lake, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 16, 2025, to AMANDA VOSBURGH, of 525 FOSTER ROAD, ANNA, IL 62906, whose attorney is ELLE J. BASLER, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

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

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

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before April 23, 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: October 16, 2025.
AMANDA VOSBURGH
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELLE J. BASLER
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6345426
8221-958911

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

VANDERBILT MORTGAGE

AND FINANCE, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOSHUA ADEN, SPOUSE,

IF ANY, OF JOSHUA ADEN

a/k/a JOSHUA W. ADEN, NCB

MANAGEMENT SERVICES,

INC., and UNKNOWN OWN-

ERS AND NON-RECORD

CLAIMANTS

Defendants.

Case No. 2025FC14

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

(30 DAYS PRE-JUDGMENT)

(735 ILCS 5/15-1502(c)(2))

You are hereby notified that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure action was filed on September 19, 2025 and is now pending. The Plaintiff intends to enter judgment of foreclosure in the case on or after November 22, 2025, a date not less than 30 days from the date this notice is being given. If you have not filed an appearance and an answer or other affirmative pleading in this case before that date (you may also be required to intervene in the case if you are not already a party), then a JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT may be entered for the relief requested in the complaint. If judgment is entered against you, the sheriff may evict you.

1. The names of all plaintiffs and the case number are identified above.

2. The court in which the action was brought is identified above.

3. The name of the title holder of the record is Joshua Aden.

4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:

A part of the North One-Half of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4)

of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Section 29, Township 13 South, Range 1 East of the Third Principal Meridian bounded and described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Quarter-Quarter Section; thence East along the North line of said Quarter-Quarter Section a distance of 660 feet to a point; thence South and parallel to the West line of said Quarter-Quarter Section a distance of 330 feet to a point; thence West and parallel

to the North line of said Quarter-Quarter Section to the West line thereof, a distance of 660 feet; thence North along the West line of said Quarter-Quarter Section to the point of beginning, a distance of 330 feet, containing five (5) acres, more or less, Union County, Illinois.
Parcel Number: 03-29-01-887-A2
Common Address Location: 2450 Shake Rag Rd, Dangola, IL 62926

5. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:
Name of Mortgagors: Joshua Aden a/k/a Joshua W. Aden
Name of Mortgagee: Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc.
Date of Mortgage: September 21, 2007
Date of Recording: September 21, 2007
County Where Recorded: Union County
Recording document identifica-

tion: Instrument No. 2007R2507
6. A Notice of Foreclosure (Lis Pendens) has been recorded October 14, 2025 as Instrument No. 2025R1605, in the Office of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Union, State of Illinois.
Dated: October 15, 2025
This document was prepared by:
SANDBERG PHOENIX & von GONTARD P.C.
By: /s/ Heather M. Fuller
Heather M. Fuller, ARDC

#6281985
Clayton G. Kuhn, ARDC
#6298490
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314-241-7604 (Fax)
hfuller@sandbergphoenix.com
ckhun@sandbergphoenix.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
8221-958869

State school report card continues to show wide achievement gaps

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD –

The first school report card issued under Illinois’ new, revised scoring system shows higher student proficiency rates in English language arts and math, but continuing disparities between racial, ethnic and economic subgroups.

The 2025 report card shows more than half of all students (52.4 percent) scored proficient or better on English language arts exams, but only 38 percent met grade-level proficiency standards for math.

Those numbers are based on standardized tests that students from third grade through high school took in the spring 2025 semester. They reflect a new scoring system the Illinois State Board of Education approved in August that established new benchmarks for proficiency.

“Illinois’ previous benchmarks for English language arts proficiency were the most restrictive in the country, resulting in the mislabeling of high achieving college ready students as being not proficient,” State Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders said during a media briefing on the report card.

“This meant that the students who were succeeding in school passing advanced placement and dual credit courses, taking leadership roles within their schools, enrolling in college and still being labeled as not proficient on our state assessment.”

The change in scoring systems was expected to result in more students being classified as proficient in reading and math, but fewer in science. And that is what happened.

In 2024, only 39 percent of students who were tested scored proficient or better in English language arts and only 28 percent did so in math. On the science assessment, which is given to fifth and eighth grade students, the proficiency rate dropped from 53.1 percent in 2024 to 44.6 percent in 2025.

But Sanders said the 2025 scores cannot really be compared with previous years because

the year-over-year changes are mostly the result of the new scoring system, not a change in how well students performed. However, he also said there were other indications that student performance did improve in 2025.

“They would have increased if we had kept the same cut scores,” he said. “However, we changed the cut scores, so we can’t tell you what they would have been. But we know they would have improved.”

Performance gaps All states have issued annual report cards since the 2002-2003 school year when they were mandated by the federal law known as the No Child Left Behind Act. They were intended as a tool to hold districts and individual schools accountable for bringing all students up to a level of proficiency in reading and math, and for improving their high school graduation rates.

That also meant closing the persistent achievement gaps between racial, ethnic and economic subgroups of students.

But the law also gave states flexibility to establish their own standards for proficiency and to develop their own tests to measure student performance.

In Illinois, most students in grades 3-8 take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness for English language arts and Math. Students in fifth and eighth grade also take the Illinois Science Assessment.

At the high school level, ninth and 10th grade students take the PreACT Secure exam. High school juniors and some high school seniors take the ACT with Writing, which includes tests in English, math, reading, science and writing.

In Illinois, the 2025 report card shows there are still wide gaps in proficiency rates between white, Black and Hispanic students in both English language arts and math.

Among fourth graders, for example, 55.4 percent of white students scored proficient or better in math, compared to 28.8 percent of Hispanic students and 17.4 percent of Black

students.

Among eighth graders, two-thirds of white students (66.6 percent) scored proficient compared to just over one-third (36.7 percent) for Black students and 45.4 percent for Hispanic students.

The 2025 report card also includes data for the first time for a newly categorized ethnic group: “Middle Eastern or North African,” abbreviated MENA in the data files.

Among MENA students, the 2025 report card showed a 53.9 percent proficiency rate in fourth-grade English language arts and a 42.3 percent proficiency rate for eighth-grade math.

Graduation Rates One area where Illinois has made progress in closing achievement gaps is high school graduation rates.

In 2025, the statewide four-year graduation rate reached a 15-year high of 89 percent. That was up 3.4 percentage points from a decade earlier. But the rate was also up across all demographic groups, and the gap between those groups narrowed significantly.

In 2015, the four-year graduation rate among white students was 90.2 percent. That was 14.7 points higher than the Black graduation rate, and 9.5 points higher than the rate for Hispan-

ic students.

