THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

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News Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area.

American Red Cross blood drives are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School; and from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 27, at Anna Junior High/Davie School.

***

The Union County Sheriff's Office is joining in the celebration of National Telecommunicators Week, which is April 12-18.

***

The Union County CEO program's All-Star Celebration and Trade Show event is planned from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, at Harvest Church in Anna.

***

Lots of special Anna-Jonesboro Community High School football memories are being shared in a post on social media.

***

Signups were scheduled last Saturday for an upcoming Wildcat Youth Football League spring flag football season. Games are planned for Sunday afternoons in May at the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School football field. Students in grades 1 through 8 are welcome to play.

***

Lick Creek School is planning to host its 73rd annual track meet on Friday, April 17. Competition is set to start at 9:30 a.m. The rain date is Friday, May 8.

***

Lick Creek School's FFA is planning to have a car and tractor show on April 25. Entries will be accepted from 9:30 a.m. to noon, with judging at 12:30 p.m. The day also will feature concessions, cornhole, hanging baskets and vegetables.

***

Another "Caffeine Car Line" is planned from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Friday, April 17, at Anna Junior High School. The event is presented by junior high school class of 2026 and sponsored by Kiki's CoffeeHouse in Anna.

***

The Anna School District 37 3rd/4th grade Brain Games team placed sixth out of 33 teams which took part in regional competition at Rend Lake College in Ina.

***

Shawnee School District's EdRising program is planning to host a "Celebrating Parents" after school event for students in grades 1 through 3 from 3 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 28.

***

Earth Day will be commemorated on April 22, followed by Arbor Day on April 24.

***

The Alto Pass Garden Club recently kicked off the garden season with its first spring planting of herbs and vegetables in the community garden.

***

Shawnee Community College recently hosted a successful American Red Cross blood drive. Thirty-seven donors were reported.

***

Performances of "The Addams Family" musical are set for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 24-25, at Shawnee Community College near Ullin.

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County board approves funding requests for Extension program



Extension office

A University of Illinois Extension office is located along East Vienna Street in Anna.

Financial support for the University of Illinois Extension program was on the agenda at last week's regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners. The meeting, which included votes for allocation of funding to the local Extension program, was Friday morning, April 10, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Jody A. Johnson, director of the Extension unit which serves Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski and Union counties in Southern Illinois, attended the meeting. An annual budget agreement for the multi-county AJMPU unit was on the agenda for the meeting. An additional funding agreement also was on the agenda.

Johnson presented the commissioners with copies of a 2025 Illinois Extension Impact Report. The report highlighted Extension programming and news for 2025 in the five counties.

"Reflecting on the 2025 program year, I am both humbled and proud to be a part of the remarkable resilience and impact of University of Illinois Extension across southernmost Illinois," Johnson wrote in the report.

"This past year brought significant change – most notably, the conclusion of SNAP-Ed funding, which supported nutrition education and outreach in our communities for years," he shared. "While this loss was deeply felt, it also reminded us of the importance of adaptability and partnership. Our team has responded by strengthening local collaborations, integrating health education into new settings, and ensuring that our commitment to community well-being remains steadfast."

In late July of 2025, the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign announced it would end a successful Illinois Extension-led program impacting food security and health for 1 million residents annually, affecting nearly 2,000 statewide partnerships and cutting over

(continued on page 2)

Arts council among state grant recipients

The Illinois Arts Council, IAC, in partnership with the office of the Gov. JB Pritzker and Illinois Humanities, on April 10 announced the awarding of more than $325,000 to 22 public art projects throughout the state, including in Union County, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

State officials said the grants are part of a broader statewide effort led by the Illinois America 250 Commission to celebrate the nation's historic anniversary.

The awarded projects, selected in collaboration with local municipalities and nonprofit organizations, will serve as a public testament to Illinois' creativity and values, celebrating the state's role in the nation's ongoing story.

From Elgin to East St. Louis, Effingham to Anna, Marshall to Macomb and Rock Island to Rockford, these artworks will stand as enduring markers of this historic moment, state officials said. The grant recipients include the Shawnee Hills Arts Council in Anna, which has been awarded $15,000.

"Illinois is proud to support new public art projects in communities across the state as we celebrate our unique place in the story of America," the governor said in a news release. "Thanks to these IAC grants, we're helping Illinois' talented creatives bring vibrance to our public spaces, celebrate our local history, and energize our cultural communities."

"These projects show how art can energize local economies and deepen our sense of place across Illinois," IAC board chair Nora Daley said. "Through this investment, we are not only enhancing our public spaces but also fueling economic growth and fostering a vibrant cultural economy that benefits all Illinoisans."

"These grants offer a unique opportunity for artists across Illinois to bring to life the diverse stories and shared values that have shaped our nation, fostering civic engagement and cultural pride," IAC executive director Joshua Davis-Ruperto said. "Through their creativity, we celebrate the diverse stories that define our state and nation, inspiring future generations to engage with our cultural heritage in meaningful ways."

"Illinois is a place where the American story comes into focus: through our people, our social movements, our diversity and our creativity," said executive director of Illinois Humanities and chair of the Illinois America 250 Commission Gabrielle Lyon. "These timely investments in our public landscape invite us to see ourselves in that complex story and to carry it forward."

As Illinois celebrates the nation's landmark anniversary, communities and organizations are encouraged by state officials to become official Illinois America 250 partners. More information on how to get involved can be found by visiting the Illinois America 250 Commission's community calendar at www.il250.org/events.

Stinson Memorial Public Library celebrates Walter Burley Griffin



Dedication held on library grounds

Recently planted flowering buckeye and white oak trees were dedicated last Saturday at Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna. The dedication of the trees was one of several activities held in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of American architect Walter Burley Griffin. Griffin, working with his wife,

Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna hosted a celebration last Saturday commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of American architect Walter Burley Griffin. Griffin designed the library, which is located at 409 S. Main St. in Anna, and is a world architectural landmark. Griffin was born in 1876 and died in 1937. Stinson Memorial Public Library opened in 1914 and was one of 150 historic sites around the world which will be hosting events in honor of Griffin.

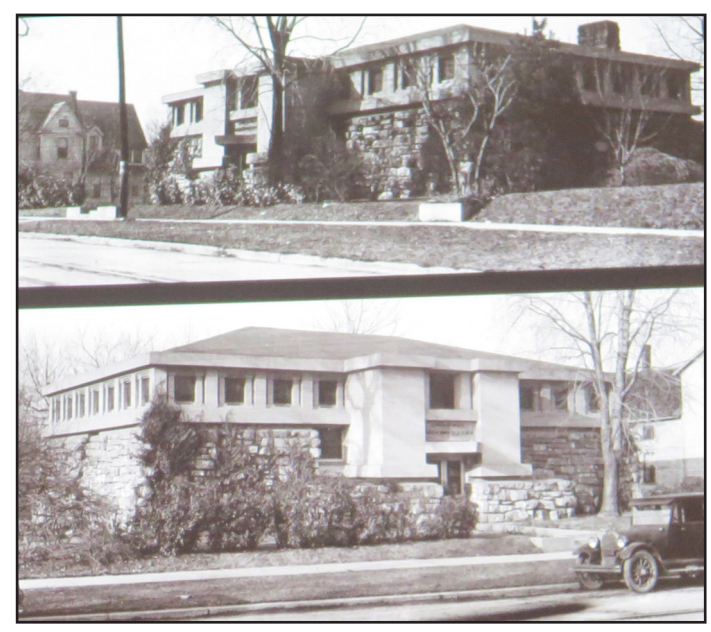
Saturday's celebration at the Anna library got underway with self-guided library tours, crafts and the serving of light refreshments.

At noon, activities moved outdoors, where library district director Sarah Watkins welcomed those in attendance. "Our library is an absolute gem of a building," Watkins said. Later, as the day's activities wrapped up, Watkins thanked the many people who continue to support the library and noted plans for continuing preservation and restoration efforts in support of the architectural landmark.

In commemoration of the anniversary, two trees had been planted on the library grounds prior to Saturday. The trees were dedicated at Saturday's event. The library worked with the Anna-Jo Garden Club on the planting of the trees. The trees that were planted included a flowering buckeye, which has a common name of red horse chestnut. A white oak tree also was planted. The white oak is the official state tree of Illinois.

