

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Anna, Illinois

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News Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area.

Temperature fluctuations in the Union County area ranged nearly 70 degrees from March 17 to March 23.

A beautification project was underway last week on the square in Jonesboro. Older trees are being removed and new ones planted.

Plans have been announced for this year's JuneFest celebration in Jonesboro. The community event is set for June 6. Live music, craft vendors and children's activities are planned.

A Blessing of the Tractors and drive are planned Saturday, March 28, at the Cross of Peace on Bald Knob Mountain near Alto Pass. Check-in is at 8:30 a.m.; the drive begins at 9:30 a.m. The drive will benefit the Union County Farm Bureau Foundation to provide scholarships and to fund the Ag in the Classroom program.

Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week leading up to Easter, is March 29. Easter Sunday is April 5.

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School shared that its A-J's Educators Rising club represented the school proudly earlier this week at the Southern Illinois Future Teacher Coalition's competition day held at Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg. A-J students placed in nine out of the 13 competitions they participated in. A-J's Jayda Shepard was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship from the coalition.

A-JCHS is looking to hire a head coach for the boys' golf team.

Boiler repair work was completed and the heat was back on late last week at Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna.

Shawnee Community College is planning to host a car show on Saturday, May 2, at its main campus near Ullin.

A "hummingbird sugar drive" is underway at the Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center at 8885 State Route 37 South near Cypress. Donations of sugar are being accepted at the center to help keep hummingbird feeders full this season. A donation of one pound of sugar before April 1 will be good for a ticket to enter a wetlands basket raffle.

Shawnee National Forest fire crews are conducting two prescribed burn operations.

Anna Jo Garden Club will host the annual District meeting on Thursday March 26th at St. Mary's Catholic Church. This event features gardeners from many Garden Clubs in the Southern Illinois region. The topic of the speaker will be flower arrangement and design.

Celebration planned at Stinson Library



Union County landmark
An illustration featuring Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna accompanies an announcement on social media about an upcoming celebration of Walter Burley Griffin.

Stinson Memorial Public Library is planning to host a special event in honor of the architect who designed the Union County landmark structure located in Anna.

The 150th anniversary of the year in which famed architect and landscape architect Walter Burley Griffin was born will be celebrated on Saturday, April 11. Griffin was born in 1876 and died in 1937.

"We are one of 150 historic sites around the world hosting celebrations," the Anna library shared on social media. Stinson Memorial Public Library is located at 409 S. Main St.

In commemoration of the anniversary, two trees will be planted and dedicated in Griffin's honor.

During the April 11 cel-

ebration, Marion Mahoney Griffin's original rendering of the Anna library will be on display. Marion Mahoney Griffin was an architect and artist and was married to Walter Burley Griffin.

The celebration at the Anna library is scheduled to get underway at 11 a.m. with a self-led library tour, light refreshments and a stained-glass craft. A tree dedication ceremony is planned at noon.

A presentation titled "Understanding the Stinson Library, One of America's Great Treasures" is planned at 12:30 p.m. The presentation will be by Paul Kruty, who is a professor at the University of Illinois and a founding member of the Walter Burley Griffin Society of America.

Record warmth reported in region

Temperatures in the Union County area went on a roller coaster ride recently. Record warmth was followed by cooler temperatures. More record warmth was possible this week, followed by another round of cooler weather which was in the forecast.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah was calling for record high temperatures in the 80s on Thursday, today, in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

A cold front is expected to move through the region Thursday night into Friday. The front will be accompanied by some showers and thunderstorms. The Weather Service advised that a severe storm cannot be ruled out, mainly across northern parts of the region.

Cooler weather is expected Friday, with a high near 57 in the Union County area. Highs in the 50s and 60s are in the forecast for Saturday and Sunday.

Last weekend, temperatures in the region approached or broke record highs. High temperatures climbed well into the 80s. The Weather Service reported that preliminary data showed that the high temperature in Van Buren in Southeast Missouri was 95 degrees on Saturday. If the reading in Van Buren was verified, it would have broken the record for the warmest March temperature on record in the 58-county forecast area served by the Weather Service office in Paducah. The previous record was 94 degrees, which was set on March 24, 1929, in Harrisburg in Southern Illinois.

Paducah tied its all-time March record with a high of 85 degrees on Saturday. Daily record high temperatures also were set in Carbondale and

Poplar Bluff, Mo. A cold front brought the return of typical late March temperatures.

Drought Update
A March 19 update from the U.S. Drought Monitor showed that nearly all of Union County was continuing to experience abnormally dry conditions. A tiny part of southeastern Union County was experiencing no drought conditions.

Abnormally dry conditions also were reported in all of Alexander County, in western Pulaski County, in a small part of southeastern Massac County, in northern Johnson County and in most of Jackson and Williamson counties. Small parts of eastern Jackson County and northwestern Williamson County were experiencing moderate drought conditions.

No drought conditions were reported in eastern Pulaski County, southern Johnson County and most of Massac County.

Child Abuse Prevention Month activities planned

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Illinoisans make more than 230,000 calls to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline each year, offer temporary safe haven for more than 18,000 children as foster families, including 41 children in Union County, and have provided permanent, loving homes for more than 19,000 children through adoption over the last decade. Child abuse prevention advocates in Union County are encouraging residents of all ages to get involved in awareness and prevention activities this April in hopes of helping more children connect to resources.

In 2011, the Union County Child Abuse Prevention (UC-CAP) planning committee was co-developed by WIBH Radio in Anna and the Children's Medical and Mental Health Resource Network, CMMHRN, to promote child abuse awareness and prevention. The committee included county child advocacy agencies, healthcare providers,

law enforcement, schools and businesses. In 2019, Union County CAP expanded its support under Prevent Child Abuse, PCA, Illinois.

Today, the committee still includes its original members and many new ones who work together to improve the lives of abused and neglected children and their families in Union County.

"As we recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month, let us recommit ourselves to protecting the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable population," said Rachel Chrusczyk, Southern Region prevention specialist for Prevent Child Abuse Illinois. "By raising awareness and taking action, we can ensure that every child grows up in a safe and nurturing environment, free from the trauma of abuse. Let us work together to build a brighter future for our children."

Organizers noted that many family-friendly events and activities are planned for April in the Southern Illinois region. Union County will

be part of those activities. The local calendar of events includes:

April 2 at 9 a.m. 15th annual Child Abuse Prevent Month Proclamation Day at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro. The event is open to the public.

April 10 is National Wear Blue Day. Organizers invite the community to share photos on social media with #GoBlueIllinois to support PCA Illinois' #GoBlue campaign.

On April 24, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., a Pajama Movie Night is planned at Kiki's Coffeehouse, which is located at 326 S. Main St. in downtown Anna.

Everyone is invited to purchase a blue cookie through the #GoBlue awareness campaign at Davis Pastry at 206 S. Main St. in downtown Anna.

For more information about these and other events planned in Union County for Child Abuse Prevention Month, visit Facebook.com/UnionCountyCAP or contact Rachel Chrusczyk at rchrusczyk@pcaillinois.org

Grant program supports small agriculture operations

By Rebecka Pieder and Medill Illinois News Bureau

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois food producers and businesses can apply for a share of \$3.6 million in state grant funding through March 27 as part of a program to reduce Illinoisans' reliance on food from out of state.

The Local Food Infrastructure Grant program, through the Illinois Department of Agriculture, supports small agricultural operations and food producers working with cold storage, processing equipment, refrigerated transportation and distribution systems.

The grant program is currently open for applications, and applicants must complete a pre-registration before applying. Funds will be distributed in June.

Information on the application process can be found on the Department of Agriculture's website, agr.illinois.gov.

The grant program is de-

signed to support the infrastructure needed to make locally grown food more accessible in Illinois.

"When we say farm-to-home food, we forget about the critical infrastructure in between," Sen. David Koeher, D-Peoria, said in a release announcing this year's funding. "This investment ensures that our food makes it from farm to local food processor and distribution safely and cleanly to your plates at home."

The Illinois Stewardship Alliance, a local food and farm advocacy group, administered the program in its first year in 2023. The idea for the legislation came after alliance members identified a lack of sufficient infrastructure to feed their surrounding communities, said Molly Pickering, policy director at the Illinois Stewardship Alliance.

"We believe Illinois farmers can feed Illinois, but we need programs and policies to support these farmers,"

she said.

Policies like the Local Food Infrastructure Grant program benefit Illinois by removing barriers that keep local businesses from serving their communities, Pickering said.

"We know that in Illinois, 95 percent of the food that we eat is imported from out of state," she said. "That means every time we spend money on food, all that money is flowing to corporations and companies out of state. It's not staying in our communities. It's not being reinvested in our communities."

Following the passage of the Local Food Infrastructure Grant Act, the Illinois Department of Agriculture took over administration. The state appropriated \$2 million in fiscal year 2025 to the Department of Agriculture to administer the grants, though the program faced implementation delays. The unused funds have been added to this year's cycle.

(continued on page 2)



Lots of progress

Lots of progress can be seen on a major improvement project which continues at the Anna City Park. Weather conditions had slowed work, but lots of activity could be seen on one of the warm days which the region experienced last week. The project is scheduled to be completed this spring.



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Missing boy found safe

An 8-year-old boy who went missing last weekend in the rugged, isolated Panther Den area in northeastern Union County was found safe. Personnel representing multiple emergency services joined in an effort to find the boy.