In 2025, the graduation rate for white students inched up to 92.4 percent, but it also rose among other groups. As a result, the gap between white and Black students narrowed to just 9.5 percentage points, and the gap between white students and Hispanic students narrowed to just 6 points.

Sanders gave credit for much of that improvement to the Evidence-Based Funding formula, which lawmakers passed in 2017. That law called for adding at least \$300 million per year in new funding each year to the state’s K-12 education budget.

Since then, Sanders said, Illinois has added more than \$3 billion in EBF funding to the budget, with the bulk of that money targeted toward the least-funded school and earmarked for things specifically designed to improve student outcomes.

“Districts have used these resources to expand interventions like summer school,” he said. “They’ve added mentoring, credit recovery courses, transition programs for English and math, and they broadened access to career and technical education, advanced placement, international baccalaureate and dual credit. These opportunities keep students

engaged and on track for success.”

Other Findings The report card also contains data on several other measures of the state’s education system.

The number of full-time equivalent teachers working in Illinois reached a new high of 137,899, an increase of 687 from the previous year. The teaching workforce also became slightly more racially diverse, with 21.1 percent of them classified as nonwhite, compared to 20.4 percent last year. But total student enrollment decreased slightly to just under 1.85 million.

Chronic absenteeism declined for the third consecutive year in 2025 but still remained high at 25.4 percent. Students are classified as chronically absent if they miss 10 percent or more of the days in a school year, regardless of whether the absence is excused or not. The rate shot up during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching a peak of 29.8 percent in 2022.

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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What Is The Value Of A Community Newspaper?

What is the value of a community newspaper?

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

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

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

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

The community newspaper facilitates the exchange of ideas and opinions through its editorial page and letters to the editor. There are so many things of value community newspapers provide: the recording of local history and helping to maintain a healthy local economy through effective advertising for local businesses are just a few areas of value.

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

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

VFW announces upcoming events

Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 are hosting a number of events in the month of November.

Fish fry fundraiser

The Anna VFW is hosting an all-you-can-eat fish fry fundraiser on Friday Nov. 7 at the post from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Dine in and carry out orders will be available. Children under 12 eat for free for dine-in orders.

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. The more nominations for any group, the better the chances of winning.

If you have any questions call Linda at 618-833-7737. Star Karaoke will be playing from 6 to 10 p.m. The public is welcome.

Military Ball

The Anna VFW will be hosting a military ball on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. People interested in attending should stop by the post or call to make res-

ervations.

Marine Corps Birthday

On Monday, Nov. 10, the Anna VFW will be hosting their annual Marine Corps birthday celebration. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the formation of the United States Marine Corps. The event starts at 5 p.m. and features food, cake, music and door prizes.

Veterans Parade

Tuesday, Nov. 11 is the annual Veterans Day Parade. Kick off is at 11 a.m., and the VFW will be giving awards and serving hot dogs and chili at the post after the parade.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

Sunday, Nov. 2

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on Nov. 2. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team. The message “Wake Up Church With Faith Not Fear” was brought by Pastor Wright from John 10:10, 1 Peter 5:8, Galatians 6:7, 2 Thessalonians 2:7, Ezekiel 33: 1-7, 2 Timothy 3:1, Galatians 6:7-9, Psalm 74:22, Psalm 74:10, Revelation 12:9-10, John 10:10, Hosea 4:6, Revelation 18:4, Psalm 42:7, 2 Peter 3:17, Amos 3:8, Amos 5:21-24, Isaiah 29:13, Matthew 7:21, Amos 5:4, Joel 2:13, Acts 3:19.

The evening service on Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. was canceled. Celebrating birthdays this week are: 2nd Lea Wright, 6th Esten Parks

Sunday, Nov. 9

Breakfast - 9 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service - 10:35 a.m. Evening Worship Service - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

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

Saturday, Nov. 8

Annual harvest festival at 4 p.m.

Fun and games for all, cornhole tournament, chili cook off.

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

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



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A Compensation of War



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Why war? The death and destruction...the millions of dollars spent that could be used to address other atrocities of life such as famines and natural disasters...the families destroyed or forever broken... why war? In Matthew 24.6 the Lord says, “And you will hear of wars and rumors of war; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place.” As long as there is man, there will be war. As Veterans’ Day approaches we must honor and support the leadership, compassion and courage of those who serve. Visit God’s House this week and find strength and peace in His wisdom and give a heartfelt thanks for our veterans.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Genesis 2.4b-25	Psalms 104	Psalms 8	Psalms 24	1 Chron. 16.8-43	Nehemiah 12.27-47	Esther 9.20-32

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Opinion and Commentary

Honoring America’s veterans for their service, sacrifice

Note: The following History of Veterans Day and the Veterans Day Timeline are from the website for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

History of Veterans Day

World War I, known at the time as “The Great War,” officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Veterans Day Timeline

1919

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

1926

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

1938

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday, a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor Veterans of World War I.

1954

In 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the Veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first “Veterans Day Proclamation,” which stated: “In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all Veterans, all Veterans’ organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.”

1958

In 1958, the White House advised VA’s General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee’s chairman.

1968

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

1971

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Please read this...

This week...a little of this...a little bit of that...

This week...once again...a little bit of this...and a little bit of that...

Bob may have been in a bit of huff last week. I forgot that October 29 was National Cat Day. How could I? Hopefully, the chicken I cooked for him over the weekend eased the pain. Bob does like his chicken.

Meanwhile...

Did you take a look at this week’s super, duper moon? From what was posted online, the moon would be at its brightest and fullest for the year. The moon already was pretty impressive when it was rising Monday evening.

Meanwhile...

A glance at the calendar shows that Thanksgiving is three weeks away. Three weeks? How is that possible? And Christmas is only four weeks after that...

Meanwhile...

The imminent arrival of the holiday season means that things are getting serious on the tube when it comes to finding just the “right” gift to give. Including perfume. Or parfum. Seems like I have pondered this in the past, but is it just me...or are some of those perfume commercials just kind of weird?

Meanwhile...

Speaking of a holiday...we welcomed trick-or-treaters to our humble abode last Friday evening. About a hundred or so. This year’s Halloween visitors were very, very polite. Lots of “thank yous.” Most of our visitors greeted us with the traditional “trick or treat.” One took a much different approach. She walked up to our porch, where we were handing out treats, and said: “Can I have some candy please?”

We even had a couple of “cat lovers” who paid a visit. They were pretty excited to see our two indoor kitties in the window. We told them our cats’ names and asked the names of their kitties. One had one cat, the other had three. I wish I had made note of the cats’ names. I gave our visitors some cat treats. (No. I did not give trick-or-treaters cat treats. Bob might have had something to say about that.)