The trees were in keeping with Walter Burley Griffin's original plan for landscaping at Stinson Memorial Public

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Presentation in auditorium

A presentation titled "Understanding the Stinson Library, One of America's Great Treasures" was last Saturday by Paul Kruty, who is a professor emeritus at the University of Illinois and a founding member of the Walter Burley Griffin Society of America. Nearly 50 people were on hand for the presentation, which was in the library's auditorium.

Anna City Council acts on new budget



Park project

Continued progress on a major park improvement project was addressed at last week's regular meeting of the Anna City Council. Several positive comments about the project were voiced at the meeting.

The City of Anna's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 is on public display. A resolution making the budget available to the public was approved at last week's regular meeting of the Anna City Council. The meeting was Tuesday evening, April 7, at Anna City Hall.

The budget resolution was one of many items on the agenda for the meeting. The agenda included the employment of a new police chief.

The city's new fiscal year begins May 1 and continues through April 30, 2027. The budget proposed for the city once again will be balanced. A public hearing on the budget is planned at 4:45 p.m. prior to the city council's next meeting. Council meetings are scheduled at 5 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

A summary of budget expenditures includes $5,675,278 for the general fund; $2,295,300 for the water fund; $1,928,900 for the disposal fund; and $2,464,500 for the natural gas fund.

The council acted on a resolution authorizing and approv

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Extension center (continued)

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200 jobs – more than one-quarter of Illinois Extension's workforce. The announcement was shared in a news release which was posted last summer on Illinois Extension's website.

The move was in response to the elimination of federal funding for a program called SNAP-Education, which provides nutrition education for people eligible for SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps and branded as Link in Illinois).

Illinois Extension led one of the largest SNAP-Ed programs in the country, under the brand Eat.Move.Save, for over 30 years. In this capacity, Extension acted as a hub to map agri-food systems in communities across the state, identify gaps and develop programs, action plans, partnerships, nutrition education and interventions based on system elements that drive food insecurity in each community.

Illinois SNAP-Ed networks included schools, food pantries, charitable organizations, grocery stores, farmers, storage and processing facilities, transportation networks, public health departments, state and county agencies and more. Together with Eat.Move.Save. staff, these networks helped Illinoisans in all corners of the state access and prepare healthy food, stretch food dollars and incorporate movement into their lives.

Each year, Eat.Move.Save. prevented more than 5,000 cases of obesity and nearly 600 cases of food insecurity among Illinois residents. More than half of program participants reported making positive changes after taking part in Eat.Move. Save. activities.

Budget Agreements

Johnson addressed the impact of the SNAP-Ed program cuts during discussion with the five Union County commissioners. He also made an annual request for approval of $40,000 from the county to support the local Extension program. A tax is levied in the county to generate revenue for Extension. The funding request and levy have remained steady for many years.

Johnson also requested one-time additional funding request in the amount of $10,000. The additional funds would help to ease some of the impact of the SNAP-Ed cuts. Johnson said the federal funding cuts impacted the AJMPU unit in the amount of $500,000 and resulted in the loss of six jobs. He said the lost funding represented one-third of the unit's budget. Four of the six staff members who lost their jobs have found other employment.

Extension also offers programs such as 4-H and Teen Leaders. Many young people in Union County and in the other counties in the AJMPU unit participate in those program.

Johnson said he is meeting with officials in the other counties in the unit to discuss possible financial support in light of the funding cuts. He said Extension will continue to work to manage tax dollars well and that he does not want to add any additional burdens to local taxpayers.

The commissioners cast unanimous 5-0 votes in support of the regular Extension budget agreement and the one-time additional funding agreement. County officials noted that Extension plays an important role and is an asset to the community.

River to River Relay set Saturday

The 2026 River to River Relay is set for Saturday, April 18, in Southern Illinois. The relay begins in Union County and ends in Pope County. The Mississippi and Ohio rivers meet at the southern tip of Illinois. Every April, over 2,000 runners cross this land between the rivers in the River to River Relay.

Teams of eight runners compete on an 80-mile course. Each runner completes three sections that range in length from 2.5 to 4 miles. Teams are started in groups every 30 minutes beginning at 6:15 a.m. and continuing until the last group is started at 8:45 a.m. The finish line closes at exactly 8 p.m.

The relay starts at McGee Hill in LaRue Pine Hills on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River valley near Wolf Lake. The course follows country roads (mostly paved but some stretches of gravel) through the Shawnee National Forest to its finish at the Ohio River in Golconda.

Residents of small towns and villages along the relay's route will be showing their support for the runners, including in the downtown Cobden area, where a relay exchange point is located.

Teams with local connections which are scheduled to run in the relay include, as listed on a roster posted online, include Squinge from Cobden, Second Childhood from Cobden, Finish the Task from Cobden, The Moo Crew from Anna, Built for Speed from Cobden and Jael Spiking It from Cobden.

Weather

High 81, low 38;
0.05 of an inch of rain

Temperatures for the period of April 7-13 in the Union County area ranged from a high of 81 degrees to a low of 38. Precipitation totaled 0.05 of an inch of rain.

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

Tuesday, April 7: high 63, low 40.

Wednesday, April 8: high 76, low 38.

Thursday, April 9: high 78, low 50.

Friday, April 10: high 81, low 58. 0.05 of an inch of rain.

Saturday, April 11: high 78, low 53.

Sunday, April 12: high 79, low 54.

Monday, April 13: high 81, low 70.

City council (continued)

(continued from page 1)
ing an agreement to employ J.D. Barter as the new chief of the Anna Police Department. Barter comes to Anna from Johnston City, where he has served as police chief since 2022. Barter is slated to start his job in Anna on May 11. He will oversee a department with eight officers and a school resource officer.

Barter succeeds Brent Sims as police chief. The city council accepted Sims's resignation in March. Sims accepted a position as safety/security administrator with Anna School District No. 37.

The work being done by Anna Police Department sergeants Caleb Clover and Rachel Nikephoros during the transition time from one chief to another was praised at last week's council meeting.

Other Business

In other business at the April 7 meeting, the council approved a permit for an Independence Day parade which is planned on the morning of July 4. The parade is one of the events planned in Anna in conjunction with the celebration of the nation's 250th birthday in 2026.

A resolution was approved authorizing a redevelopment agreement for the renovation and redevelopment of an existing commercial building located at 109 W. Vienna St. utilizing Tax Increment Financing. The address is the location of the former Lou's Room/Boswell's.

A 2026 Arbor Day proclamation was approved. Arbor Day is April 24. The city is working with the Anna-Jo Garden Club to have an Arbor Day tree planting at a site which is to be determined.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency recently conducted an inspection at the site of the city's former landfill. No violations were found. The site is location along Kaolin Road between Anna and Cobden. Plans are continuing for the development of a solar energy project at the former landfill site.

Plans for mobile food distribution were announced. The distribution, sponsored by ER SNAP/GELI Funds through the Tri-State Food Bank/Feeding America, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday, April 30, in the municipal parking lot at 124 E. Davie St. in Anna. Organizers have noted there will be a limit of two households per car. Food will be made available while supplies last.

A resolution was approved voicing opposition to increases in federal truck size and weight limits and urging Congressional action to protect local infrastructure and public safety. The matter was addressed with potential damage which could be caused to streets and roads in the city.

An intergovernmental agreement was reached between the city and Cobden School District No. 17. The agreement approved the donation of old ball field lights from the city to the school district. The school district plans to use the lights at its softball field.

Stinson Library (continued)



Stinson memories

Photographs of Stinson Memorial Public Library in the 1920s were shared by Paul Kruty in his presentation about the architectural landmark last Saturday afternoon.



Flowering buckeye tree planted

Gathered around a flowering buckeye tree planted on the grounds of Stinson Memorial Public Library are, from left, Sarah Watkins, the director Stinson Memorial Public Library District; Zack Rowatt, who assisted in the planting of the tree and was creating original art at the Saturday's celebration; Adam Stearns, library custodian, who assisted in the planting of the tree; arborist Tom Caldwell, who assisted in the planting of the tree; Paul Kruty, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois and author, who gave a presentation Saturday; and Nick Williams with White & Borgognoni Architects in Carbondale, current architect of record for Stinson Memorial Public Library and author of the library's most recent historic structures report. A white oak tree also has been planted on the library's grounds.

(continued from page 1)
Library. Those attending Saturday's event were invited to tour the library grounds and see landscaping work which has been done.