Union County Sheriff David Wilkins said the boy was reported missing at about 9:30 p.m. Saturday. He was found safe around 7 a.m. Sunday. The boy was in good health and did not require medical treatment.

The Union County Sheriff's Office, Union County Rescue, Illinois State Police and emergency services personnel from throughout the Southern Illinois area joined in an around-the-clock effort that came to a successful conclusion. Civilians also joined in offering assistance. A command center for the search was set up at Lick Creek School. Ground and air resources, along with heat-sensing technology, were utilized in the search for the boy.

It appeared that the boy went missing when he went to get water while on a camping trip with his father at a location near the Union/Williamson county line. The boy did not return to the campsite. Communication was challenged by spotty cell phone service. Sunday morning the boy was brought to safety by another camper.

“We are pleased to report that the 8-year-old boy who was missing...has been safely located and is in good condition,” the sheriff’s office posted on social media early Sunday morning.

The sheriff extended his “sincere thanks to all partnering agencies and emergency services personnel throughout Southern Illinois for their support and assistance” in the search for the boy.

Reptiles topic of presentation

Reptiles are scheduled to be the topic of an upcoming Conservation Corner presentation scheduled at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council in Anna.

The program is set for 6 p.m. March 30 and will be presented by Tony Gerard from Shawnee Community College. The event is free and open to the public. The arts council is located at 125 W. Davie St.

Conservation Corner is a free monthly speaker series sponsored by the Anna-Jo Garden Club. The series focuses on local conservation information for landowners, gardeners and outdoor enthusiasts.

Agricultural Grants

(continued from page 1)

“Local food doesn’t move itself,” Liz Moran Stelk, executive director of the Illinois Stewardship Alliance, which helped launch the program, said in a news release. “Farmers across Illinois are ready to meet growing demand for locally produced food, but they need the infrastructure to do it.”

Previous grant recipients have shown what that infrastructure can look like in practice. Sola Gratia Farm, a nonprofit farm in Urbana, used funding to purchase a refrigerated delivery van and processing equipment, allowing it to expand deliveries to schools, food pantries and neighborhood markets.

In McLean County, Funks Grove Heritage Fruits & Grains invested in grain handling and processing equipment, improving product quality and reducing waste. Recipients have described how the grants made a huge difference in opening business opportunities.

“Everyone benefits when we empower our local farmers,” Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, a supporter of the program, said in a

Freedom Sings USA retreat coming to Anna

A three-day retreat aimed at helping veterans share their stories through music will take place April 16 to 18 in Anna.

Freedom Sings USA, a Tennessee-based nonprofit, pairs professional Nashville songwriters with veterans, military personnel and their families to transform personal experiences into original songs. The organization uses music as a form of expression to help participants process trauma, manage post-traumatic stress and navigate the transition to civilian life.

The Anna retreat will bring together six accomplished songwriters with five local veterans. Participants include Donnie Spurlock, who served in Iraq; Mark Haddick and Welden Davis, both Vietnam veterans; Don Fotheringham, 98, who served at Iwo Jima; and Jean Few, who served in Okinawa.

Each veteran will be paired with a songwriter to create a song based on their life and military service. The goal is to foster healing and understanding while also providing opportunities for the public to engage with veterans’ stories.

Songwriters participating in the retreat include:

Steve Dean is a hit songwriter with six No. 1 singles and numerous Top 40 successes, including "Watching You," the most-played country song of 2007. His songs have been recorded by Reba McEntire, George Strait, Alabama and The Oak Ridge Boys, among others. Dean has earned eight BMI Songwriter Awards and two BMI Publisher Awards. Inspired by artists such as The Beatles and Johnny Cash, he also performs as a singer-songwriter, sharing stories behind his work. He co-founded Freedom Sings USA in 2014.

Bill DiLuigi is a Nashville staff writer with 888 KING MUSIC and a prolific songwriter with more than 300 cuts. His work has been recorded by artists including Richie McDonald of Lonestar, Blessid Union of Souls, Rachel Holder and Aaron Pritchett. His songs have appeared on

Steve Dean

Don Goodman

Bill DiLuigi

Minnie Murphy

Bill Whyte

Wil Nance

Nashville songwriters participating in the Freedom Sings USA retreat will be paired with local veterans to write original songs based on their military experiences. The songs will debut during a free public concert at 6 p.m. April 18 at East Davie Park in Anna.

Billboard, American and Music Row charts and in hundreds of film and television placements. Recognized by "American Songwriter," he is often called a “poet’s poet” and regularly performs at Nashville’s Bluebird Cafe.

Don Goodman, co-founder of Freedom Sings USA, is a Nashville songwriter known for hits such as "Angels Among Us," Conway Twitty’s "Feelins" and "Ol' Red." Born in Hohenwald, Tenn., he moved to Nashville in 1961 and went on to write thousands of songs. Goodman was named Country Music Songwriter of the Year in 2002 and has received four Grammy nominations. He also founded the online platform writewithapro.com to connect aspiring writers with professionals.

Minnie Murphy is a Nashville-based singer-songwriter known for a genre-spanning style that blends country, R&B, jazz, soul and pop. An accomplished vocalist, pianist and guitarist, she has toured internationally and performed or recorded with artists including Vince Gill, Martina McBride and Jamie

O'Neal. Her music has been featured in films such as "Redemption Road" and "The Noel Diary," and recorded by artists including Laine Hardy and Ty Herndon.

Wil Nance is a country songwriter behind multiple No. 1 hits and award-winning albums. He topped the charts with "She's Everything" from the CMA Album of the Year "Time Well Wasted. He also wrote "Round About Way" and contributed to Troubadour, a Grammy-winning project. Nance has received multiple BMI “Million Air” honors, recognizing songs with more than 1 million radio plays.

Bill Whyte, a Missouri native, has worked as a songwriter, comedian and radio personality since his teens. He has hosted morning shows in Nashville, Cincinnati and Milwaukee, earning a CMA Award and induction into the Country Radio Hall of Fame in 2012. His songs have been recorded by artists including Ray Stevens, Joe Nichols and Linda Davis. Whyte tours nationwide with “Evening in the Round” and performs with the trio “Hits

and Grins.”

The retreat will feature several public events.

A kickoff dinner and writers’ round will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the VFW, 70 VFW Lane in Anna. The event is open to the public, and tickets are \$15. Reservations are requested by April 10.

A free writers’ round concert will follow at 7 p.m. Friday, April 17, at Davie’s School Inn Gym, 300 Freeman St. in Anna.

The retreat will conclude with a free public concert at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at East Davie Park. The event will include recognition of the participating veterans and the premiere of the songs written during the retreat. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

The event is being organized locally by the Shawnee Hills Arts Council, which is also accepting donations to help cover the estimated \$15,000 cost of the program.

For more information or to RSVP for the April 16 dinner, contact Lee Hackney at 904-625-1109 or vabchlee@gmail.com.

Kiwanis Club Easter egg hunt planned

A longstanding Union County Easter season tradition is set to continue this weekend.

The Anna Kiwanis Club is planning to host an Easter egg hunt on Saturday morning, March 28, in Anna. The event begins at 10 a.m. at the Kiwanis Club building at the Anna City Park. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for the fun. The club has sponsored the Easter egg hunt for many years.

The rain date for the egg hunt is April 4, also starting at 10 a.m.

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Thank you

The Terbrak family would like to thank everyone who helped Mike Terbrak or his family through this difficult time. The Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden; Dr. Ed Falgout and Rev. Jay Franklin, Pastors; anyone who gave to BMEN from Cobden FBC; for all the food delivered to our homes, and the food prepared for the meal after the funeral at Cobden Baptist Church.

Thank you, Terbrak Family

Union County Alliance of Churches Recommendations

- 1 The AOC needs teachers who can show us how to help kids learn to read. We want to help, call us.
- 2 John 3:16 Ministries, “The Cure”, for drugs/alcohol addiction, john316thecure.com/admission/ FREE
- 3 “The Old Depot” 6 pm. Free dinner, live praise, fellowship, everyone welcome, come as you are.

Questions call Alliance of Churches (618)-614-2974

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Union County voters cast primary ballots

Union County voters headed to the polls on Tuesday, March 17 for the primary election. According to a report submitted by the Office of the Union County Clerk, out of 11,795 registered voters in Union County across 20 precincts, 2,826 participated in the voting process on Tuesday.

Results are unofficial until all mail-in ballots have been confirmed. The unofficial results for contested races follow.

For the Democratic candidate for United States senator, Juliana Stratton received 307 votes, Raja Krishnamoorthi received 283 votes, Robin Kelly received 70 votes, Kevin Ryan received 57 votes, Bryan Maxwell received 14 votes, Christopher Swan received 9 votes, Steve Botsford received 7 votes, Jonathan Dean received 7 votes, Avisi A. Bustos received 6 votes and Sean Brown received 7 votes.

For the Democratic candidate for Illinois comptroller, Holly Kim received 286 votes, Karina Villa received 178 votes, Margaret Croke received 168 votes and Stephanie Kifowit received 76 votes.

For the Democratic candidate for the state central committee seat for the 12th

Congressional District, Vivian Robinson received 593 votes and Calen Campanella received 476 votes.