We even saw a couple of mosquitoes (not in disguise) on Halloween night. Seemed appropriate that tiny vampires were out and about on Halloween.

Meanwhile...

The Other Half and her traveling companion on The Journey Through Life had a big time last Sunday afternoon.

Sunday afternoons are usually pretty “lazy” times for us. The Other Half often takes a nice nap. Yours truly likes to pretend like I am reading, which usually involves making it through a sentence or two, if I am lucky, before falling asleep. We wake up long enough to have Sunday dinner, which is followed by a pre-bed time nap...and then...the day is done.

Instead of following the “usual” routine last Sunday, the two of us went on a retail shopping adventure in the big city. We compiled a list of what we needed and hit the road. The list, by the way, was not very long.

We had mixed success in checking off the items on our list. For the most part, The Other Half didn’t do well at all. I actually managed to check a couple of items off my list. Fortunately, our little adventure didn’t cost a whole of bunch of money...and we still had time to get home to do some reading...maybe even take a nap.

Meanwhile...

It’s probably going to take a while... I will have to consider finding a good time to get in a daily walk. I generally go for a walk in evening. Sometimes in the late afternoon. Mornings, not so much. I am not a morning person.

However, Daylight Saving Time came to an end in the wee hours of last Sunday morning. That meant the end of seeing plenty of sunlight into the early hours of the evening. So, for the next few months...until early March of 2026...I guess a daily walk will need to be worked into the schedule earlier in the day...or I will have to start carrying a flashlight if the



Some vultures looked to be just hanging out on a sunny autumn afternoon when they were spotted last Sunday in a tree along Mountain Glen Road.

walk doesn’t happen until sometime in the evening. Hope it doesn’t take long to get used to being dark at 5 o’clock.

Meanwhile...

Speaking of going for a walk. Last Saturday, I did get in a walk in the afternoon. For the first time in quite a while, I actually had to wear a coat. And to think the temperature was in the 80s just a couple of weeks ago. The temperature Saturday afternoon was in the 40s...and there was a wind chill, too. At least there wasn’t any ice or snow.

The autumn chill continued Sunday night and into early Monday morning, when we saw what appeared to be the first frost of the season in a neighbor’s back yard.

Meanwhile...

How ‘bout a Critter Sighting or two...

After last weekend’s retail shopping adventure, we headed back home by way of a drive along Kaolin Road and Mountain Glen Road.

As is often the case, we were on the lookout for whatever Critters might be out and about on the first Sunday afternoon in November. We saw one white-tailed deer, some cows and a bunch of vultures hanging out in a tree not far from Mountain Road. I am pretty sure one of the vultures gave me the stink eye when I took a group photo. Of course, it wouldn’t be very hard for a vulture to have a stink eye...

Other recent Critter Sightings included a frog (again) in the Gulf of Cobden...and lots of squirrels (again) nibbling on the bounty of this year’s walnut crop and carrying leaves into trees, presumably for nests in anticipation of winter’s cold. We’re hoping the frog finds a nice, warm place to spend the winter real soon.

Meanwhile...

I’m looking out the window Monday evening...it’s already dark...at 5:14 p.m.

Events set at Jonesboro Library

The Jonesboro Public Library has announced several events and activities planned throughout the month of November.

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the library will be hosting after school programs from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 7 will feature a Veterans Day activity at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 8 will feature a pjs, popcorn and movie event at 2 p.m.

Story time with the Jonesboro Police Chief is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 14 at 3:30 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 15 will feature waffles and story time at 2 p.m.

The U of I wooly worms program is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21, and a Thanksgiving craft and story time is set for Saturday, Nov. 22 at 2 p.m.

The library’s regular scheduled hours are from 1 to 5 p.m. from Tuesday to Saturday.

The library will be closed Nov. 27 to 29 for Thanksgiving.

The Jonesboro Public Library is located at 412 South Main Street in Jonesboro.

More information can be found on the library's Facebook page.



Christmas Shop set to open

Union County Historical Society board member Darryl Parks of Anna shows several Santa figures that will be for sale at the society's annual Christmas Shop. The Shop is scheduled to open at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 8. The Christmas Shop is located next to the Union County Museum at 117 S. Appleknocker in Cobden. The Shop will offer a variety of Christmas decorations. Photo provided.

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

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Thursday, November 6, 2025

Veterans Salute

Anna, Illinois



Danny L. Dunston, U.S. Army, 1968-1970. Spec 4. Served in the Vietnam War. Awarded: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Vietnam Service Medal.



Curtis D. Treece, Army, 1968-1970, SP5, Vietnam.



Lester S. Lazenby, U.S. Army, July 1940-July 1945, PFC, 183rd Military Police Co., World War II, American Theater Ribbon, European-African, Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon w/2 Bronze Battle Stars, 5 Overseas Service Bars.



William H. Allen, U.S. Navy, 1959-1962. Served on USS Saratoga during the Cuban Missile Crisis.



Bill D. Myers, U.S. Army, 1980-1987. E5, National Guard, Army Reserves. Peacetime training in Norway and Germany.



Nathaniel J. Bracken, Specialist in U.S. Army, April 2007-April 2011, served in Afghanistan from April 2009-Oct. 2009.



Wesley Ray Sadler, U.S. Army, 1966-1968, 2 years, E-4, Combat Engineer, Vietnam, also served in U.S. Navy Reserve w/the Navy Seabees from 1987-2005, retired w/20 years total service.



Carroll Wayne Eaves, (deceased), Marine Corp, 1968, 3rd Marines, PFC/E2, Scout Sniper, South Vietnam, killed in action July 7, 1968, in Quang Try, South Vietnam, four days short of his 20th birthday.



William Louie Bryant, U.S. Army, November 1961-July 1967, SP5, Communication Equipment Repair / USAREUR, Germany, 4 years.



Ralph E. Glasford Jr., Served in the U.S. Army from 1958-1962. Army Reserve until 1965. Stationed in Korea. Rank, E4. KSM-GCM.



Raymond W. Godwin, Army, 1966-1967, SP4, Vietnam, killed in Vietnam.



Tullie Van Boyd, M.D., U.S. Army, 1882-1958 Dr. Tullie Van Boyd was a physician in East St. Louis when he enlisted in the Army. Battalion VI, United States Army Ambulance Service, World War I, 1917 through April 1919. He attained the rank of Major. Served in Italy 1918-1919. Passenger records on the S/S GIUSSEPPI VERDI show he sailed from Jersey City, N.J. on June 13, 1918. He wrote to his parents that he hoped he could qualify to be an ambulance driver/doctor and he did so serve. He returned from Genoa, Italy in April 1919.