After the dedication ceremony, those in attendance were invited to go back into the library for a presentation titled "Understanding the Stinson Library, One of America's Great Treasures" given by Paul Kruty, who is a professor emeritus at the University of Illinois, where he has taught architectural history, a founding member of the Walter Burley Griffin Society of America and an author who wrote a publication titled "Walter Burley Griffin and the Stinson Memorial Library: Modernism Comes to Main Street."

Kruty told an audience of nearly 50 people that Stinson Memorial Public Library is an extraordinary building which brings people from around the world to visit. Kruty said he has been visiting the library since the 1970s. He also recognized Griffin's wife, Marion Mahoney Griffin. He said Marion was Griffin's "de facto professional partner." Marion also was an architect, as well as an artist.

During Saturday's celebration, Marion Mahoney Griffin's original silk, ink and watercolor rendering of the Anna library will be on display. Marion Mahoney Griffin was an architect and artist.

In designing the library, Griffin hoped to create a structure that was both architecturally significant and accessible to the public – an idea which could be seen coming to fruition with the large turnout for Saturday's event at Stinson.

Freedom Sings USA retreat to host concerts this weekend

A unique program using music to support veterans will come to Anna April 16-18 as Freedom Sings USA hosts a songwriting retreat in partnership with the Shawnee Hills Arts Council.

Based in Chattanooga, Freedom Sings USA is a nonprofit organization that helps veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families process trauma and navigate the challenges of military life by turning their personal stories into songs. The organization was founded by songwriters Don Goodman, Steve Dean and Bobbie Allison-Standefer.

During the Anna retreat, Nashville songwriters will be paired with local veterans to write original songs based on their life experiences. The program aims to promote healing, build connections and foster greater understanding between veterans and the community.

Five veterans have been selected to participate: Weldon Davis, Patricia Caraker and Mark Haddick, all Vietnam veterans; Jean Few, who served in Okinawa; and Norman Bauer, a U.S. Air Force veteran in air refueling.

The public is invited to two free concerts featuring the participating songwriters, who will perform in a "writers' round" format, sharing both the songs and the stories behind them.

A concert will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, April 17, at Davie's School Inn Gym, 300 Freeman St. A second concert, which will include veteran recognition and song premieres, is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at East Davie Park. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

Songwriters participating in the retreat include Dean, Goodman and Bill DiLuigi, along with Minnie Murphy, Wil Nance and Bill Whyte.

Event organizers estimate the cost of the retreat at $15,000 and are seeking community support through donations. Contributions can be made online (zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-for-freedom-sings-usa) or mailed to the Shawnee Hills Arts Council at 125 W. Davie St., Anna, IL 62906.

For more information, contact organizer Lee Hackney at 904-625-1109 or via email at vabchlee@gmail.com.

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Cobden American Legion Auxiliary receives charter at recent ceremony



Cobden American Legion Auxiliary, Post members

The members of the new Cobden American Legion Post No. 259 Auxiliary were joined by members of the Cobden American Legion post at a ceremony which was held Monday evening, April 6. The ceremony was at the Cobden Masonic Lodge.



Department president welcomed

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois president Jill Layton, left, presided over the charter ceremony for the new Cobden American Legion Auxiliary.

A longstanding Union County veterans organization now has an auxiliary. A charter has been issued for an auxiliary to Cobden American Legion Post No. 259.

A ceremony to commemorate the special occasion was held Monday evening, April 6, at the Cobden Masonic Lodge. The lodge is located along Skyline Drive near Cobden.

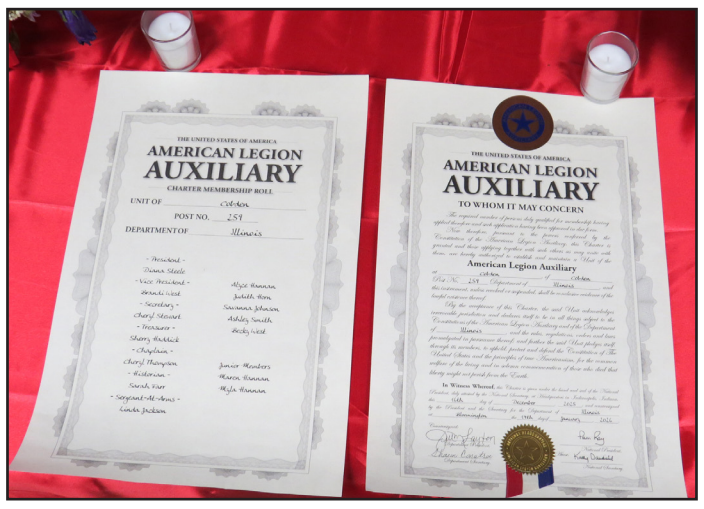
The American Legion Auxiliary is a separate entity from The American Legion. Cobden's American Legion Post was chartered in 1921. Establishment of the new auxiliary came about as a way to show support for the post and its activities.

The auxiliary shares the same values as The American Legion. The auxiliary is composed of spouses, mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, granddaughters, grandsons and brothers and sisters of American war veterans. Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is dedicated to serving veterans, military and their families.

The American Legion Auxiliary can be found in more than 8,000 local communities in the United States and in foreign countries. Since its founding during the first national convention of The American Legion, the auxiliary has grown to be one of the largest veterans support organizations.

The American Legion Auxiliary's mission statement reads: "In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security."

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is "to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.



Auxiliary documents

Documents formalized the establishment of the Cobden American Legion Post No. 259 Auxiliary and a list of the auxiliary's charter members.

"In fulfillment of our Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes: To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families. To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion. To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship. To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy. To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government. To increase our capacity to deliver our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities. To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self."

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois president Jill Layton presided over the April 6 charter presentation ceremony. The ceremony included the lighting of four candles which represented the auxiliary's principles of justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty. The new members took an oath as they joined the organization.

Charter members were welcomed and officers of the new auxiliary were installed. The officers include Diana Steele, president; Brandi West, vice president; Cheryl Stewart, secretary; Sherry Haddick, treasurer; Cheryl Thompson, chaplain; Sarah Farr, historian; and Linda Jackson, sergeant-at-arms.

The charter members also include Luisa Vercide, Savanna Johnson, Alyce Hannan, Ashley Smith, Becky West and Judith Horn. The new auxiliary paid tribute to Judith Horn, who had passed away recently, and was honored by the presence of her husband, Gene. Junior members of the auxiliary are Maren Hannan and Myla Hannan. Junior membership is open to young people up to 18 years of age.

The new auxiliary has already been busy in the community. The auxiliary is serving community fellowship breakfasts on the first Saturday of each month. The breakfasts are served from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the parish hall at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cobden.

Meetings of Cobden American Legion Post No. 259 and its new auxiliary are scheduled at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the Cobden Masonic Lodge. Those who may be interested in becoming members of the auxiliary can contact Diana Steele at 618-771-6161.

(Note: Some of the information included in this article originally appeared on the website for The American Legion Auxiliary.)

Shawnee College buys Union County Extension Center building in Anna



Shawnee Community College held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the purchase of the building that houses the Union County Extension Center in Anna. The event was held Friday, April 10.

College faculty, board members, community leaders and business partners gathered at the facility to commemorate the milestone, which the college believes strengthens their presence in Union County and supports access to education, workforce training, and community engagement.

"At its core, the Union County Extension Center is about access. Not abstract access, but real, practical access," said Shawnee Community College President Dr. Tim Taylor. "Access to education that is closer to home. Access to training that leads somewhere. Access to training opportunities for individuals who may not have a clear path forward."

The Union County Extension Center has occupied the "old Walmart building," as it is known locally, for years as renters.

Purchasing the building is part of the college's greater goal to bolster the services provided by their extension centers, expanding the access that communities in the region have to training and education.

"If you look at our strategic plan, our facilities plan, it's really focused on strengthening the extension and centers," said Dr. Taylor. "For working adults, who may be working outside of our district, it's hard for them to come home after work and then drive 20, 25 minutes to the main campus, sit in class for a couple hours and then drive all the way back home, especially if they have kids who have their own events."

"A community is not a community, it's the people that build it. A hospital is not a hospital, it's the people that work within it that provide the care. That could not be possible without the partnerships that we have with Shawnee Community College. They're going to change lives with this investment," said Deaconess Union County Hospital CEO Harry Brockus who was on hand for the ribbon cutting.

Shawnee Community College offers many programs in the health care industry, with graduates frequently finding careers in the medical field at places like Deaconess Union County Hospital.