For the Republican candidate for United States senator, Don Tracey received 686 votes, Jeannie Evans received 292 votes, R. Cary Capparelli received 212 votes, Casey Chilebek received 197 votes, Pamela Denise Long received 160 votes and Jimmy Lee Tillman received 157 votes.

For the Republican candidate for Illinois governor, Darren Bailey received 1,395 votes, Ted Kabrowski received 297 votes, James Mendrick received 200 votes and Rick Heidner received 74 votes.

For the Republican candidate for secretary of state, Diane M. Harris received 931 votes and Walter Adameczyk received 717 votes.

For the Republican candidate for the 59th state senate district, Paul Jacobs received 1,597 votes and Stephen Vercellino received 315 votes.

For the Republican candidate for the 118th Illinois House District, Scott Doody received 1,245 votes, Harold J. Visser received 553 votes and Dayton Loyd received 143 votes.

SIU's Paul Simon Institute hosts discussion by trailblazing Black woman pilot

Theresa Claiborne, the first Black woman to serve as a pilot in the United States Air Force, is scheduled to discuss her groundbreaking military career during a discussion at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in Southern Illinois University Carbondale Student Center Ballroom B. The conversation with John Shaw, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at the university, is free and open to the public.

Claiborne will discuss her path to becoming a pilot and the lessons she learned about leadership, perseverance, and breaking barriers in public service. The conversation will also explore the importance of expanding opportunities in aviation and the armed forces.

Claiborne was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in 1981 and in September 1982 became the Air Force's first Black woman to serve as a command pilot and instructor for the Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker, an aerial refueling tanker. She left active duty in 1988 and served as an instructor pilot and flight commander for the Air Force Reserves, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. She retired from the military in 1993 with

more than 3,000 military flight hours.

She joined United Airlines in 1990 as a first officer, becoming the second Black woman pilot at the airline. In a commercial aviation career that ended in 2024 after 34 years, Claiborne, who became a captain on the Boeing 757/767 in 2018 and transitioned to the Boeing 787 in 2021, logged more than 23,000 flight hours.

Claiborne has a degree in communications and a minor in journalism from California State University, Sacramento. She attended the University of California Berkeley for Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC.

She is president emeritus of Sisters of the Skies, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to creating pathways for Black women in aviation, a board member of the Grand Dames of Aviation, and a past board member of the National WASP WW II Aviation Museum in Sweetwater, Texas. The museum focuses on Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASP.

Organizers said that those who plan to attend are encouraged to submit questions for Ashford by emailing them to paulsimoninstitute@siu.edu.

Vietnam Veterans Day to be observed March 29

National Vietnam War Veterans Day will be observed March 29, honoring those who served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War.

The date marks March 29, 1973, when the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, was disbanded and the last U.S. combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam.

Local veterans organizations, including Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna, encourage community members to recognize and thank Vietnam veterans for their service and sacrifice.

The observance was established to ensure Vietnam veterans receive the recognition many did not receive upon returning home.

Free laundry day event scheduled

The Anna First Church of the Nazarene NMI will be hosting a free laundry day on Saturday, March 28.

The event will take place at Wonder Wash on Lick Creek Road in Anna from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be a two-load limit per family. Free laundry detergent will be provided.

River to River Trail Society hike planned

The River-to-River Trail Society has announced its fifth public hike of the 2026 spring hiking season for Saturday, April 4 at the Crest Trail in Saline County in the Shawnee National Forest.

The hike is free and open to the public. This will be a moderately difficult hike approximately 6.5 miles in length with 4 hours of hiking time.

The leader of the hike can be reached at 618-926-3250 for more information.

Hikers are asked to meet at 10 a.m. at the Tecumseh Statue in the Saline County State Fish and Wildlife 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

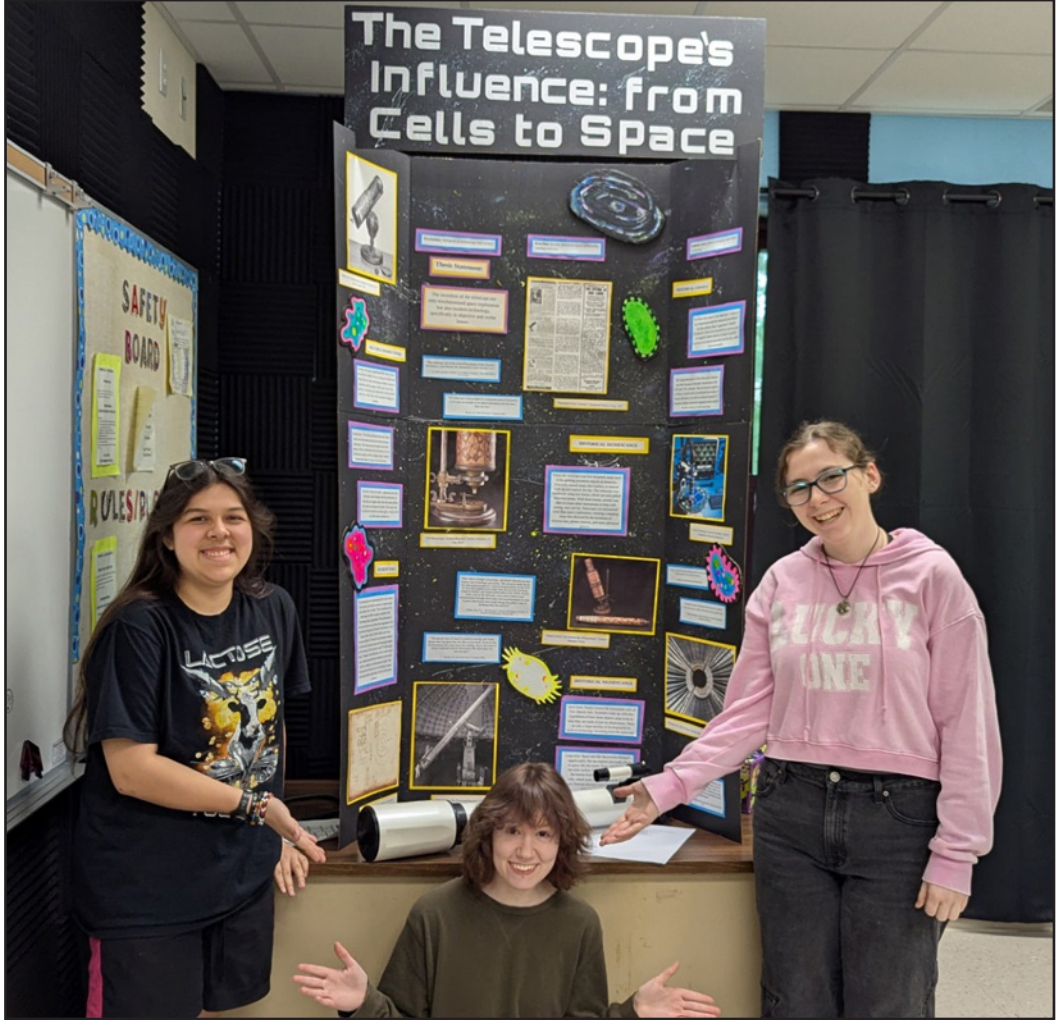
Cobden students advance to regional history fair

The Cobden school district hosted its annual history fair on Monday, March 9. A panel of judges viewed projects by students from Ashley Taylor's eighth-grade class and Jamie Nash-Mayberry's history classes. The history fair was sponsored by the Union County Historical and Genealogy Society, with cash prizes awarded to top finishers in each division. The submissions from four student groups have advanced to the regional history fair.



First Place

Yasmin Flores, Brisa Calderon and Isabella Bartolo won first with their project on Home of the Hispanic Immigrants: The Hispanic Migration Revolution, the Repeat of Reaction, and the Road to Reform.



Second Place

Natalie Storm, Zaira Uribe and Rae Cash earned second place honors with their project on The Telescope's Influence: From Cells to Space.



Third Place

Selena Flores and Alyssa Garibay tied for third with their installment on The King of Pop: Revolutionizing Sound, React to Society, Reforming the Stage.



Third Place

Evaline Kaszubski, Allison McGee and Alivia Kilpatrick tied for third with their project on The Revolution, Reaction, Reform of Workers' Rights Following the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire.

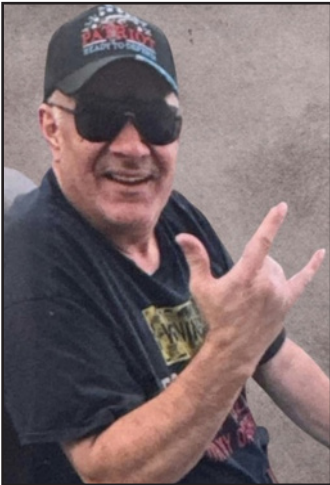
Obituaries

David E. Grey

David E. Grey, age 65 years, a resident of Union County Illinois, passed away Thursday morning, March 19, 2026, in Anna, Ill.

David was born Feb. 27, 1961 in Anna, Ill. He was the son of Beryl Grey and Fern (Foster) Grey.

On April 5, 1996, David was united in marriage to Gena T. Glasford at the Anna Heights Baptist Church. She survives.



In addition to his wife, David is survived by: 2 daughters – Isabella Gia Louisa Grey and Poppi Berylin Grey; a brother – William R. (Peggy) Grey of Dover, Del.; 2 sisters – Janice Grey and Pam Grey-Bartels (Frank) Routh all of Marion, N.C.; as well as nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, other relatives and many friends.