David E. Diefenbach, U.S. Air Force, 1964-1971, Captain. United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., June 1960-June 1964. Williams Air Force Base, Arizona, Pilot Training, T-37 and T-38 Aircraft, August 1964-August 1965, Distinguished Graduate, Order of Daedalian Award. Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, Air Force Systems Command, flew F100 Super Sabre, Sept. 1965-March 1967. Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, Aerial Gunnery School, F100, Top Gun Award, March-May 1967. Hurlbuert Field, Florida, Light Aircraft Training, June-July 1967. Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam, Assigned to 20th TASS, 3rd/4th Infantry as Forward Air Controller, call letters "Cider Fac," Flew O-1e Cessna Bird Dog coordinating air strikes with ground troops, August 1967-August 1968. RAF Woodbridge, England, 79th Tactical Fighter Squadron (NATO), F100 Pilot, September 1967-November 1968. Edwards Air Force

Base, California, Air Force Flight Center Aerospace Research Pilots School (ARPS), Class 70A, January-December 1970. He received the Liethen-Tittle Award for best overall record for outstanding flying performance and academic excellence and was selected to fly the rocket-powered NF104 to heights above 100,000 ft. Graduates of ARPS were qualified to take part in both atmospheric and space oriented test-programs. Capt. Diefenbach was assigned to remain on staff at ARPS as an instructor and Acting Chief of the Aerospace Research Pilot Branch of the Academics Division. He was killed June 23, 1971, while flying a B-57 Canberra bomber on a low-level training mission; mechanical failure of the aircraft was the cause. The Meritorious Service Medal was awarded posthumously for his dedication to major curriculum innovations for the Aerospace Research Pilots School.



Norman C. Bauer, U.S. Air Force 1959-1965, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve 1966-1968, Strategic Air Command (SAC), Captain, Pilot/Air Refueling, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana; Blytheville Air Force Base, Arkansas; Clinton County Air Force Base, Ohio; Moran Air Force Base, Spain; Goose Bay Air Force Base, Labrador;

Torrejon Air Force Base, Spain; Azore Islands, Portugal; Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Campaigns or operations: During the cold war of the 1960s, including the Cuban Crisis, a member of Bauer's 60-F pilot class, referred to their military unit as "Cold Warriors" of the Air Force, who stared down the tyranny of the Soviets and their acolytes, and won!" Capt. Norm Bauer piloted KC-97s and KC-135 tanker jets on mid-air refueling missions during the Cuban Crisis and the Vietnam conflict. Bauer's squadrons were part of the USAF Strategic Air Command "that never sleeps." SAC crews were always on alert for immediate defense duty. For the Air National Guard, Bauer piloted C-121 Air Base, New Jersey, and for the Air Force Reserve, C-119 trans

Commander Mark E. Boaz, United States Navy [living] Served 2003-2023 Mark was born and raised in Anna, graduating as valedictorian of the Anna-Jonesboro Class of 1996. He earned a degree in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a master's degree in Plasma Physics from Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey. In 2003, he joined the United States Navy and was commissioned as an officer following completion of Officer Candidate School. He served as a junior officer aboard the fast-attack submarine USS SCRANTON and as Engineer Officer aboard the USS NORFOLK, during which he deployed 4 times between 2005 and 2012 during the Global War on Terror. His shore duty assignments included Tactics Department Head at Submarine Learning Facility Norfolk and Assistant Submarine Force Training Officer. In 2015, he left active duty and continued service in the United States Navy Reserve as a member of Theater Anti-Submarine Warfare Detachment Great Lakes, where he served as the Executive Officer. He completed a mobilization in 2019-20 for Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, in the country of Djibouti, where he served as a department head in the Operations Directorate and headed the command's COVID-19 response task force. He retired in December with the rank of Commander following 21 total years of service, active and reserve.





Charles E. Allen Jr., Gunnery Sergeant Charles E. Allen was born Feb. 28, 1971, in Flora, Ill. He enlisted in the Marine Corps July 13, 1989, and attended recruit training at Marine Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., from April through July 1990. Upon graduation he received orders to Marine Combat Training school and subsequently the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, Calif. After graduating in January 1991, Allen received orders to the air craft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln as part of the Marine detachment and was deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm. After serving two years and promoted to lance corporal, Allen was transferred to 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Camp Lejuene, N.C., where served as a scout. Shortly after Allen checked into the battalion, he was transferred to Special Marine Air Ground Task Force Unitas 34 where he served for the next nine months and was promoted to corporal. During this time, Allen trained in seven different countries in South America before returning to the U.S. Upon completion of his tour, Allen returned to 2nd LAR Bn.. where he finished his tour and was honorably discharged April 12, 1994.

Nov. 26, 1996, Allen reenlisted in the Marine Corps as a lance corporal. Upon his reenlistment, Allen made a lateral move to the motor transportation occupational specialty and completed his schooling aboard Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. After graduating, Allen received orders to 7th Motors Battalion Camp Pendleton in March 1997, during which time he was promoted to corporal. After 18 months with the battalion, Allen was transferred to Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 1 L Allen completed two tours and was promoted to sergeant while attached to the MSSG. He deployed during two West Pacific tours and trained in Jordan and Saudi Arabia. In

September 2002, Allen received orders to Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif, were he was assigned as a drill instructor to Company L 3rd Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment. He successfully completed nine cycles, three as a senior drill instructor. In October 2003, he was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant. Allen received orders to Okinawa, Japan, and was assigned to 3rd Transportation Support Battalion, Motor Transport Company. 3rd Marine Logistics Group. After four months with the battalion, Allen was assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit June 24, 2006. There he completed several training exercises in the Philippines, Korea and Australia. Allen then reported to Combat Logistic Regiment 3, formerly 3rd TS Bn., where he served as general support truck master. Allen was transferred to Combat Logistics Battalion 6 as the battalion substance abuse control officer and later as the company gunnery sergeant for Companies A and B. While there he completed two tours in Afghanistan. Allen's personal decorations and awards include Navy Marine Corps Achievements medal with two gold Stars, Good Conduct Medal with silver star, and Drill Instructor Ribbon.



Troy S. Winters, U.S. Army – World War II, 7/28/41 – 12/15/45; Spearpoint Division, Forward Echelon; 3rd Armored Division – First Army; Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes & Central Europe; Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation Award, Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal & European Campaign Medal. Distinguished Award pinned on unit by General D.D. Eisenhower.



Ronald Jennings, Living, Navy SEABEES, 1967-1968, MCB128, E4, Heavy Equipment Operator, Crane Operator, Served Rhode Island; Gulfport, Mississippi; Camp LeJune. Campaign: Marble Mountain Vietnam, Panang East. Awarded Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Defense Medal, Combat Training Medal, Sharp Shooter Medal. He went on to Heavy Equipment Training Demolition School



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Charles E. Allen, U.S. Army, 1967-1969. Spec 4, Medical Corps. Served in the Vietnam War. Awarded: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Vietnam Service Medal.