With the added flexibility that ownership allows, Dr. Taylor hopes to expand the programs they can offer in Union County, including respiratory therapy and their new EMT program.

"There's other programs that we want to be able to bring to this facility and owning the building allows us a lot more flexibility in expanding and building, which I think at some point you'll see," said Dr. Taylor.

"I think at the end of the day, in 10 years, everybody's going to feel that this was a good investment."

Dry weather pattern continues in region

A dry pattern which began late in the summer and fall of 2025 has continued through the winter and into early spring in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that as of April 9, parts of the region had experienced their top five driest periods on record since Dec. 1. Paducah has had its driest Dec. 1 through April 9 period on record.

Drought conditions have worsened recently in small parts of Southern Illinois, including eastern Union County, and in Western Kentucky.

Much of the region did experience rainfall amounts between 0.50 of an inch and 1 inch during the week prior to April 9. Localized totals of up to 2 inches were observed.

Soil moisture remains very low across much of the southeastern United States, including much of the region served by the Weather Service office in Paducah.

Temperatures were well above normal during March. The abnormal warmth continued into the first several days of April before a brief cool down happened April 5-7. Above normal temperatures have since returned. Unseasonably warm weather was in the forecast for this week. Record high temperatures are possible.

The forecast also was calling for a good chance of widespread showers and thunderstorms with some much-needed rain from late Wednesday night into Thursday morning. Rain is possible again Saturday and Saturday night.

Warm, dry and very windy conditions were recorded once again last Sunday. Wind gusts up to 45 miles per hour were recorded early last Sunday afternoon at the Southern Illinois Airport near Carbondale. At the time, the temperature was close to 80 degrees. The humidity was 43 percent.

Early last Sunday morning the Weather Service office issued a special weather statement for parts of the region, including Union, Jackson, Williamson, Alexander, Pulaski, Johnson and Massac counties. The Weather Service advised that there would be an elevated wildfire danger Sunday afternoon.

The elevated conditions for wildfires were expected mainly between noon and 7 p.m. Relative humidity values were forecast to fall to 25 to 35 percent during those hours. Sustained winds of 10 to 15 mph, with gusts up to 25 to 30 mph, were forecast.

"Vegetation is dry due to ongoing moderate to severe drought conditions over much of the region," the Weather Service reported. Outdoor burning and activities that involved open sparks or flames were discouraged.

While some rain has fallen recently, the Union County area continued to experience moderate drought conditions.

The U.S. Drought Monitor on April 9 reported moderate drought conditions in eastern Union County. The western part of the county was experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Moderate drought conditions also were reported in small parts of southeastern Jackson County and southeastern Massac County, all of Williamson and Alexander counties, most of Pulaski County and northern Johnson County.

Abnormally dry conditions were reported in most of Jackson County, southern Johnson County, extreme eastern Pulaski County and most of Massac County.

A-J athletes honored

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School student athletes have earned postseason honors in bowling and wrestling. The school recognized their achievements on social media.

Bowling

Seniors Addison Bonner and Madison Moore and sophomore Logan Quick earned All-South recognition in bowling.

Wrestling

Senior Jack Smith, junior Haydyn Williamson and freshmen Izzy Giron and Bianca Simmons were honored as All-South wrestlers.

A-J wrestlers who received all-conference honors included girls Elizabeth Hill, Haydyn Williamson, Izzy Giron, Jozilyn Kerr and Bianca Timmons and boys Jack Smith, JR Wright, Zach Orange, Landen Curry and Titus Dover.

Anna VFW announces meetings, events

Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna has announced a series of upcoming meetings and events open to members and the public.

A joint meeting of the VFW post and auxiliary will be held at 5 p.m. Monday, April 20. The auxiliary will conduct its monthly meeting at 6 p.m., followed by the post's monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Elections of officers for the coming year will take place during the meetings, and members are encouraged to attend.

The VFW will also host Taco Tuesday events from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 21 and April 28. The public is welcome.

In addition, Mystify Music will host an adult prom from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 25. The event is open to the public.

Visit www.illinoistreasurer.gov/icash to see if you have unclaimed property. Need internet access? Visit your local public library.

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Available for return to owners:	Over $5 Billion
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Cash:	$307,637,474.23
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Obituaries

Genevia Mae Hamel



Genevia Mae Hamel, 80 of Jonesboro, Ill. passed away on Jan. 17, 2026 at the Hillview Senior Living Center in Vienna Ill.

She was born Aug. 14, 1945 in Tupelo, Miss. to Bill and Tessie Thomason.

Genevia married Otis Hamel on July 2, 1964 in Jonesboro, Ill.

Genevia is survived by 3 daughters, Melanie Hamel of Mounds Ill.; Diane (Keith) Franklin of St. Mary's Mo.; and Vickie (Matt) Sadler of Jonesboro, Ill.

11 grandchildren, Cindy Hamel, Michelle (Hamel) Baker, Mary and Joshua Roberts, Logan and Jenna Franklin, Daniel Franklin, Amber Mae Franklin, Malenzie Franklin, Matthew Sadler, Jacob Sadler, Kyleigh Hamel and Seth Hamel. 25 great-grand children and one great-great-grandchild.

Three sisters Hester and (David) Qualls of Groveland Fla.; Pat (Deon) Tucker of Percy Ill.; Debbie and (Clyde) Sternberg of Steeleville Ill.

Two cousins, Elaine Knapp of Anna Ill., and Margie Daily of Cobden Ill.

She was preceded in death by her husband Otis Hamel; her parents; one sister, Mary Sinks; two brothers, Robert Daniel Thomason and William Dee Thomason; one brother-in-law Deon Tucker.

Genevia was an amazing cook, she loved her flower beds, traveling and camping. She loved spending time with her family and friends.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Christine Sue Earnhart Helm



Christine Sue Earnhart Helm passed away on April 11, 2026 at Deaconess Hospital in Marion, Ill. at the age of 74.

Born Christine Sue Earnhart of Dongola, she lived a life centered on learning, family, friendship, and fun.

She graduated from Century High School in 1969 and went on to Southern Illinois University to obtain a degree in Special Education.

Upon completing her degree, she proudly spent the entirety of her career as an educator working at Century Unit School District #100. She would humorously remark, "I only left for four years to go to college." She was proud to have been named Teacher of the Year in 1979-1980.

Christine loved to read and "philosophize," garden, spend time with her loved ones, and seek out adventure.

Christine found a special joy as the NaNa to her grandsons, "The Bryceman" and "Henry James."

She is survived by her daughter, Dr. Paige Helm Maginel and her husband, John Paul Maginel and their sons Bryce Massey and Henry Maginel; her brother Kenton Earnhart and his wife Beverly; her beloved nephews Dr. John Van Earnhart and his wife Stacy Earnhart, and Justin Earnhart and his wife Lori Earnhart, all of Dongola, Ill.

She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Jennifer Flowers of Austin, Texas, and nieces Adrienne (Brett) Jacobsen of Atlanta, Ga., and Alison (Greg) Blake of Austin, Texas. She has great nieces and a nephew including Alyssa, Lauren and Nicole Earnhart, Will and Presley Blake, and Cate and Claire Jacobsen.

Crain Funeral home

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Helm; her parents, Van and Eileen Earnhart; and her sister and brother in law, Carolyn and Don Treece.

Since Jim's passing, her primary desire has been to reunite with him and the rest of her family that went before her.

After Jim passed, there were many friends that called and assisted and there are too many to mention. But, those she spent most of her physical time with were Deena Reichert and Roger Kerley.

She looked forward to her steady visits from her nephew John Van. She also enjoyed her days with her great canine companions Molly, Reiko and Gambler.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 15 at Crain Funeral Home in Dongola with her beloved nephew, Dr. John Van Earnhart officiating.

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

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Southern Illinois.

Crain Funeral Home in Dongola is in charge of arrangements.

To view the obituary or to leave an online condolence for the family visit www.crainsonline.com

Michael Scott Horn



Michael Scott Horn, age 48 of Cobden, passed away, Thursday, April 9, 2026.

He was born Feb. 16, 1978 in Murphysboro, the son of Paul Laverne and Patricia Ann (Lott) Horn.

Michael is survived by his father, Paul L. Horn Sr.; brother, Paul L. Horn Jr.; uncles; cousins; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother.