In addition to his parents, David was preceded in death by a brother – Stephen M. Grey.

David was a 1978 graduate of Anna-Jonesboro High School and attended Shawnee Community College at Ullin, Ill.

David was employed as a mechanic by Florsheim Shoe Company at the Anna manufacturing plant.

David enjoyed nature and outdoor activities, such as motorcycling, water skiing, and camping.

He is fondly remembered for his love of family and his devotion to them. David had a heart of gold covered with a “fake” tough exterior but was, in reality, a marshmallow to those who knew him best.

David loved music, singing and dancing around the kitchen with his beloved family. He enjoyed talking and engaging

in conversation. He studied science so that he might be conversant on a number of scientific topics.

Above all, David loved God. He was a member of the Anna Heights Baptist Church.

In David’s words, “keep the fork, something better is coming!”

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon, March 25, 2026, at Anna Heights Baptist Church, 100 Turner Avenue, Anna, Ill. Pastor Darryl Williams and Pastor Bobby Richardson officiated.

Interment will be in the Alto Pass Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), 424 E. 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128-6804 (or online at www.aspc.org) or to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1905 (or online at www.stjude.org).

To share a memory of David or to leave an online message of condolence for his family, please visit www.baileyfh.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

My beloved Edwin Rushing left this world unexpectedly, due to a heart attack, on March 14, 2026, doing something he loved, riding dirt bikes.

He had many loves in his short life of 55 years. First being his family, wife Cindy, daughter, Journee Kay Rushing and son and son-in-law Austin and John Rider.

Second was his love for the outdoors. He loved fishing for crappie, hunting deer and hunting elk in Wyoming and Colorado. He also loved camping with his in-laws, Cathy and Jack and friends from Belleville that became family.

His third love would be work. Edwin loved his job. He took great pride in it and the work he performed. He was highly respected in his profession across the United States.

He prided himself on his work ethic and was proud to pass that onto his children. He worked many hours traveling all over the United States from New York, California to Hawaii.

He even got to do a little sightseeing during his downtime. He enjoyed seeing Niagara Falls, Redwood National Forrest, the Pearl Harbor Memorial and Glacier National Forrest.

Loved ones left behind are his beloved wife of 16 years, Cindy Rushing; daughter, Journee Rushing of Cincinnati, Ohio; sons, Austin and John Rider of Dongola; sister, Penny (Randy) Hindman of Anna; sister

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Edwin Rushing



and brother-in-law, Cathy and Jack Kennedy of Dongola; brother and sister-in-law, Chris and Molly Ferguson of Newnan, Ga.; fur babies, Retta and Winnie; many nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mom and dad, Kay and Kenneth Rushing, brother, Michael Rushing and mother and father-in-law, Carolyn and Carl Ferguson.

Edwin will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Funeral services for Edwin Rushing were held on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with Steve Anderson officiating.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Legion Cemetery. Envelopes are available at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home.

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

Ronald Joseph Stolz

Ronald Joseph Stolz, age 90 of Alto Pass, died Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

He was born April 30, 1935 in Evansville, Ind., the son of Carl and Lucy (Head) Stolz. Ronald married Carol Merkley on Dec. 27, 1957 in Evansville, Ind. They have shared over 68 years of marriage.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Carol Stolz; son, Ron (Tracy) Stolz, Jr.; daughters, Terri Addison, Vicki (Jim) Swick, Jenni (Bob) McClain, and Angi VanZandt; grandchildren, David Addison, Ryan Addison, Elena Jamscek, Rachael Anderson, Austin McClain, Tara Stolz, and Jenna VanZandt; great-grandchildren, Novak Jamscek, Nadia Jamscek, Rylee Addison, and Dylan Eovaldi; sister, Betty Clark; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Lucy Stolz, brother, Eugene Stolz, and sister, Wilma Jean Minnette.

Ronald enjoyed being outdoors. He looked forward to activities such as fishing, riding around on his 4-wheeler, or bird feeding.

In his earlier years, he liked to race cars. He was employed

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES



Olin Corporation for over 25 years.

He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Ronald was loved by everyone; he had a kind and gentle soul. He will be dearly missed.

Graveside services were held on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Alto Pass Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. Envelopes will be available at the cemetery and the Rendleman and 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 in charge of arrangements.

Joan Angel

Joan Angel, age 88 of Oregon, Ill., formerly of Tamms, passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2025 at Oregon Living and Rehab in Oregon, Ill.

She was born on Feb. 2, 1938 to Gerald and Ruby (Dillman) Wilkerson in Chicago, Ill.

She was a Homemaker for her family and a member of Cross Road Church in Ullin.

Survivors include her daughter-in-law, Betty Angel; five grandchildren, Ryan, Kevin, Jenny, Lori, and Brenda; many great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews including caregivers, Greg Wilkerson and Susan Wilkerson.

Along with her parents and husband, Kenneth Angel, she is preceded in death by her two sons, Jeff Angel and Rob

Angel; two brothers, Jerry Wilk-

Crain
Funeral Home

Garry Victor Glasco

Garry Victor Glasco, age 91 of Wolf Lake, passed away Sunday, March 15, 2026 at his home.

He was born on March 3, 1935 in Jonesboro to Claude Ernest and Ada (Godwin) Glasco.

He married Ginger Sue Ward on Aug. 22, 1954 in Wolf Lake. She preceded him in death on Nov. 6, 2014.

Garry is survived by his son, Kerry (Sandy) Glasco; grandchildren, Shelly (Tom) Pearl, Mindy Keene, Jaime (Tima) Escue, Jennifer Escue and Jorden (Emily) Glasco; great-grandchildren, Kamryn, Kacey, Princeton, Paisley, June, Ellie, Georgia, Luke, Ryan and Jaylynnne; son-in-law, Ernie Escue; brother, Gerald Glasco; sister, Ernestine (Don) Gamble; sisters-in-law, Lillian Chaney and Miram Ward; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends, including his farm companion, Nugget.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ginger Sue Glasco; parents, Ernest and Ada Glasco; infant son, Garry Lynn Glasco; daughter, Vicki Escue; infant grandson, Brandon Carroll; brothers, Kenny Glasco and Keith (Barbara) Glasco and sister-in-law, Sue Glasco.

Garry was a faithful Christian man and longtime member of Lockard Chapel Baptist Church.

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Vivian Moss

Vivian Moss, age 94 of Anna, went home to her Lord and Savior, Tuesday, March 17, 2026 with her family by her side.

She was born Nov. 10, 1931 in McClure, the daughter of James Aud and Ola May (Patchett) Rogers.

She married Marshall Moss on Aug. 7, 1948. He preceded her in death on Aug. 17, 2008.

Vivian is survived by her daughter, Marsha (Steve) Berg; sons, Jerry (Janet) Moss, Terry (Barbara) Moss; daughter in law, Karen Moss; grandchildren, Jason Smith, Shane (Sheri) Moss, Christen (David) Jackson, Jeremy Moss, Ryan (Kasi) Moss, Philip (Randi) Berg, Teri (Paul) Salwey, Cassidy (Chelsey) Moss, Christian Moss, Adrian (Jordan) Moss, Joshua (Jessica) Moss, and Jacob Moss; numerous great and great-great grandchildren; nieces and nephews; other extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Marshall Moss; son, Roger Moss; siblings, Leroy and Lawrence Rogers; Marie Held, Louise Hodge, Wilma Colyer, Annie Blaylock, Leoda Watkins, and Dorris Jobe.

Vivian was a member and attended New Beginnings Community Worship Center in Anna, she was a true testament of a life well lived. We have been so fortunate to call this woman “Mom”, “Grandma” or “Great-grandma.”

She shared a rare kind of love with just about anyone lucky enough to cross her path. To know her was to feel



Church. He was a proud farmer, working with Kerry on the family farm for over 60 years.

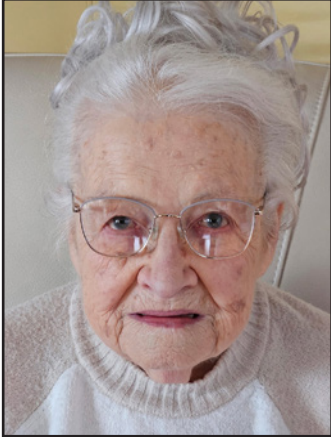
He was a loving and generous man, affectionately known to his grandchildren as “Popo”.

He enjoyed traveling, as long as it didn’t involve an airplane, and telling stories and visiting with his friends at the coffee shop on the square.

Funeral services for Garry Glasco were held on Friday, March 20, 2026 at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro with Harold Gates and Bill Littrell officiating.

Memorial contributions can be made to Lockard Chapel Baptist Church. Envelopes are available at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home.

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



completely supported and loved without judgments.

No one else we know walked the walk and talked the talk of a faithful servant like she did. She didn’t just speak her faith, she lived it every single day. She showed us what it means to live your life for God. We find comfort in knowing she is now at peace, whole and healthy walking with her maker in Paradise.

We are so deeply grateful and blessed to have known Vivian Moss and to call her Mom and Grandma.

Funeral services will be held privately for the family. Interment will be in McKinney Chapel Cemetery in Marion.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are preferred in her memory to Hospice of Southern Illinois or New Beginnings Community Worship Center. Envelopes will be available at 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.