Philip Glasford, Army, three years, 71st Artillery (Hawk) 57th Infantry (Mech.), Spec 5, Wheel and Truck Mechanic, Basic at Ft. Leonard Wood, 1st AIT at Ft. Leonard Wood, 2nd AIT at Ft. Knox, Ky. Track School, went to Korea and served one year, went to Ft. Carson, Colo. for remainder of service, was in Korea when "Pueblo" was captured, unit was mobilized, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Korean Service Medal, numerous awards for exemplary performance during AIG's, no problems found with motor pool, was promoted to motor Pool Sergeant-Acting E-6, at Ft. Carson units motor pool received highest marks. Units - Korea 71st Artillery (Hawk), Ft. Carson - 5th Infantry Division.



Joe McMahan, Army, February 1961 to February 1963, Spec 4, Vietnam, Sharp Shooter, CBR Training.



Stanley W. Burris, SSGT., over 20 years service, retired 1972, U.S. Army RA, Const. Mechanic Supervisor, Greenland, Alaska, England, Germany, Vietnam, Ft. Campbell, Ky., Indochina, Korea, Vietnam, two year Dvr. w/ Badge, w/Dvr. Bar, NDSM (1st OLC), Good Conduct Medal (5 Awd.), Army Com. Medal, ARCOM, VCM w/60 Dev. He served three separate tours of duty in Vietnam.



Otis G. Burris, Airman First Class, 2nd U.S. Air Force, 1959-1964, Strategic Air Command, Austin, Texas. Good Conduct Medal. He was serving during the end of the Cuban crisis and the beginning of Vietnam.



Michael L. Sitter, USMC, 1966-1968, Lance Corporal, Vietnam.



John H. Burris, Seaman First Class, United States Coast Guard, 1942-1946. Served Combat Duty-New Guinea Island, Hawaiian Islands, Philippine Islands, Australia, Alaska-Alleutian Islands, Am. Theatre Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Ribbon w/1 Bronze Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon w/two Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal.



Herman A. Mezo, PFC, U.S. Army, 1942-1945, Truck Driver (light and heavy), Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe, one Service Stripe, four Overseas Service Bars, European-African Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon w/1 Silver Battle Star, Good Conduct Medal.



Fred Coleman, 1942 to 1945, World War II Alaska.



Charles Larry Burris, Spec. 4, Army Cons. Engr., 1955-1958, Co. Unit 62nd Engr. Battalion 18th, Engr. Brigade, 5th Army, Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., Good Conduct Medal.



James L. Marks, Army, 1942-1945; CP1 550 Airborne Infantry; rifleman (745); Germany, France and Italy, Rome, Arno, Southern France and Ardennes. American Theatre Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Ribbon with three Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal. POW for 88 days, captured by Germans.



Larry Eugene Rendleman, U.S. Army, Sept. 1968-Nov. 1969, 9th Infantry Division, Specialist 5, Combat Engineer Vietnam, National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, 2nd (oLc) Vietnam Service Unit was primarily responsible for road mine sweeping, demolition work and barracks and bridge construction.



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Brig. Gen. John Reppert retired as a Brigadier General from the U.S. Army following 33 years of active service.



Jerry L. Reppert, Lieutenant Commander United States Naval Reserve. 21 years service Public Affairs Officer. Nuclear Weapons Training Officer.



Fonzy Casper, Army WWII 1943-46. Infantry Sgt. Served in South Pacific, New Guinea Landings. Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal.



Raymond D. Hankla, (deceased), Air Force, 1942-1945 (WWII), 9th Airborne Squadron, Corporal, Munition works, driver and mechanic, U.S., England, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, D-Day Normandy, Northern France-Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland-Central Europe, European Theater Ribbon with 1 Silver Star, Belgium Fourragen, 4 Overseas Service Bars, Good Conduct Medal, Ray invented a hoist that lifted bombs up to airplanes and a snorkel so vehicles could run in deeper water.



Howard Dennis Sitter, U.S. Army, 1970-1972, C Battery 3rd Battalion 82nd Artillery, Fire Direction Artillery, Vietnam, Indochina, Vietnam Apr. 1971 - Feb. 1972, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 60, 2 Overseas Service Bars, Expert M-16.



James E. West Jr., Staff Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, Vietnam, 1967-68.



James E. West Sr., Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army Air Force. Flew 25 missions over Germany and occupied Europe as gunner and radio operator on B-17 bomber with 381st Bomb Group, 8th Air Force. Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters.



Warner H. Hileman Sr. WWII, 1945 photo, Sgt. 785th AAF.



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



Heath Pengress, U.S. Air Force, 1984-1988 479 Air Wing, 433rd AMU, Sgt., Crew Chief, Holloman AFB, New Mexico.



Collin A. Brimm, U.S. Army, Cpl., World War II/ Korea, two Purple Hearts.



Fred E. Carrington, Army, 1969-1970, 164th Aviation Group, Warrant Officer, Helicopter Pilot, Vietnam, Stationed in Bien Hoa, Performing reconnaissance role in the Plain of Reeds near the Cambodian border. National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Aviator Badge, Expert Badge with Rifle Bar, Sharpshooter Badge, Auto Rifle Bar, Marksman Badge-Pistol Bar Award Post posthumously, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal with 2nd and 3rd Award, killed in action Feb. 11, 1970.



Wayne Hileman, on July 29, 1943, like many young Union County men, Wayne Hileman of Mill Creek, Illinois, answered his country's call to arms. Wayne served as ammunition handler and Rifleman Company H 13th Infantry Army of the United States. Wayne participated in campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. He received an honorable discharge Nov. 5, 1945.



Vernon Pearce, Army, 1942-1945, Medical Core, Corporal, Fort Richardson, Alaska and Aleutian Islands.



Harold Richard Kinder, Deceased, US Navy 3yrs March 1943 to March 1946 RTIC (Radio Tach First Class & RT2C, Radio Technician, Served: U.S.S. Ariel Fleet- Scotland & Ireland; Naples, Italy; Various Islands delivering supplies. Campaign: European-African Middle Eastern. Awarded Victory Medal WWII. Dick had two years college (SIU) before the Navy. Afterwards Graduated from Washington University and became an Electrical Engineer for Rockwell Int.



John M. Brimm, U.S. Army, 11 Avn Gy Caudn, Sgt., Vietnam, BGN, AM, Purple Heart, killed in action.