Michael worked for Kroger in Carbondale for many years. He was an avid car enthusiast. He enjoyed building model cars and watching ARCA races. Michael was a past volunteer fireman for the Alto Pass Fire Department.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Homes

Memorial services will be announced at a later date.

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.

Lisa Silliman



Lisa Silliman, age 59 of Anna, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at Deaconess Heartland Medical Center in Marion, Ill.

She was born on Jan. 19, 1967 to Calvin Harold and Ruth Delane (Allen) Silliman in Anna, Ill.

Lisa was a loving and fun person. Before she became disabled, she worked at Integrity Healthcare and Martin's Auction House.

Survivors include her children, Joseph Silliman, Latisha Silliman, and Adam Silliman; five grandchildren, Trenton, Bella, Brooke, Nyleaha, and Asher; her siblings, Harold (Tracy) Silliman, Shawn (Caitlin) Silliman, Tasha Mealer, and Nancy Culver; a special niece, Keara Bible; and many other nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, other relatives, and friends.

Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her granddaughter, Nevaeh; sisters Lara and Loie; along with aunts and uncles and grandparents.

Crain Funeral home

Funeral services were held on Monday, April 13, 2026 with Rev. LaRue Parr officiating at Crain Funeral Home in Anna

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions may be made to Crain Funeral Home to help the family offset expenses.

The cremation of Lisa Silliman will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

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

Virginia B. Russo



Virginia B. Russo, of Springfield, passed away at 3:52 p.m. Monday, April 6, 2026, at Springfield Memorial Hospital.

She was born at home, on the family farm near Anna, Ill. on July 5, 1937, the daughter of Sampson S. and Beatrice E. (Glasco) Wiley.

She married John P. Russo, June 6, 1957, and he preceded her in death Jan. 31, 2015.

Virginia worked as a secretary for the Acorn Wire and Iron Works in Chicago before moving to Springfield. She continued her career with Kearny Advertising and lastly with WRSP TV.

She enjoyed gardening and was a great cook. Virginia was an accomplished seamstress. She made many of her own clothes as well as for others. She was very devoted to her husband John's military service and involvement. She was a member of the VFW Auxiliary.

Surviving are her two sons; John W. (wife Zhanna Itisheva) Russo of Williamsville, Ill. and Larry J. (wife Kim) Russo of Sherman, Ill., her grandchildren: John M. Russo of Springfield, Antonio, Elio, Olivia and Daniella Russo all of Williamsville, Ill., two step-grandchildren; Derek Wicker of Shelbyville, Ill. and Audrey (husband Nolen) Brown of Jackson, Mo., her great grandson, John M. "Matthew" Russo of Williamsville, step-great grandchildren; Ella Wicker and Piper Brown, her nieces, Dorleska Chunn and Jane (husband Roy) Wilson both of Ocala, Fla., and Glenda (husband Eddie) Sadler of Anna, Ill., two nephews, Terry (wife Lynn) Wiley of Morton, Ill. and Mark (wife Debbie) Wiley of East Peoria, Ill. and several cousins.

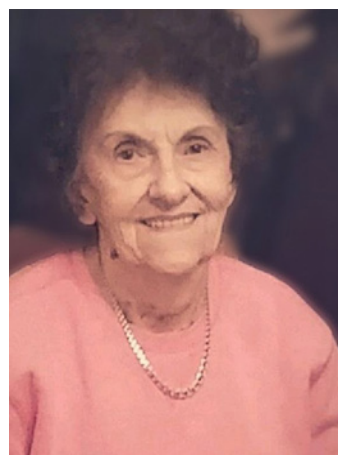
Her parents, three brothers, Lester, James and Ralph two great grandchildren, Sabrina and Savannah Russo and a niece, Linda Wiley-Jones also preceded her in death.

Graveside services were held on Monday, April 13, 2026, at Camp Butler National Cemetery. Pastor Ken Gennicks officiated.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may direct memorial contributions to the VFW Post 10302.

Arrangements are in the care of Bisch and Son Funeral Home 217-544-5424

Frances Ralls



Frances Ralls, 98, of Jonesboro, passed away Thursday, April 9, 2026 at her home surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Jan. 6, 1928, in Erlangen, Germany, the first daughter of Alfred and Ida Pernutz Lehmann.

She met and married Louie "Lum" Ralls in Erlangen, Germany. She, along with their two daughters, came to America to be with him. The Ralls family took her in and always treated her with love and respect.

She is survived by six children; Ursula (James) Reynolds and Kathy (Bryan) Freeman of Jonesboro, Richard (Janet) Ralls of Anna, Tony (Amy) Ralls of Carbondale, Harry (Candy) Ralls of Cape Girardeau, and Marlene Freeman of East Cape Girardeau. Grandchildren, Brad, Melissa, Jamie, Rebecca, Matthew, Daniel, Tonya, Adam, Andy and Alexis; Great Grandchildren, Christi, Jacob, Jayden, Maverick, Garrison, Karsynne, Sterling, Saphyre, Heidi, Trent, Miley, Mackenzie, Gavin, Ryker, Hudson, Allison and Kelce; Great Great Grandchildren, Cayden and Elizaya; one sister, Brigitte Rosenzweig, a niece, Andrea, and nephew, Jurgen, great niece, Julia, and great nephew, Jan, all of Erlangen, Germany.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Homes

She is also survived by brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews in her Ralls family.

She was preceded by her husband, Louie; her parents; a sister, Ursula; a granddaughter, Allison; a son-in-law, Wayne, and a brother-in-law, Helmut.

Thank you so much Karen and Missy from Residential Home Health and Hospice of Marion for all your help and support.

Graveside services will be held privately.

Memorial contributions may be made to Residential Home Health and Hospice of Marion. Envelopes will be available at 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 Jonesboro in charge of arrangements.

Charles David Stadelbacher



Charles David Stadelbacher, age 84 of Cobden, Ill. was graciously welcomed into the pearly gates of eternal bliss by our Lord and Savior on April 7, 2026.

Born to Leo and Geraldine at his family home on August 6, 1941, in Cobden, Ill.

On Nov. 16, 1964, he married Rose Lee Lambert, a marriage lasting 61 years.

They welcomed their first son, Raymond in Aug. 1965 followed by identical twin sons, Carl and Kenneth, in March 1967. He was blessed with six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Charles is survived by his wife Rose Lee, sons Raymond (Tami) and Carl; grandchildren Cody, Ashlyn, Derek (Kate), Cierra (Jeffery), Krystin (Spec Sean) and Christopher; great-grandchildren Jasmine, Kolton, Juleyann, Landon, Miley, Ariana and Liv; sister Margie Stadelbacher; numerous Nieces and Nephews.

Preceded in death by parents Leo & Geraldine (Treece) Stadelbacher; son Kenneth; brothers Robert (Lou), Glenn (Libby), Earl (Jean), Carl and Norbert; sister Gerry (William).

Charles took great pride in raising the best berries and cattle in Southern Illinois on his family farm, Blueberry Hill Farm. Later in life he worked with IDOT Highway Dept.

He was a nature enthusiast who loved birds and wildlife watching, long drives through the country, wildlife refuge and nature parks. His most cherished time was camping and canoeing on Current River with his beloved family.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Homes

Above all he loved playing Aggravation with is Grandchildren. He was a lifelong member of St Joseph Catholic Church in Cobden and was a very devoted Christian.

Charles touched so many lives from family, friends, employees and coworkers. He was a very good man. A man you could trust, look up to, seek advice and help from. Always willing to help those in need and a pleasure to work with. A pillar of our community that left a lasting impression with all who knew him.

He has earned his just reward, dancing with the angels, watching over us and above all no longer plagued by Parkinson's.

Funeral Mass of Christian Burial for Charles David Stadelbacher was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Cobden with Father Uriel Salamanca officiating. Interment followed in the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Cobden followed by family and friend reception at St. Joseph's Fellowship Hall.

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship on April 12 with Matthew Lopez leading our opening prayer.

Our Call to Worship was on "Nurture." "For God is not so unjust to overlook your work and the love which you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren, a tender heart and a humble mind.

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

Our Worship Team led in, "How Great Thou Art," "Blessed Be Your Name" and "Goodness of God."

Pastor Lupe's sermon title was "The Power and the Pressure." Highlights included Acts chapters 3 and 4 reveal the power of Jesus name through the healing of a lame man, demonstrating that Christ is still working through His followers.