View Obituaries Online at annanews.com

Thank you

The Terbrak family would like to thank everyone who helped Mike Terbrak or his family through this difficult time. The Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden; Dr. Ed Falgout and Rev. Jay Franklin, Pastors; anyone who gave to BMEN from Cobden FBC; for all the food delivered to our homes, and the food prepared for the meal after the funeral at Cobden Baptist Church.

Thank you, Terbrak Family

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

Sunday, March 22
On March 15, a dedication service was held for Elias and Ezra Morrison, twin sons of Trey and Sarah Morrison. Grandparents and other family members attended this memorable event in the lives of the Morrison family.

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on March 22. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the Worship Team.

Etha Anderson was re-

ceived into the church membership.

The message “The Purpose Of The Church” was brought by Pastor Wright from Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Corinthians 14:3, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.

Communion was served at the closing of the morning worship service. The missionary service was held at 6 p.m. on March 22.

Following the meal, videos were shared from Chad and Crystal Gibbons, who serve as global missionaries to the

Eurasia North Field, and were living in Kyiv, Ukraine prior to the war. Chad is the Field Finance Coordinator serving the local churches, districts and leaders, allowing them to build the Kingdom while having the resources needed. He is also the Eurasia Regional Discipleship Coordinator.

Crystal was the NCM coordinator for the field until just recently when she moved into a new position as Communications Coordinator for Global Missions working with all 7 Regions, NMI and the Global Missions Director to help share the story of what God is doing all around the

world. They are currently serving as Pastor and Worship Pastor in the local International Church in Busingen, Germany where they live.

A video of Joel and Kristin Burchfiel was also shared, expressing their excitement to have been called to participate in the work of the Nazarene Church on the Eurasia Region. In Sept. 2023, the Burchfiels moved to Lisbon, Portugal after spending almost three years in Amman, Jordan.

Joel serves as the Field Finance Coordinator for both the Eastern and Western Mediterranean fields. Kristin

serves as the Coordinator for Nazarene Missions Teams and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries for the Portugal District, and is working with local churches on community outreach and engagement. Through their roles, they seek to resource and equip local leaders as they facilitate crucial projects that will greatly impact the lives of many across the region.

Saturday, March 28
Free Laundry Saturday at Wonder Wash on Lick Creek Rd in Anna from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Two load limit per family. Free laundry detergent provided.

Sunday, March 29
Breakfast at 9 a.m. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Morning worship service. No evening service.

Wednesday, April 1
Wednesday Night Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. No Youth Group on April 1.

Friday, April 3
Good Friday Meal at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Easer Sunday
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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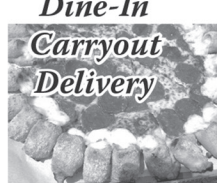
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Birds flock to the feeder when it is full; they gather to eat the seeds, wings fluttering, beaks chirping. We, too, know we need food for nourishment, but we also want to fill our need for human interaction and spiritual awareness. As He provides for the birds, God provides us with even more. He gives us a place where we can gather in community and joyfully fill our spirit. That place is our house of worship! Won't you visit God's house and replenish your spiritual strength?

Daily Bible Reading

1 Kings	1 Kings	Job	Job	Job	Job	Job
8:41 to 53	8:54-66	23:1-17	27:1-11	40:1-24	1-34	42:1-17

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society ✕ *Daily Devotional at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org*

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HELP WANTED

Southern Illinois Electric Co-operative located in Dongola, IL is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Cashier/Receptionist. At minimum, applicants must possess a high school diploma or equivalent. A degree in business administration or secretarial administration preferred. Applicants must possess a valid Illinois driver's license. The starting wage is the SIEC/IBEW Local 702 Clerical Agreement rate of \$27.58 per hour. Qualified applicants should apply by April 10, 2026, by sending the following: • Send resume and cover letter • Send sealed college transcript(s) as applicable • Send two (2) professional reference letters Stephanie Theis, Executive Assistant Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 7420 U.S. Highway 51 South P. O. Box 100 Dongola, IL 62926

NOTICE

S. Shafer Excavating Inc. will be demolishing the Choate Mental Health and Development Center Power Plant located in Anna, Illinois starting 3/20/2026. The entire plant will be demolished, and all contaminants have been removed prior to demolition. Permits have been obtained. Any questions please call 618-931-6237.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
LEGENCE BANK, AN ILLINOIS BANKING INSTITUTION,
Plaintiff,
v.
CURTIS CLASSICS, LLC, an Illinois Limited Liability Company, ROY CURTIS WALKER, NATIONAL LOAN INVESTORS, L.P., SAMSON MCA LLC, a New York Limited Liability Company, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No.: 2025FC19
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, ALL NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS and ALL UNKNOWN OWNERS, defendants in the above-entitled cause, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure action was filed on December 2, 2025, and is now pending.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs and the Case Number are identified above.

2. The Court in which said action was brought is identified above.

3. The name of the titleholder of record is Curtis Classics, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company.

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

Tract 1:
A part of the Southeast One-Fourth of Section 24, Township 13 South, Range 1 West of the Third Principal Meridian, located in the Village of Dongola, described as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point on the West line of the right-of-way of the Dongola to Cypress Black Top Road a distance of 485 feet Northeast of the Southeast corner of the Dongola Grade School Unit District #66 grounds; thence in a Northerly direction at an angle of 101° a distance of 329 feet to the property line of C.R. Corzine, thence in an Easterly direction along said property line a distance of 218 feet to a point; thence in a Southerly direction a distance of 172 feet to a point on the West line of the right-of-way of the above mentioned road; thence in a Southwesterly direction along the West line of said road right-of-way a distance of 190 feet to the point of beginning. Situated in Union County, Illinois.

Tract 2:
Situating in and a part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 24, Township 13 South, Range 1 West of the Third Principal Meridian, Union County, Illinois. Beginning at an iron pin located 318.96 feet East of the Northwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 24, Township 13 South, Range 1 West of the Third Principal Meridian, on the North line of said Quarter-Quarter section; thence continuing East along said North line a distance of 150.00 feet to an iron pin; thence deflecting right 126°43'25" a distance of 345.56 feet to an iron pin in the

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: March 17, 2026.
KEITH ELLIS
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8221-963107

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF UNION,
STATE OF ILLINOIS
PRIMELENDING,
A PLAINSCAPITAL COMPANY,
Plaintiff(s),
vs.
DEMI M. GLASCO,
UNKNOWN OWNERS
AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendant(s).
Case No. 26 FC 1
PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you: DEMI M. GLASCO, NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS and UNKNOWN OWNERS, Defendants in the above entitled

suit, that said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Union County, Chancery Division, by the said Plaintiff, against you and other Defendants, praying for foreclosure of a certain Real Estate Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT NUMBER 1 IN BLOCK NUMBER 6 IN FOREST PLACE ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ANNA SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF UNION IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Tax Number: 14-00-09-225 commonly known as 603 MCKINLEY ST ANNA IL 62906; and which said Real Estate Mortgage was made by DEMI M. GLASCO, and recorded in the Office of the Union County Recorder as Document Number 2021R1889; that Summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that the said suit is now pending.

Now, therefore, unless you, the said named Defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Circuit Court of Union County, located at 309 WEST MARKET STREET, JONESBORO, IL 62952, on or before April 27, 2026, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a

judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
Ira T. Nevel - ARDC #6185808
Timothy R. Yucell - ARDC #6192172
Greg Elnic - ARDC #6242847
Aaron Nevel - ARDC #6322724
Andrew Chu - ARDC #6285924
175 North Franklin St. Suite 201
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 357-1125
Pleadings@nevellaw.com
KP # 26-00134
13284057
8221-963239

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Cobden will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cobden Village Hall for the purpose of consideration of the proposed Revised Budget Ordinance for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the proposed Budget Ordinance for fiscal year 2026-2027.

After such hearing, the proposed Revised Budget Ordinance and proposed Budget

Ordinance, as presented or as revised after the Public Hearing, shall be passed without any further inspection, notice or hearing. Copies of the tentative budget and revised budget will be available at the Village Hall beginning April 2, 2026. The hearing is open to the public.
8221-962973

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF UNION,
ILLINOIS IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
ROBERT L. CRAFT,
Deceased.
Case No: 2026PR3
PUBLICATION NOTICE – INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION FOR UNKNOWN CREDITORS, CLAIMANTS, HEIRS, AND LEGATEES

1. NOTICE is given of the death of ROBERT L. CRAFT. Letters of Office were issued on February 13, 2026, to Administrator, ANGEL CRAFT, of Granite City, IL, whose attorneys are Scott Walker and SK Walker Law, LLC, 208 N Market St, Ste 2, Marion, IL 62959.
2. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W

Market St, Jonesboro, IL 62952, or with the Administrator's attorney, or both, on or before September 12, 2026, which date shall be not more than six (6) months from the date of the first publication or three (3) months before the date of mailing or delivery of this notice, whichever is later. Any claims not filed on or before that date are barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Executor's attorney within 10 days after it has been filed pursuant to 755 ILCS 5/18.
3. ROBERT L. CRAFT passed intestate, without a will, thus petitions contesting a will under 755 ILCS 5/6-21 are in-applicable.
4. The Estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent supervision administration by filing a Petition to Terminate under the Probate Act, 755 ILCS 5/28-4.