Brooks High, Army, E4, 1964-1965. Training aids for helicopter pilots, Fort Eustis, VA.



Sgt. George Pengress, 36th Texas Infantry, World War II, 111th Combat Engineers, 1942-1945. The 36th Infantry were the first Americans to invade mainland Europe at Salerno, Italy on Sept. 9, 1943. The 36th Infantry suffered

the third highest casualty rate of all the U.S. Army Divisions during World War II. In January 1944, near Cassino, Italy, at Rapido River the 36th Infantry lost 2,877 men in a 48-hour battle with German Forces. The 36th Infantry landed inland on the French Riviera in August 1944, battling through Germany and into Austria where the war finally ended on May 8, 1945, at Salzburg, Austria, for the 36th Infantry. Sgt. Pengress was blinded by a landmine on March 15, 1945, near Paffenhoffen. Awards include: five Battle Stars, African Campaign, European Campaign, two Purple Hearts, Good Conduct Medal, Silver Star, Presidential Unit Citation and World War II Victory Medal.

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Gilbert Harrell Knupp, Army, March 20, 1941-Oct. 6, 1945, Infantry, Staff Sgt., leader of the rifle team, led rifleman during combat and coordinated their activities, Luzon, Southern Philippines, Guadalcanal, awarded 3 Bronze Stars for above campaigns, Good Conduct Medal, Lapel Button issued, entitled to wear the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Campaign Ribbon-6 overseas years bars, Philippine Liberation ribbon w/1 Bronze Star.



Melvin (Tunney) Isom, Army, 1943-1945 stationed in South Pacific, Sgt., World War II, joined Air Force after war, Expert Infantryman Badge.



R.J. Knupp, Sgt., Jan. 1999-Feb. 2007, Korea 1999-2000, Ft. Hood, Texas 2000-2001, Germany 2001-2003, Iraq 2003-2004, Ft. Knox, Ky. 2004-2007.



Shawn H. Knupp, Sgt., Jan. 1994-Jan. 2002, 1996-1998 Germany, 1999-2002 Ft. Knox, Ky.



Stephen B. Knupp, Sgt., Jan. 1969-Jan. 1972, Ft. Riley, Kansas.



Ron Knupp, SP5, HHC 2nd Inf. Div., Camp Howze, Korea, 1967-68.



Leslie L. Kinder, 2002-2004, PFC, Fort Jackson.



Owen R. Knupp, New Guinea, World War II.



Darrell G. Miller, Army, 1952-1954, 213th Field Artillery Sergeant, Army Ranger, Korea, Korean Service ribbon with 2 Bronze Stars, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal.



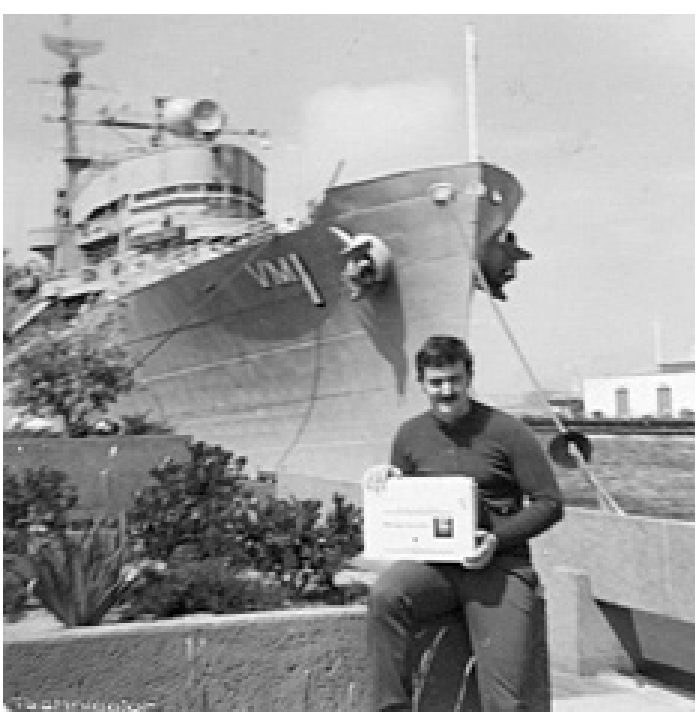
Bill J. Stairs, Air Force, 1952-1955, Reserve five years, Mobile Training, Airman 1st Class, Technical Instructor AirCRAFT Electrician, New Castle County Air Base, Wilmington, Del., Service during Korean War, National Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal.



Billy R. Smith, United States Army, 1962-1965, SP4, basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. First duty station, Jan. 1963 to March 1964 at C-Brty, 1st Missile Bn, 62nd Arty, Pacific, Mo. as an engineer generator operator. Engineer training at Ft. Belvoir, Va. In 1963 (52B20). Transfer overseas to Pirmasens, Germany, assigned to A-Co, 79th Engr Bn (Const) from April 1964 to Oc. 1965. Expert M-14 rifle, letter of appreciation from Commanding Officer, A-Co, 79 Engr Bn dated Oct. 11, 1966. Traveled overseas and return by ship. (USNS UPSHUR) (USNS GEN. WILLIAM O. DARBY)



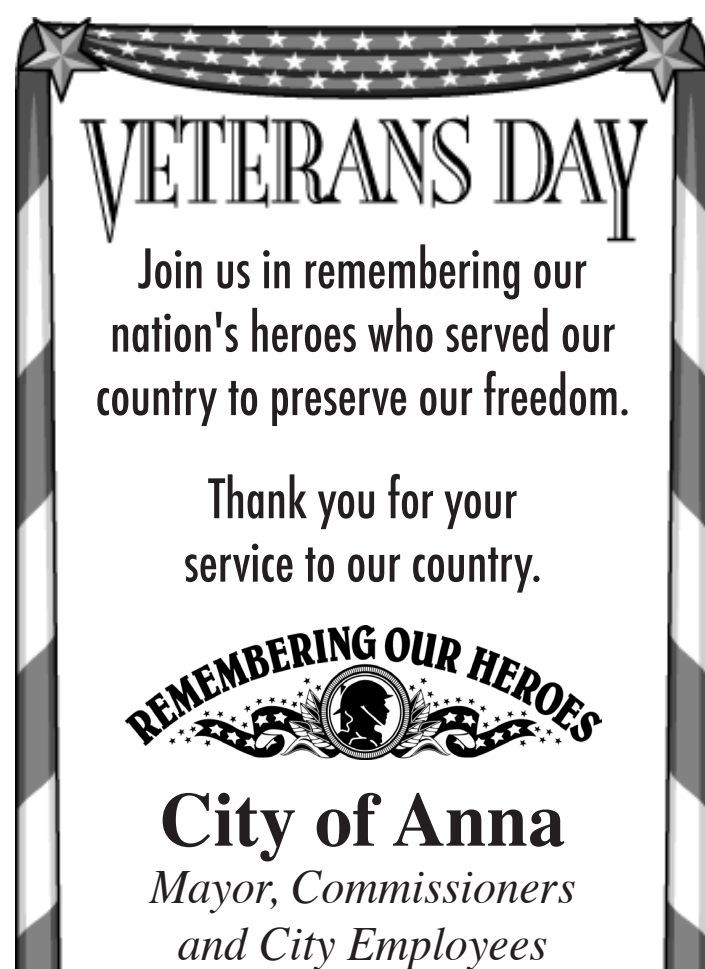
Robert Dawson, U.S. Army, 25th Division Tropic Lightning, Combat Operations SPC Trps., CuChi, Cam Rahn, Vietnam, Ft. Leonard Wood, AIT, Fort Dix, N.J., Vietnam Conflict, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Inf. Badge, two Overseas Bars, Vietnam Service Medal, Expert M14-M16, Wounded in action at CuChi, Vietnam.