Peter boldly proclaims that the miracle was not by human ability, but by faith in the risen Jesus. As the gospel is preached, opposition quickly arises from religious leaders who are threatened by the truth of Christ. Despite arrest and intimidation, the apostles refuse to remain silent, declaring that they must obey God rather than men. These chapters show that while the name of Jesus brings power and salvation, it also brings resistance—but the gospel continues to advance with boldness.

Our Sunday school begins 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, please call our office to ride our bus and to ask about other programs we have in our church.

Our church is located at 409 Morgan Street in Anna, Illinois. Our office is open Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., our phone number is 833-5416. Our email is fbcanna409@gmail.com.

Our Facebook is AnnaFirstBaptistChurch

Our Church Family invite you to all of our services. Please come by for a visit, let us pray with you, share how Jesus has made our lives complete.

God Bless You always is our prayer for you.

Choral union, concert choir set to perform

The Southern Illinois University Carbondale Choral Union and Concert Choir plan to showcase their combined talents when drawing upon spirituals and gospel music during a free, public concert. The concert is set for April 21 in Shryock Auditorium on the SIU campus.

The 7 p.m. "Beautiful City" performance will explore the use of music "as an act of prayer, witness and communal expression, drawing on the enduring traditions of African American spirituals and gospel music," said Emerson Eads, assistant professor and director of choral studies in the SIU School of Music.

The choral union and concert choir features more than 80 singers. They will be joined by 30 Carterville High School students under the direction of Carlyn Zimmerman, an SIU Carbondale alumna and Carterville High School choral director.

The SIU Choral Union is made up of SIU students and community members from across the region. The group gives one performance each semester and rehearses once a week. Jiyeon Lee, an assistant professor of practice in the SIU School of Music, is the pianist. The performance is expected to take about one hour with no intermission.

County Line News

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

Shirley Harvel had surprise guests this past Sunday. Daughter, Vickie Jacobs of Sparta; granddaughter, Rachel Henry and children, Liam and Stella came from Waterloo; and granddaughter Wendy Finch and son, Tristen, from Sparta, surprised her with a day trip.

Vickie will be staying for a week, but the others had to keep it to just the afternoon. Needless to say, she was happy to see them all.

Brother Bobby Richardson led the congregation in a message from The Word. We should all be seeking the answers from God's Word. In Genesis 1:1 we find that "In the beginning, God created…", so that establishes that God has been around since the beginning. John 1:1-5 states that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." So, God is the Word. Then in John 1:14 we see that the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us…." This introduces Jesus.

Brother Bob then asked us why we believe in God. Is it a faith thing? It is, but if you look, you'll see it's coupled with plenty of proof. The word was given to us by God, written by man, and made flesh by Jesus. God's word has been fulfilled many times over in my personal life. It has sustained me when nothing else could. I see his generosity and grace at work constantly. Hebrews 4: 12 reminds us that our God is alive, powerful, and sharp. He knows our every thought and intention. Yet he forgives by our simply asking and believing. To know God, read his word. Establish a relationship with him and allow his son, Jesus into your life. It will change your life.

Those in need of prayer are: Joey Seabaugh, recovery; Braden Rider, strength; and Tanner Roach, healing and comfort; Leeann Cauble Killman, healing from heart surgery; Jim Thorton, health; Cindy Clover, unspoken; Jamie Robertson, personal; Lori Runyon, upspoken; Shirley Harvel, healing; and Allison Harvel-Austad for good test results.

Union County Fixin's

Olive Garden Chicken and Pasta

By Allison Austad

1 1/2 lbs. boneless, skinless breasts (about 3)
8 oz bottle Olive Garden Italian Dressing
8 oz chicken broth
1/4 cup butter, melted
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 teaspoon each of salt, black pepper, and dried parsley
8 oz cream cheese, diced
16 oz. penne pasta

In slow cooker: add chicken breasts to bottom. Then add dressing, butter, and broth. Sprinkle parmesan cheese and seasonings. Put cubed cream cheese on top.

Cover and cook on high for 4 hours, or low for 6 hours.

When it's done, cook pasta according to directions and drain. Remove chicken and shred. Stir remaining contents of crock pot. Add shredded chicken back into pot. Stir to incorporate.

You can add the pasta back into crock pot, or spoon chicken and sauce over plated pasta.

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

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WORSHIP

Shafts of morning light sift through glass windows casting lovely shadows on the sanctuary. The sound of music fills the air. Those entering are reminded of the glory of God and a peace that passes all understanding. The same glory and peace are present in every form of worship service, in every type of house of worship. When we enter into worship, God's comforting omnipresence instills in us the strength and assurance we will need. Visit His house this week.

Daily Bible Reading

Luke 16:1-18	Luke 16:19-31	Luke 17:1-19	Luke 17:20-37	Luke 18:1-17	Luke 18:18-43	Luke 19:11-27

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

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

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AD DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. MONDAY

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HELP WANTED

ANNA, Ill. — The University of Illinois Extension unit serving Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski and Union counties is seeking applicants for an open "extra help" position. Position summary The part-time program coordinator (28 hours per week) will support the Community and Economic Development team in strengthening local food systems through direct engagement with grocery stores and community partners. This role focuses on identifying operational needs, developing practical solutions, and assisting store owners in navigating funding opportunities, technical assistance programs and other resources to enhance sustainability and community impact. The coordinator will work collaboratively with Extension staff and stakeholders while also operating independently to move initiatives forward. The ideal candidate is a self-starter with strong initiative, capable of building relationships, assessing community needs, and translating opportunities into actionable outcomes that support local economic vitality. Applications must be received by 6 p.m. CST May 1, 2026. Applicants should submit a resume, cover letter and three professional references. For more information or to apply for the position, contact Jody Johnson at jjhnsn@illinois.edu. For questions regarding the application process, call 618-658-5321. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. For more information, visit go.illinois.edu/EEO. The university participates in the federal E-Verify program and conducts background checks, including reviews of prior criminal or sexual misconduct history.

FOR RENT

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

The Voyage Senior Living of Anna has an independent living apartment available for those 55 years of age and older. The apartment is a two bedrooms, one bathroom with parking space available for each apartment. Please call Amber at 618-833-5495.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS. JOHN CASEY A/K/A JOHN L CASEY; STEPHANIE CASEY A/K/A STEPHANIE R CASEY F/K/A STEPHANIE R POOLE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS. NO. 2025FC12 835 JIM TOWN LOOP ANNA, IL 62906 NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on April 6, 2026, will on May 27, 2026, in UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 309 W. MARKET, JONESBORO, IL 62952, at 9:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

A PARCEL OF LAND BEING PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A RAILROAD SPIKE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER AT THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 20; THENCE S. 89 DEGREES 31'48"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE THEREOF, A DISTANCE OF 165.00 FEET TO A 1/2" IRON ROD; THENCE DEPARTING FROM SAID SOUTH LINE, N.00 DEGREES 05'00"E., A DISTANCE OF 344.12 FEET TO A 1/2" IRON ROD; THENCE S.86 DEGREES 00'12"E., A DISTANCE OF 117.19 FEET TO A 1/2" IRON ROD; THENCE N.89 DEGREES 21'47"E., A DISTANCE OF 59.19 FEET TO A 1/2" IRON ROD; THENCE S.84 DEGREES 37'56"E., A DISTANCE OF 128.52 FEET TO A POINT IN THE CENTERLINE OF JIMTOWN LOOP; THENCE S.33 DEGREES 05'26"W., A DISTANCE OF 69.89 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE S.20 DEGREES 34'14"W., A DISTANCE OF 282.65 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 1.761 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, IN UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS PER SURVEY BY SCOTT A. RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR #2996, DATED APRIL OF 2015, SUBJECT TO EXISTING EASEMENTS OF RECORD IF ANY AND THAT PART THEREOF FALLING IN JIMTOWN LOOP.

TAX NO. 02-20-00-972-1

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 835 Jim Town Loop
Anna, IL 62906

Description of Improvements: Gray vinyl siding, 2 story single family home, detached 2 car garage

The Judgment amount was $198,576.23.

Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Information: Visit our website at http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 333 W Wacker Drive, Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60606-1220. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 25-22479IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.