DATED: March 4, 2026
SK WALKER LAW, LLC
By: /s/ Scott Walker
Attorney for Petitioner
SK WALKER LAW, LLC
Scott Walker, #6325929
208 N Market St, Ste 2
Marion, IL 62959
Office: (618) 703-5400
Fax: (618) 422-9117
Email: Scott.walker@skwalkerlaw.com
8221-962763

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

This past Sunday, March 22, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in both of our services. In the morning service, his message was about missed opportunities. Salvation is the ultimate opportunity you will not want to miss. He asked the question, "How will you escape if you neglect so great a salvation?" His text was found in the second chapter of Hebrews in the New Testament.

Logan and Grace Rich brought their baby, Lane Michael, to be dedicated to the Lord. Pastor challenged the parents, family, and church to provide love, support, prayer and set godly examples for Lane.

Music Director, Dee Rose, led in worship accompanied by the Praise Team: David Pedigo,

Chris Rose, and Kim Benefield. Debbie York accompanied them on the piano. Special music was provided by Angie Smith who sang the song, "Gathering Flowers for the Master's Bouquet."

Our service was sent via transmitter station 87.9 FM for those who want to listen via the radio. The service was also live streamed on Facebook, so if you missed it, you still have an opportunity to view it. Please check our Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, for the videos and latest info on church events.

This week's activities include the Men's Bible Study at 6 p.m., Monday, March 23, at the church; and the Ladies' Bible Study at the home of Sheila Aldridge, also on March 23, 6 p.m. Next

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship with Matthew Lopez doing our Opening Prayer. Our Call to Worship was on Evangelism and Missions.

"And the Gentiles shall come to thy light; and kings to the brightness of thy rising. As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This was taken from Isaiah and John in our Bible.

Our Worship Team led us in 3 songs, "10,000 Reasons," "God Did It" and "Unashamed."

Pastor Lupe's title for his sermon was, Discipline of Fasting.

Highlights of his sermon included, Fasting draws the believer closer to God by removing distractions and sharpening spiritual focus. It humbles the heart, reminding us of our dependence on the Lord rather than our own strength. Through fasting, the Spirit gain

greater influence as the desires of the flesh are brought under submission. It deepens our hunger for God's Word, presence and will. Fasting is when God strengthens, refines, and fills the believer in ways that comfort never can.

Our Sunday School meets at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning and is for all ages. Our Worship Service and Children's Church begins at 10:15 a.m. Our bus runs for both of these services. If you would like to ride our bus, please call our church office to get your name put on our list to ride. We have other programs you may be interested in, ask about these when you call.

Our church is located at 409 Morgan Street in Anna, Illinois. Our phone number is 618-833-5416.

Our Facebook is Anna-FirstBaptistChurch

Our email is fbcan-na409@gmail.com

Our Church Family would like to invite you to any and all of our services and programs. Please, come visit, become part of "our family."

God Bless you is always our prayer for you.

Route 66 in Illinois celebrated

The Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT, has announced the release of a new Illinois Route 66 Map in honor of the iconic road's 100th birthday this year. The map takes a nostalgic look at America's most famous highway and sights to see in Illinois, while providing a historical timeline of the route's evolution and its cultural impact.

With the centennial expected to unite preservationists, tourism leaders and enthusiasts from around the world, the map will provide a touchpoint in Illinois to help celebrate the past, with a look toward the next century of adventure on Route 66.

The map was developed in collaboration with the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway. The Illinois Route 66 Map is paid with funds from the Federal Highway Administration and published by IDOT on recycled paper. The map is printed with vegetable-based inks.

To request a map, complete the form at https://idot.click/map-request or email DOT.Maps@illinois.gov. Free copies also will be available at interstate rest areas.

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What Is The Value Of A Community Newspaper?

What is the value of a community newspaper?

What does it bring to that community that no other institution can provide?

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

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

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

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

The community newspaper facilitates the exchange of ideas and opinions through its editorial page and letters to the editor.

There are so many things of value community newspapers provide: the recording of local history and helping to maintain a healthy local economy through effective advertising for local businesses are just a few areas of value.

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

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

Bob Ross-themed Happy Little 5K planned in April

The Illinois Conservation Foundation, ICF, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, invites Illinoisans to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day by participating in the Run for the Trees: Happy Little 5K, a nationwide virtual event inspired by the PBS series “The Joy of Painting” featuring the late painter Bob Ross.

Participants can complete a 5K course on their own schedule anytime from April 18-26, a week that includes Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day on April 24. Participants can run, walk, hike, bike, paddle, skate or roll 3.1 miles outdoors.

Individuals and families are encouraged to explore their favorite Illinois state parks, local trails and natural areas while supporting forest conservation efforts. When registering, participants can select Illinois, directing a portion of the \$36 registration fee to support tree planting,

forest stewardship and invasive species management in Illinois state parks.

Participants will receive a Happy Little 5K t-shirt, commemorative bib number, finisher’s medal and event sticker, while joining thousands of nature lovers across the country celebrating Bob Ross’ legacy and appreciation for the outdoors.

Registration is available online at ilconservation.org/happylittle5k. Registration is open through April 1 or until the event sells out.

The Illinois Conservation Foundation is the official nonprofit partner of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Through private support, the foundation helps to expand conservation, outdoor recreation and education opportunities across Illinois.

Jonesboro names third quarter honor roll

Jonesboro Elementary School District 43 has announced the names of the students whose educational performance in the third quarter have earned honor roll status.

Honor Roll

Colton Barnhart, Addison Ebberts, Jaycee Clutts, Reagan Cheek, Hank Goss, Camden Knueven, Gavin McFadden, Ryley Nance, Charlie Barlow, Eli Cohen, Blake Edwards, Knox Harris, Ethan Jiter, Jonah Miller and Nolan Newberry.

Conner Pind, Collin Staples, Creighton Todd, Connor Turpin, Lawson Ury, Madilyn Wilkins, Kaitlyn Zimmerman, Mahayla Dukes, Chase Heern, Jayda Mayes, Adelle Sherrill, RJ Turner, Kamiya Velasquez and Sam Warden.

Ella Bailey, Kate Cohen, Karcen Easterly, Charollette Goss, Owen Jiter, Mariah Miller, Caliope Pind, Korallynn Treece, Kimber Webb, Cain Williams and Warner Wingate.

High Honor Roll

Arianna Black, Eli Fehrenbacher, Jayden Benefield, Landon Hill, Emma Lambdin, Dylan Walker, Margaret Bailey, Cooper Dallas, Lily Dallas and Reata Wenger.

Cobden students earn honor roll, high honor roll status

The Cobden school district has announced the honor roll and high honor roll students for the third quarter of the school year.

Junior High Honor Roll

Weston Taylor Belmont, Levin Scott Blakley, Eva Adelaine Bridges, Mya Alina Kincaid Buchheit, Henry Guy Byers, Zander Trace-Patrick Craig, Sabrina Marie Geske, Austin Glen Hawthorne and Zeke Andrew Hawthorne.

Lindsay Lee Hilliard, Daphne Kay Jackson, Addie Jo Lawrence, Layla Elisa Leek, Rowan Danielle LeFevre, Parker Lynn McCann, Jesse Franklin Lee Miller, Alexander Miranda Miranda-Maldonado and Keylee Ann Moore.

Finnegan Vader Louis Obermeier, Marquez Tomas Pitts, Rebekah Marie Poiter-Oliphant, Henley Marie Rogers, Reid Alan Rumfelt, Toby Lawrence Snell, Joseph David Sweitzer, Gadiel Elias Uribe, Joseph Kevin Venturelli and Esther Gail-Ann Williams.

High Honor Roll

James Martin Bergseth, Leavy Brock Boutwell, Logan Kenneth Brumleve, Nathan

Daniel Brumleve, Olivia Lar-ae Clark, Aaron Joseph De-Marie, Myles Jensen Ferrell, Harmony Lee Hilliard and John Luke Ingold.

Hoyt Ray Johnson, Anna-leigh Hope Kaszubski, Finnean Joseph Kaszubski, Maeve Jacqueline Kell, Clara Marie Long, Ethan Riley Marks, Katherine Leigh Mason, Hailey Brooklyn May, Maddex Edward Raganyi and Oliver Emiliano Hale Shalosky.

Augustus Peckler Stevens, Jaylyn Alyxis Stroehlein, Kendall Marie Sweitzer, Caroline Elizabeth Taylor, Shepard Lynn Taylor, Lydia Elena Uribe, Patrick Gavin Venturelli, Nathan Daniel Webb, Sophie Adalyn White andn Josiah Wade Williams.

High School Honor Roll

Elizabeth Sierra Agui-lar-Garcia, Lucas Edward Aguirre, Antonio Andres Altamirano, Miguel Angel Beltran, Charles Micah Brown, Brisa Calderon, Lillian Jane Clutts, Gabryle Elizabeth Eubanks, Selena Flores and Yasmin Flores.

Natalia Natalia Godinez, Isabella Lina Hawk, Mackenzie

Rae Haynes, Vianey Flores Hernandez, Matthew Anthony Howell, Tyler Dwayne Jackson, Keela Rose Kaszubski, Mia Lynn Kell, Kingston Jeffrey Kuhn and Kennedy Leeann Laminack.