Mike Murrie, USNR, 1971-1977; USS Norton Sound AVM-1, RM2 with secret clearance, Radio Operator, Crypto Operator, Teletypist, Pt Mugu Pacific Missile Range, Seabee Base Port Hueneme, Calif., tested Aegis Missile Defense System currently used on both Ticondaroga Class Cruisers and Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers, National Defense Medal, Secret Clearance. Served in Active Naval Reserve for two years at Naval Reserve Center, Santa Barbara, Calif., providing harbor defense for Port of Hueneme.

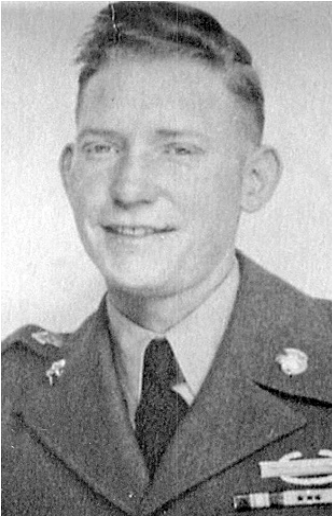


James "Jim" Murrie, Army, 1966-1968, B Troop, 1st Squad. 9th Cav. 1st Cavalry, Specialist E-4, Air Mobile Division, Helicopter Crew Chief, Mechanic and Door Gunner; Ft. Polk, La., Ft. Walters, Texas, Ft. Eustis, Va., Chu Lai. Camp Evans (near Hue), Rep. of Vietnam; Air Medal, Purple Heart. I served with the "Apocalypse Now" 9th Calvary unit attached to the Americal Division at Chu La. I was wounded my first day in combat. I met John Brimm from Jonesboro before being medivaced out of LZ Ross. John was later killed in action. I spent three weeks at Cam Ranh Bay. From Camp Evan (near Hue) I was involved in operations to retake Hue during the Tet Offensive and to relieve the besieged marines at Khe Sanh. Prior to coming home I was involved in the Ashau Valley Campaign near Laos on the Ho Chi Minh Trail.





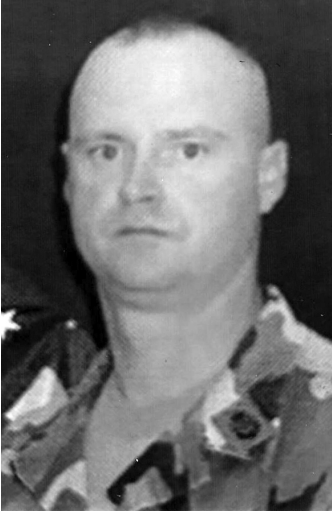
Jerry E. Hunter, U.S. Marines, 3rd 8 Inf. Howitzers, Cpl. E4, Section Chief, Spent three years at Twentynine Palms, Calif., and one year overseas in Okinawa, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Medal, National Defense Medal, U.S. Marine Corps Commemorative Medal, Honorable Service Medal, Non-Commissioner's Officer School, Armed Forces Expert Marksman Medal, After serving honorably four years on active duty he served two years on inactive duty and received an Honorable Discharge.



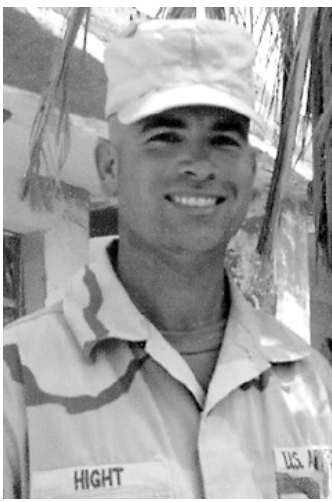
Glen J. Webb, Army, 101st Airborne Division, 1952-1953, Staff Sgt., Korean Conflict, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. "Screaming Eagles" Camp Breckenridge, KY 1952.



Joann Walker Marks; Navy Reserve, 1990-1998; Equipment Operator, E-4, Gulf Port, MS; Awards: National Defense, Expert Marksman



Michael Lee Marks; U.S. Navy, Seabees 1983-2003; Equipment Operator Chief – E7; Heavy Equipment Gulf Port, MS and Bosnia; Seabee Combat Warfare, basic parachutist; Navy Accommodations, Navy Achievement, Good Conduct



Kelly L. Hight, Air Force, June 1983-August 2007, Senior Master Sergeant, Iraq, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal w/3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal w/3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters, been in Air Force for 24 years, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to locations in Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan, deployed in support on Operation Iraqi Freedom to locations in Iraq, currently First Sergeant for 82nd Medical Group at Sheppard AFB, Texas.



Larry Hight, U.S. Air Force, 9-57 to 5-62, A/2C, European Theatre.



Carol Copeland; U.S. Army – Company B; Technician 5th Grade; 306th Engineer Combat Battalion; South Pacific; Angaur Island, Palau Group; Bronze Star. Carol operated a bulldozer in the face of enemy fire in order to construct trails through difficult terrain so the infantry could advance.

Paul C. Hickman (deceased)
Army, 1st Class;
General Services
4 years of Service
Many awards,
including
Purple Heart
(No Picture)



Kenneth W. Pinnon joined the U.S. Navy Seabees in December of 1961 at the age of 17.

Ken served in Okinawa in 1964- 1965 and then went on to serve in Vietnam in 1965 -1966. During his time in Vietnam he worked to help build a 500 bed field hospital. Also during his time in Vietnam Ken sustained gunshot wounds to his leg, after which he spent 58 days in a Naval hospital in Yokuska, Japan due to his injuries. Ken received the Purple Heart award for his injuries in service.