I3285361
8221-963982

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF: SIERRA EDDLEMAN AND MARK TYLER EDDLEMAN, MARRIED PEOPLE, TO ADOPT ESTELLA MAE FULLER, A minor. No.: 2026-AD-2 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO NOAH F. FULLER AND ALL UNKNOWN FATHERS OF THE CHILD, ESTELLA MAE FULLER, BORN ON THE 1ST DAY OF MAY, 2015 IN CARBONDALE, JACKSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

You are notified that there is now on file in the office of the clerk of court for Union County, Illinois a Petition for Adoption in case number 2026-AD-2, which prays for a termination of your parent-child relationship to said child. For further details contact the Union County Circuit Clerk's Office at the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, IL 62952. The petitioners' attorney and address are: D. Brian Trambley, P. O. Box 899, Vienna, IL 62995.

You are hereby notified that there will be a hearing on the Petition for Adoption before the Honorable Timothy Denny, Circuit Court Judge, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro, Illinois, on June 22, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. If you wish to be heard in this mater you must appear at the above time and date.

Witness, 4/10/2026
Keri Clark
Circuit Clerk
8221-964026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF GERALD G. BROWN, DECEASED. NO. 2026-PR-7 IN PROBATE NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Gerald G. Brown, of Anna, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 9, 2026, to Andrea Witthoft, 4985 Lick Creek Road, Anna, IL 62906 as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

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

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

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 October 16, 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: April 9, 2026.
ANDREA WITTHOFT
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8221-963911

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS FIRST SOUTHERN BANK, an Illinois Banking Institution, Plaintiff, v. CATHERINE CECIL, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. Case No.: 2026FC4 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, CATHERINE CECIL, ALL NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS and ALL UNKNOWN OWNERS, defendants in the above-entitled cause, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure action was filed on February 23, 2026, 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 Catherine Cecil.

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

TRACT 1:

A parcel of land being a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Said parcel is intended to be the same property described and recorded in Book 107, Page 398 in the Union County Courthouse in the name of Robert D. Coats and Vicki A. Coats, Dated September 16, 1993. Said Parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Quarter-Quarter Section, being marked by an iron rod set; thence N89°58'00"E 208.00 feet along the North line of said Quarter-Quarter Section to an iron rod set and the Point of Beginning; thence N89°58'00"E 208.00 feet continuing along said North line to an iron rod set; thence S0°28'56"E 208.00 feet parallel to the West line of said Quarter-Quarter Section to an iron rod set; thence S89°58'00"W 208.00 feet parallel to the said North line to an iron rod set; thence N0°28'56"W 208.00 feet parallel to the said West line to the Point of Beginning.

Said parcel to contain 0.993 acres, more or less, per survey of Mitchell R. Garrett, Illinois Professional Land Surveyor No. 3085, Dated 10/15/1999.

Said parcel being subject to an existing Easement for roadway purposes as shown in Book 55, Page 674 and in miscellaneous record 18, Page 701. Said parcel being subject to the existing Right-of-Way of Bald Knob Road at its Northeast corner and any other Rights-of-Way and Easements, Recorded or otherwise. All situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois.

TRACT II:

A parcel of land being a part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 9, Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Said Parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Quarter-Quarter Section, being marked by an iron rod set; thence N89°58'00"E 208.00 feet along the South line of said Quarter-Quarter Section to an iron rod set at the Northwest corner of property described and recorded in Book 107, Page 398 in the Union County Courthouse in the name of Robert D. Coats and Vickie A. Coats, Dated September 16, 1993, this being the Point of Beginning; thence N0°28'56" W 20.63 feet along the Northerly extension of the West line of said Coats property to a point in the South Right-of-Way line of the Bald Knob Road; thence along said South Right-of-Way line the following Two (2) calls: Thence N86°38'21"E 53.43 feet to a point; thence along a curve to the right with chord bearing S77°38'14"E 110.53 feet, a radius of 203.92 feet, and an arc of 110.69 feet to a point in the North line of said Coats property; same being the South line of said Quarter-Quarter Section; thence S89°58'00"W 161.13 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Said parcel to contain 0.069 acres, more or less, per survey of Mitchell R. Garrett, Illinois Professional Land Surveyor No. 3085, Dated 10/15/1999.

Said parcel being subject to all Rights-of-Way and Easements, Recorded or otherwise. All situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois.

SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED EASEMENT THAT FALLS WITHIN A PORTION OF TRACT 1:

An 18 feet Easement, being 9 feet on either side of the Centerline, for the right of ingress, egress, and utility access being a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Centerline of said Easement being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at an iron rod set per prior Shawnee Professional Services (SPS) survey at the Northwest corner of said Quarter-Quarter Section; thence S87°13'24"E 416.03 feet along the North line of said Quarter-Quarter Section, passing an iron rod set per prior SPS survey at 208.00 feet, to a point at the Northeast corner of the Herold Family Trust Property (DOC #2014R0961); thence S01°58'03"W 35.69 feet along the East line of said Herold property to an iron rod set per prior SPS survey in the South Right-of-Way line of Chestnut Street; thence along said South Right-of-Way line the following Two (2) calls: Thence S52°15'57"E 10.19 feet to an iron rod set at the intersection of the West line of said 18 foot Easement with said South Right-of-Way line; thence S54°15'26"E 9.39 feet to a point, said point being the Northern Terminus of said Easement.

Thence along the centerline of said 18 feet Easement the following Nine (9) calls: thence S16°34'33"W 151.70 feet to a point; thence S33°33'55"W 104.43 feet to a point; thence along a curve to the right with chord bearing S75°41'08W 19.98 feet, a radius of 21.25 feet, and an arc length of 20.80 feet to a point; thence N73°03'25"W 93.16 feet to a point; thence S82°56'26"W 205.62 feet to a point; thence along a curve to the left with chord bearing S14°49'30"W 49.94 feet, a radius of 34.26 feet, and an arc length of 55.96 feet to a point; thence S42°16'48"E 155.98 feet to a point; thence along a curve to the right with chord bearing S15°54'46"E 96.14 feet, a radius of 163.54 feet, and an arc length of 97.59 feet to a point; thence S04°46'21"W 90.98 feet to a point on the North line of the Burton property (No Deed located at time of survey), said point being S87°56'02"E 167.83 feet from an iron rod set at the Northwest corner of said Burton property and being the Southern Terminus of said 18 feet Easement.

Centerline of said 18 feet Easement follows an existing old roadway cut and represents the Easement as set forth in the document dated August 19, 1976, and recorded February 1, 1982 in Misc. Book 44, Page 221-223, by and between Gareth M.E. Goodger-Hill and J. Carol Goodger-Hill, as Grantors, and James S. Burton, as Grantee.

Said Easement to contain 0.403 acres, more or less.

Said Easement being subject to all Rights-of-Way and Easements, recorded or otherwise all situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois.

TRACT III:

PARCEL 1: A parcel of land lying in the Northwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point in said Northwest corner where the South right-of-way line of the Black Top Road intersects said Quarter-Quarter line; thence Easterly following the South right-of-way line of said road 208 feet to a point; thence South parallel with the West line a distance of 208 feet to a point; thence West parallel with the North line of said Quarter-Quarter 208 feet to the West line of said Quarter-Quarter; thence North on said West line 208 feet to the Point of Beginning, situated in the County of Union and the State of Illinois.

PARCEL 2: Easement created by instrument dated June 6, 1967, and recorded June 14, 1967, in Miscellaneous Record 18, Page 701, from Merel Conaway and Karal Conaway, husband and wife, for roadway described as follows: A parcel of land lying in the Northwest part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 16, Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the North line of said Quarter-Quarter 208 feet East of the Northwest corner thereof; thence continuing East along the North line some 208 feet to a point; thence South parallel with the West line of said Quarter-Quarter Section a distance of 14 feet to a point; thence West parallel with the North line of said Quarter-Quarter Section a distance of 208 feet to a point; thence North parallel with the East line to the Stearns tract a distance of 14 feet to the Point of Beginning.

EXCEPT any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior instrument(s) of record, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any, situated in Union County, Illinois.;

Permanent Index Numbers: 07-16-05-415 and 07-16-05-417-C.

5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 745 Chestnut Street, Alto Pass, IL 62905.

6. An identification of the first Mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:

a. Name of Mortgagor: Catherine Cecil.

b. Name of Mortgagee: First Southern Bank

c. Date of Mortgage: December 17, 2021.

d. Date of Recording: December 27, 2021.

e. County Where Recorded: Union County, Illinois.

f. Recording Document Identification: 2021R2729.