Mason Presley Lyerla, Jacey Larae Marks-Silliman, Emily Marie Massey, Allison Nicole McGee, Jada Belle Meadows, Miguel Angel Mendez-Ambrocio, Made-line Shane Merriman, Mayrell Morales, Adalynn Rose Morber and Brooke Faith Mosley.

Jansen Tyler Nance, Eugenio Olvera, Ana Karen Olvera-Amezquita, Jose Alejandro Osorio-Barbosa, Mariana Palmerin, Rudra R. Patel, Henry Wayne Pearson, Abigail Edith Pitts, Leslie Carolina Rafael and Logan Albert Reiman.

Wyatt Kristopher Rhoads, Tyler Evan Shoemate, Rhyan Wade Spence, Tradon Joe Stroehlein, Shane Joseph Underwood, Zaira Ellise Uribe, Samantha Vicente, Victor Zamora and Zonia Zamora-Martinez.

High Honor Roll

Mallory Kate Adamitis, Estrella Esmeralda Ambrocio,

Scarlett Eve Bergseth, Ashley Carrillo, Angell Rae Cash, Jonni Anastasia Pearl Cash, Morgan Thomas Cerny, Matthew Alan Clover, Timothy Nathaniel Clover and Julio C. Cruz Santiago.

James Michael Eagle, Autumn Serena Wednesday Ebersohl, Alyssa Nevaeh Fabian, Natalie Ann Franklin, Alyssa F. Garibay, Dashiell Reed Garrison, Gabriel Aiden Haynes, Gracie Marie Hileman and Christopher Logan Johnson.

Evaline Jane Kaszubski, Alivia Jean Kilpatrick, Anna-belle Joslynn Kruse, Amela Katherine Long, Matthew Truman Marks, Natalie Paige Marks, Asher Jack Miller, Elias Grant Miller and Autumn Grace Mosley.

Miriam Andrea Murillo-Rafael, Mariana Palmerin, Emilio Palmerin Yerena, Willow Marie Potts, Ava Marie Rothweiler, Mallory Robin Smith and Margaret Rose Stevens.

Natalie Grace Storm, Emerson Jade Tellor, Daniel James Tomas, Elisa Vicente, Cerriana Elaine Ward, Kyler Maddox White, Piper Cade White and Guadalupe Zamora.

Shawnee school's honor roll students named

Shawnee School District 84 have announced the names of the students who have earned honor roll and high honor roll status for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

Honor Roll

Keaton Carmack, Carlie Chapman, Ella Faulkner, Eliza Ford, Berkli Holtman, Jonathan Hubbs, Lupita Munoz, Aniston Nicholson, Raylyn Phelps, Cindy Price, DJ Rushing, Landon Smith and Connor Wilson.

High Honor Roll

Saphyre Beasley, Claire Boyd, Haleigh Charles, Adyson Choate, Addilyn Clark, Peyton Clymore, Katie Crowden, Nick Dallas and Alana Davis.

Eva Ford, Lillie Griffin, Sereniti Mefford, Zoe Myers, Emma Neilson, Madalyn Schuster, Daisy Taylor, Emma Young and Murphy Wilson.

The Cat's Meow

by the Cobden Spay and Neuter Coalition

Oh, my! How we do appreciate our communities and the amazing support they are showing for our Spring 2026 Spayapalooza. We are just over one quarter of the way to our financial goal of \$10,000 to spay and neuter 100 cats during March and April. We are beyond that in the number of cats we have fixed so far! Many, many more to go.

We are being received nicely by the various city, village and county boards we have met with, and have sent press releases of the event to various media outlets. The Village of Jonesboro generously voted to donate \$750 toward our work.

Contributing over \$1,000 in total donations and gifts, our Meow Mixer event at Alto Vineyards this past Saturday was a huge success! We are so grateful to the venue for sponsoring our event and owe thanks to all who contributed or volunteered that day. Especially Sarah and Margaret for the fantastic sweet treats they so lovingly prepared and donated.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

Well, it’s officially spring. Most everything is blooming tree-wise and I have to really get serious about what I’m going to plant flower-wise. I have already decided very little. I have been slowly working my way into just keeping perennials. I do plant a few annuals, but those have reduced greatly in numbers. I just don’t have time to maintain as much.

I also have to start dragging out a lot of plants that I wintered in the basement. I only lost two, so that’s not as bad as I feared. Still in all, I have plenty to keep me busy. We also ordered seed for the vegetable garden today. The hubby hasn’t been thrilled with store seeds. Oh well, I am staying out of that rant... the garden is his domain, the flowers are mine. Although, I will say, I have similar issues with flower seed at times.

Spring also brings hazards. Several fires have sprung up of late and, with all the windy days we’ve had, seemingly benign chores become very dangerous. From burning trash and debris to overheating lawn mowers; these, along with spring storms and flooding remind us to keep a careful eye out.

This past week had a lot of appointments in it. I can’t remember the last month one of the three of us didn’t have doctors’ appointments. The older we get the more of them we seem to collect. My kids have reminded me if I weren’t so clumsy I wouldn’t have but one or two regular doctor appointments a year. Clumsy seems to be a major factor in my aging process. This past week, in addition to the continued healing of the broken toes, I managed to stab myself in the hand with a knife. Guess, they are right.

The Mill Creek Village board met on Tuesday, March 17 for their monthly meeting. Bids were taken for mowing and the winning bid owner will be notified. There has been no further word from WK & T on when the substation will start being constructed. Tire mulch is going to be investigated to replace wood chips in the park.

Ditches need attention, as some are completely buried. Flooding from the past rain events have left messes everywhere due to inadequate run off. Tidy Bowl has been chosen for the park facilities. The company used before has yet to retrieve their unit; even after a final notice was sent by certified letter, with payment, and received. Grant work continues. New investments on cd’s are being sought. The next meeting will be April 12 at 7 p.m.

Mill Creek Baptist Church will host an Easter Egg luncheon and Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28 at noon with the egg hunt at 1 p.m. Other organizations will also be holding Easter events. Main Street had quite a few people out and about this past Saturday. There

is a lot to see and do in Southern Illinois, so get out and enjoy.

Areminder to those who plan to have a quilt square added to the America 250 quilt need to have them turned in to the Here and Now Shop by March 30.

P.A.S.T. of Union County will meet on Tuesday, March 31 at 6 p.m. at the Heritage House in Jonesboro.

Brother Bobby Richardson led the congregation in worship from the 2 Samuel, chapters 11 and 12. The topic was keeping our mind focused where it needs to be. King David let his mind get idle when it and he should have been on the battlefield. Instead, he’s lazing about and lusting after Uriah’s wife, Bathsheba. This let Satan grab hold of the opportunity to lead David into committing adultery, and ultimately murder, to get what he wanted. Nathan gave him an example of how he was just like another who took what wasn’t his.

We need to be ever vigilant who we let into our lives. Adultery and murder are extreme issues, but even minor discord can destroy our witness. Harboring jealousy, anger, pettiness, or even gossip weakens our walk with Christ. Remember Satan sends others to weaken you and God sends his to strengthen you. If we keep our eyes on God and not man, we’d be better off.

Those added for prayer are: the families of David Grey, Edwin Rushing, Herb White, Judy Trexler, Terry Verble, and Vivian Moss who have passed recently. Also be in prayer for healing for Elaine Knupp, Jack Zimmerman, Kim Johnson, Kim Noble, Dean Short, Jacob Starr, Elaine Knupp, Bruce McCommons, Karly Sadler, Teresa Phillips, Randy and Marilyn Pierce, and Nicole Tucker.

Union County Fixin’s

No Bake Date Balls

1 stick of butter (1/2 Cup)
8 oz. dates, diced
1 cup brown sugar
Pinch of salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup flaked coconut
1/2 cup pecans, finely chopped
2 cups krispy rice cereal
1 cup powdered sugar

In non-stick saucepan, add butter, dates, and brown sugar. Bring to a boil on medium heat and simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

Add salt, vanilla, coconut, pecan, and cereal. Mix well.

Let cool slightly, about 8 minutes. Form into less than walnut-sized balls. Place powdered sugar in shallow bowl or paper plate and roll balls until covered. Do not shake them in a bag. Set on rack until cooled.

Store in air-tight container.



Annual meeting
Stockholders of Anna-Jonesboro National Bank conducted the bank’s annual meeting on Tuesday, March 10. Directors elected were, back row, Greg Wood, Joe McCurdy and Mark Chamness. Front row, Rusty Flamm and Melanie Lasley, president. Not available for the photo was Phil Hileman, chairman, and Trevor Kell.

Opinion and Commentary

Right food choices can reduce chronic health conditions

March is National Nutrition Month, an annual campaign established in 1973 by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

In an effort to develop good nutrition and thriving communities, Rural Health Inc., RHI, encourages residents to learn about making informed food choices, and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits, to help reduce their chances of developing chronic health conditions.

This year's theme is "Discover the Power of Nutrition." Building healthy habits into your day to help you feel great now and in the future is the goal. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, poor nutrition and physical inactivity increase the risk of chronic conditions like obesity, depression, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancer, which can lead to disability and premature death.

While it's often easiest to read nutrition headlines or search for nutritious options, knowing what works best for you should be your first step. What works for others may not be what's best for you.