In 1992, after 28 years of faithful leadership and service to our country, Ken retired from the U.S. Navy as an E9 - Master Chief Petty Officer.

His wife, children, grandchildren and extended family are very thankful and proud of Ken's service, sacrifice and loyalty to the United States of America.



Robert "Sarge" McMahan, U.S. Army, 1953, Fort Leonard, Mo., Cpl., 643D Engr. Co. (pipeline), Korea, Korean SVC Medal, UNSVC Medal, National Defense SVC Medal, reserve until 1961, McMahan is father of Cliff, David, Beth and Luke of Wolf Flake and Shawn McMahan of Grand Tower. He was married to Della Koch McMahan.



Ezekiel Trimble; Army, 2011-2-15; 10th Mountain Division, Fire Support Specialist, Ft. Drum, NY; Campaign: Operation Enduring Freedom 2013; Army Commendation Medal



Paul Pinnon, U.S. Army, 1970-1972, Spec 4, Germany 13 months, living.



Clyde E. Pinnon, U.S. Army, 1962-1965, 505th signal corp, Sgt. E-5, communications, Asmara, Ethiopia, East Africa 63-64, Fort Lewis, Washington, Sept. 1964- Sept. 1965, top secret crypto, Amchitke Island, Alaska TDY, Good Conduct Medal, living.



James (Leroy) Pinnon, U.S. Air Force, April 1970-March 1974, Sgt., DaNang Airbase Vietnam Nov. 1971-June '72, Udorn Air Base Thailand June '72-Nov. '72, Minot Air Base, Minot, North Dakota, living.



Leon Gunn, U.S. Army, March 20, 1944 to April 24, 1946, WWII. Tank Destroyers and 97th Chemical Mortar Battalion, Staff Sergeant, Company Clerk, Ft. Hood, Texas and Europe, Central Europe, Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army (Feb. 3, 1945-June 30, 1945,) ETO Ribbon w/2 Bronze Battle Stars.



Jerry Cochran; U.S. Army served 1968 – 1970 with the 196th Light Infantry in Vietnam. Small arms infantry, rank E-5. Achievements: NDSM, BSM, VCM, CIB, SPSM14, MKM M-16-20S bars.



Bobby D. Crawford, Army, 1967, 43rd Infantry Platoon, Sergeant, 43rd Infantry Platoon, Scout Dog Handler, Dinh Tuong Province, South Vietnam, Purple Heart, Killed in action Jan. 10, 1968, Service representatives informed Crawford's parents that he was killed by snipers while attempting to retrieve his dog scout also KIA 1-10-1968.



Charles D. Wallace (deceased), U.S. Marines, 7/65-4/69, 6314 Wng Mech, Sgt. E-5, Aircraft mechanic, Millington, Tenn., Camp Pendleton, California, Vietnam, VMGR 352, MW SG-37, MCAS, ElToro, Nat De fmdl-VMSM, Gcmdl, guerilla warfare training, Good Conduct Medal 7/68.



James A. Wallace (deceased), U.S. Army 186th Unit, 11/30/42-7/27/43, Private 1c1, Camp Jt. Robinson, AR, med discharge 1943.



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Everett L. Bittle, Army, 1968-1970, transport F 15th cavalry 5th U.S. Army, SP4, armored recon specialist, Viet Nam, mechanized infantry unit; National Defense Service Medal, two Bronze Service Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device, Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star Medal, living. We have always been in awe of your personal courage, honesty and wisdom; these values have taught us to have gratitude, hope and strength. Your loving family.(Deceased)



Rudolph R. Bittle, 36916917 Technician Fifth Grade, 752nd AAA Gun BN, Army of the United States, Asiatic Pacific Theatre Operations, 1-29-44 to 12-31-45.



Lendall Guthrie, U.S. Army, 3 years service, Rank: E-4, Military job/specialty: Driver, Primary places of Service: Ft. Knox, KY, Freeburg, Germany, Campaigns or operations: Cold War in Germany, Awards or Achievements: 14,000 mile safe driving award in Germany, Len is the son of Vero Guthrie, PVT, U.S. Army who was killed in action near Haaren, Germany during WWII, He is the brother of Kendall, US Army Serviceman and Charles, U.S. Air Force Serviceman, Len and his wife of 60 years live in Oklahoma City, OK, He was born and raised in Alto Pass, IL



Thomas R. Sherrill, deceased, Army, 1970-1972, 33 Field Hospital USA-REUR, Sergeant, Vietnam Veteran, served in Germany, National Defense Service Medal, Sharp Shooter Expert M16, Good Conduct.



Samuel Oliver Rhodes, Deceased, Army Air Force, Sept. 1942-July 1945, 3rd Air

Cargo Re Supply Sq, CPL, Rifle mm Supply clerk, chemical warfare service, Served at Camp McClellan, AL; Fort Dixon, NJ; Toby Hannan, PA; England, Belgium. Campaigned at Normandy Rhineland. Awarded Good Conduct Ribbon European-African, Bronze Battle Stars and two overseas service bars. He had an honorable discharge July 1945. He was a teacher and principal of Ryer School, Rio Vista, CA.



Samuel Oliver Rhodes; Army Air Force, 1942-1945; Private; Chemical Section; Basic training , Camp Grant, IL; Camp McClellan, AL; Fort Dix, NJ and Tobyhannan, PA. February 1944 left for England and Belgium for two years. Good Conduct Medal, Middle Eastern Ribbon, 2 Bronze Battle Stars and 2 Overseas Service Bars; Honorable Discharge: July 17, 1945



Roger Kent Jones, U.S. Army, March 1968-March 1970; 6th Armored Calvary; Specialist 4 Terret Mechanic. Fort Bliss Texas for basic; Fort Meade, MD and Fort Knox, KY for terret mechanic. He had a critical MOS. National Defense Service Medal – Expert Madge Rifle M-14.



Jean Few (Chase); Women's Army Corp., 1967-1970 (Living); Unit: Nsg, Rank: Spec 5, Operating Room Tech; Basic – Ft. McClellan, AL; AIT – Ft. Sam Houston, TX; OJT – Ft. Ord, CA; PRM Party – Ft. Hood, TX, Okinawa; Campaigns: USARPAC – Vietnam; Awards: Good Conduct, Vietnam



Donald E. Mull; U.S. Navy Seabees, 1968-1972; Unit: MCB-53, MCB-71, LSB An Thoi; Rank: CE-1, Construction Electrician; South Vietnam; Seabee Team 5301-1969, Seabee Team 7105-1970; Naval Advisory Group LSB An Thoi, 1971-1972, 1st Class Petty Officer (E-6)



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