"A registered dietician can expertly guide you with information driven by science and help you feel confident about your food and beverage choices and their impact on your overall health," said Morgan Atherton, registered dietician/licensed dietician for Rural Health Inc. "You learn how to choose healthful foods from all food groups, how to alternate your food choices for a variety of nutrients, and how to avoid fad diets that are often low in nutritional value."

In addition to getting the most nutrition from your meal choices, a nutritionist can also help you learn cooking and meal preparation skills that also reduce your risk for food-borne illness, locate community resources such as SNAP, WIC and local food banks, develop physical activity in ways that work for you and work with you and your healthcare provider to control diabetes, high blood pressure and other health issues impacted by poor nutrition.

Rural Health, Inc. offers nutrition services to established patients on a referral basis. To learn more about improving your nutrition for better health, contact Morgan Atherton at Rural Health Inc. at 618-833-4471 or visit www.ruralhealth-inc.org. For information on National Nutrition Month, visit www.eatright.org/about-national-nutrition-month.

Rural Health Inc. is a not-for-profit organization serving Union, Johnson and Massac counties in Southern Illinois.

Illinois State Museum welcomes family stories

The Illinois State Museum is inviting residents from across the state to share their family stories as part of a statewide effort to commemorate the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary.

As the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence approaches, the museum is asking Illinoisans to contribute stories passed down through their families. Selected submissions may be featured in exhibitions, programs and social media as part of the museum's America 250 initiative.

The museum is seeking stories that have been told and retold within families over time. Participants can submit their stories by visiting the museum's website and completing a short survey.

All stories are welcome, whether they happened last week or 200 years ago, involve a major historical event or reflect an everyday moment. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Stories about when and why you or an ancestor first came to Illinois.
- Memories describing what life was like "back then" for a family member.
- Childhood stories often shared by a parent or grandparent.
- Stories about how family members met or fell in love.

In 2026, the Illinois State Museum plans to highlight Illinois as a "Land of Stories," recognizing that the state's history is shaped by the people and places that define it. Planned exhibitions will explore stories connected to Indigenous life, the natural world, the people of Illinois and the legacy of U.S. Route 66. Through this initiative, the museum celebrates the diverse experiences that continue to shape Illinois and the nation.

For more information or to submit a story, visit the Illinois State Museum online at illinoisstatemuseum.org.

The Illinois State Museum is headquartered in Springfield and has branch facilities in Lewistown and Lockport.

Shawnee school board honors Chapman

The Shawnee School District No. 84 Board of Education has recognized Brittany Chapman for a special honor she received. Chapman was recognized at a March 18 board of education meeting.

She was selected by the Illinois State Board of Education to receive the 2026 Those Who Excel Award of Special Recognition. Recipients of the award are valued members of their school community who have been recognized by their col-

leagues, students, families and administrators for the skills, passions and talents they bring to their school community.

"This definition describes Mrs. Brittany perfectly. She has served our district for six years as a paraprofessional and coach," the school district shared in a message on social media.

Chapman will be honored at an awards ceremony which is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, in Bloomington.

Please read this...

Close encounter of a killdeer kind...

Let's see...if memory serves correctly...which it probably does not...we were enjoying a wind chill somewhere in the range of 12 degrees early one morning not all that long ago...

Then...at about 3 o'clock last Sunday afternoon, the air temperature in our little corner of the world was 86 degrees. The heat index at the same time also was 86. Yup. Zooming from a wind chill to a heat index.

Maybe it goes without saying, but we will do so anyway, but the weather so far in 2026 has been just a bit wonky. At least it's been giving us something to talk about.

One day...maybe even one moment...Mother Nature offers us a hint of spring...or maybe even summer. Next thing we know, Mom has unleashed her wrath, accompanied by an increasingly grumpy Old Man Winter, who just does seem to want to go away.

I am going to blame our very unpredictable weather for the "bug" which decided to accompany me last week on The Journey Through Life. The bug was kind enough to share coughing and hacking and sinusy sorts of miseries which weren't much fun. At least the whole thing was good for some nice, long naps.

Our recent summer time temperatures in March were good for spending some time with Bob out on the porch swing. There were a couple of nights last week when we could sit on the porch swing and hear all kinds of sounds we might not have expected until May or June. Lots of bugs were making lots of bug sounds.

Other sounds heard during our recent warm days included lawn mowers. I know it's the time of year to get the mowers going. Back in the day, I would be among the folks who would start mowing when the grass, or more likely the weeds, in our yard would get just a wee bit too tall.

Experience and wisdom gained on The Journey Through Life have convinced me that there are so many other fun things that could be done instead of mowing the lawn. Like sitting on the porch swing with Bob. With that in mind, I try to hold off mowing until about October, just in time for the first frost.

The Other Half has done her part to help, too. She has turned most of our yard into a garden. That is a good thing. She's done such a good job that we don't even have a gasoline-powered lawn mower any more. A battery-powered weed trimmer is just the right tool.

Meanwhile...

Critters seemed to be enjoying the milder temperatures. Well, except for the squirrels. They must have found someplace cool Sunday afternoon, 'cause I didn't see very many of them during my daily walk. (They apparently knew I would



Momma killdeer? Don't know for sure if this feathered Critter was mom or dad. No matter...it was still keeping a close eye on the Critter with a Camera.

share such an observation, 'cause they have been back out and having fun. I even saw a "cute" squirrel which seemed to have ears that were partly white.)

Lady bugs have been frequent sights on our recent warm days. Lots of lady bugs. Lots and lots and lots of lady bugs. I'm guessing that we are not the only folks welcoming such visitors. Seems that if they can find a way to get inside our humble abode, they are doing so. We like to welcome visitors, but an "invasion" of six-legged red and white and black Critters is a bit much.

Recent Critter encounters also have included a pair of killdeers. During a recent walk, I could hear a killdeer calling. Initially, I could not see the bird. I think that was because it was right in front of me. A second killdeer soon made an appearance.

I'm thinking I might have made an acquaintance with Mom and Dad. And I'm also thinking I may have stumbled through territory where they had made a nest. Killdeers are very good about doing everything they can to lead two-legged Critters away from their nests. With that in mind, I took a few pictures and moved on. I'm guessing Mom and Dad were grateful.

Well...I think that's about enough for this week. Enjoy our spring time warm weather...and our spring time not so warm weather. And, if you feel like mowing the lawn...well...just put it off...until about October...

One last thing...go, Cardinals...

Local student in cast of SIU musical



Cast members rehearsing
"Anything Goes" cast members have been rehearsing ahead of the March 26-29 performances which are scheduled in SIU Carbondale's Shryock Auditorium. Photo by Erasmus Tornye/from news.siu.edu.

A continuing search for young love and deception can reach no ends, including the high seas, as the Southern Illinois University Carbondale School of Theater and Dance and the School of Music prepare to take audiences aboard the S.S. American where "Anything Goes." One of the musical's cast members is from Union County.

The tale of a young stockbroker seeking out his true love while stowing away on an ocean liner as it travels from New York to London boards the Shryock Auditorium stage starting Thursday, March 26. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. March 26-28 and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 29.

Cole Porter's satirical musical comedy, which premiered on Broadway in 1934, features singing sailors, humorous passengers and classic songs, including "Anything Goes," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top" and "Easy to Love."

Angela C. Shultz, director

of musical theater and associate professor of practice in musical theater and voice, and Christopher Morehouse, professor and director of bands are collaborating on the production. They collaborated previously in 2025's musical "She Loves Me."

The musical originally premiered during a tumultuous time in the nation's history: the ongoing Great Depression and just a few years prior to the start of World War II.

"There were many escapist musicals written around that time because people needed a diversion from ordinary life," Shultz said. "However, 'Anything Goes' is more than that. It's a social satire poking fun at celebrity, gangster culture, class wars and religion. The humor is witty and biting but is told through madcap comedy and a bunch of tap dancing."

For Morehouse, the music is "quintessential 1930's" along with a "testament to the lasting quality of Porter's music."

"Cole Porter's music and lyrics will be instantly recognizable, many of the songs having become standards," he said. "It is remarkable that almost 100 years later this musical and songs from the musical are still regularly performed."

Morehouse will conduct the 18-member pit orchestra, featuring the SIU Wind Ensemble. The orchestra includes 16 students and two guest artists. The musical cast includes 24 students and recent graduates. Rehearsals began in mid-January.

One of the members of the cast is Jady Samuels of Anna, who portrays Erma. Samuels is a junior who is studying musical theater.

The musical features a "hit-parade" of Porter's songs from the 1930s. The opportunity to team with Morehouse and the Wind Ensemble again is exciting, Shultz said.

"It gives our students the amazing chance to integrate their acting, singing and dance skills in a high-energy show," she said. "All of

this together with bringing the show to Shryock Auditorium means we have the chance to forge new ground in collaboration, creativity and community."

For many in the wind ensemble, this will be the first pit orchestra experience, Morehouse said.

"Students are called upon to play different styles throughout the show, from big band swing to art song accompaniment. Building these skills while in school is important for each student's overall training," he said.

Tickets are available online, by phone at 618-453-5741 and at the McLeod Theater box office. Individual tickets are \$25 for adults 21 and older, \$20 for senior citizens 55 and older, \$10 for students age 13-21 and \$8 for children 12 and younger. Tickets can also be purchased at Shryock Auditorium one hour before each performance. McLeod Theater box office hours are scheduled Monday through Friday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.