7. An identification of the second Mortgage to be foreclosed is as follows:

a. Name of Mortgagor: Catherine Cecil.

b. Name of Mortgagee: First Southern Bank

c. Date of Mortgage: July 14, 2022.

d. Date of Recording: July 21, 2022.

e. County Where Recorded: Union County, Illinois.

f. Recording Document Identification: 2022R1333.

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, CATHERINE CECIL, ALL NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS and ALL UNKNOWN OWNERS, defendants, file your answer to the complaint for foreclosure in this cause or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of the First Judicial Circuit, Union County, Illinois, held in the Union County Courthouse, in the City of Jonesboro, Illinois, on or before May 19, 2026, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a judgment for foreclosure entered in accordance with the prayer of the complaint for foreclosure.

/s/ Keri Clark
Circuit Clerk

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT IT IS REQUIRED THAT WE STATE THE FOLLOWING TO YOU: THIS NOTICE IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

LAWLER BROWN LAW FIRM
Adam B. Lawler #6283341
David W. Lawler #6303793
Nick Brown #6302494
Zachary S. Walston #6331559
Jarrod Wiggs #6350317
1600 W. Main St/P.O. Box 1148
Marion, Illinois 62959
Telephone: (618) 993-2222
Facsimile: (618) 731-4141
Service Email: service@lblf.com
8221-963901

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS SOUTHERN BANK, f/k/a CAPAHA BANK, Plaintiff, vs CURT'S CLASSIC, LLC, ROY CURTIS WALKER, ANDREA M. WALKER, COMMUNITY FINANCIAL SERVICES BANK, NATIONAL LOAN INVESTORS, L.P., SAMSON MCA, LLC, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. CASE NO. 2026FC6 PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to

you, Curt's Classics, LLC, Roy Curtis Walker, Community Financial Services Bank, National Loan Investors, L.P., Samson MCA, LLC, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-entitled suit, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, by the said Plaintiff against you and other defendants to foreclose a certain Mortgage covering the following described premises, to-wit:

A parcel of land being a part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 24, Township 13 South, Range 1West of the Third Principal Meridian. Said parcel is part of property described and recorded in Book 91, Page 153 in the Union County Court House in the name of Village of Dongola. Said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at an iron rod found at the Southeast corner of said Quarter-Quarter section; thence N 00°17'15" W, 719.02 feet along the East line of said Quarter-Quarter section to a corner of the Earnhart property (Book 183, Page 428); thence N 42°45'00" W, 241.75 feet along said Earnhart property to a point of a centerline in a creek, this being the point of beginning. Thence along the centerline of said creek the following three (3) calls; thence S 52°28'57" W 47.81 feet to a point; thence S 43°13'38" W 54.32 feet to a point; thence S 34°26'13" W 15.43 feet to a point; thence N 41°22'26" W 348.63 feet along a new line, passing an iron rod set at 25.13 feet, to an iron rod set in the southeasterly right-of-way line of Cypress Road; thence along said southeasterly right of way along a curve to the left with a chord bearing N 43°17'25" E 108.76 feet, a radius of 5769.65 feet, and an arc length of 108.78 feet to an iron rod found at a corner of said Earnhart property; thence S 42°45'00" E 353.16 feet to the point of beginning.

Said parcel being subject to all rights-of-way and easements, recorded or otherwise. All situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois. EXCEPT all coal, oil, gas and other minerals.

and for other relief, that summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as

provided by law, and that said suit is still pending.

Now, therefore, unless you, the said Defendants, Curt's Classics, LLC, Roy Curtis Walker, Community Financial Services Bank, National Loan Investors, L.P., Samson MCA, LLC, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, file your answer to the Complaint in the suit, or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, in the County Courthouse in the city of Jonesboro, Illinois, on or before the 25th day of May, 2026, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Keri Clark
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Prepared by:
JOHN R. SCHNEIDER
JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C.
212 North Main Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Tel: (573) 335-3300
Fax: (573)335-1978
8221-963794

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS ANNA-JONESBORO WATER COMMISSION JONESBORO, ILLINOIS JONESBORO METER RELOCATE & 12" A.C. MAIN TURN OVER General Notice

Anna-Jonesboro Water Commission (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

Jonesboro Meter Relocate & 12" A.C. Main Turn Over
24-7027

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at Klingner & Associates, P.C. located at 2150 West Main St, Carbondale, IL. 62901, until Friday, May 8, 2026 at 2pm local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:

Work included in this Project will consist of interconnection of existing watermains and installation of metering and all appurtenant items.

Bids are requested for the following Contract: Jonesboro Meter Relocate & 12" A.C. Main Turn Over Obtaining the Bidding Documents

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:

www.klingnerplanroom.com

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

Instructions to Bidders.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

American Iron and Steel

Section 746 of Title VII of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Division A - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017) and subsequent statutes mandating domestic preference applies an American Iron and Steel requirement to this project. All iron and steel products used in this project must be produced in the United States. The term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and Construction Materials.

This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: Anna-Jonesboro Water Commission
By: Casey Johnson
Title: Superintendent
8221-963879

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the Matter of the Estate of JOHN RICHARD HINES, deceased. Case No. 2026PR4 CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the death of John Richard Hines, of 206 Lincoln Street, Anna, Illinois 62906. Letters of Administration were issued on March 26, 2026, to Connor Matthew Webb, 206 Lincoln Street, Anna, Illinois 62906, whose attorney is Gregory A. Veach, P. O. Box 1206, Carbondale, Illinois 62903-1206.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 9, 2026 and any claim not filed on or before October 9, 2026 is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

s/ Keri Clark
Clerk of the Circuit Court
LAW OFFICES OF GREGORY A. VEACH
P. O. Box 1206
Carbondale IL 62903-1206
Telecopier : (866) 863-0390
Telephone : (618) 549-3132
e-mail : gveach@gregveachlaw.com
Attorneys for executor
8221-963693

NOTICE UNDER ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME ACT State of Illinois SS County of Union

Notice is hereby given pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Name in the conduct of Transaction of Business in the State," as Amended that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Union County,

Filed this 2nd day of April, 2026, under the Assumed Name of Kaufman Construction with the place of business located at 1265 Texas Eastern Rd., Buncombe, IL 62912, and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietors of said Business is:

Owner(s): Nathan Kaufman
Address: 1265 Texas Eastern Rd., Buncombe, IL 62912
Stephanie L. Cox
Union County Clerk
8221-963716

Dongola Unit #66 – Notice for Bid

Dongola Unit School District #66 is accepting bids for lawn services; details are available in the office of the Superintendent, 618 827-3841, 1000 High Street, Dongola, IL, 62926. Sealed bids and proof of insurance shall be delivered to Jamie Flores, District Secretary, in the Office of the Superintendent, 1000 High Street, Dongola, IL, 62926 and will be accepted until 12:30 p.m. on April 27, after which time no bids will be accepted.

8221-963689

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF: ASA A. BUSBY and TIFFANY M. BUSBY, Husband and Wife, TO ADOPT PARKER ALAN BUSBY, A minor. No.: 2026-AD-1 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO- WILIAM ROY DIXON AND ALL UNKNOWN FATHERS OF THE CHILD, PARKER ALAN BUSBY, BORN ON THE 22ND DAY OF JULY, 2019 IN CAPE GIRARDEAU, CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY, MISSOURI.

You are notified that there is now on file in the office of the clerk of court for Union County, Illinois a Petition for Adoption in case number 2026-AD-1, which prays for a termination of your parent-child relationship to said child. For further details contact the Union County Circuit Clerk's Office at the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, IL 62952. The petitioners' attorney and address are: D. Brian Trambley, P. O. Box 899, Vienna, IL 62995.

You are hereby notified that there wil be a hearing on the Petition for Adoption before the Honorable Jonathan Mitchell, Circuit Court Judge, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro, Illinois, on May 5, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. fI you wish to be heard in this matter you must appear at the above time and date.

Witness: 3/26/2026
Keri Clark
Circuit Clerk
8221-963481

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ¬UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF BRANDI THORNTON; CITY OF ANNA; GABRIEL THORNTON; MADELYN THORNTON; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s). CASE NO. 2026FC2 Property Address: 1275 Old Highway 51 N Anna, IL 62906 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF BRANDI THORNTON; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; GABRIEL THORNTON; defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOTS NUMBERED 1, 2, 3 AND 4 IN BLOCK "A" IN CROWELL HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE WEST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF UNION AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

P.I.N.: 14-00-11-587

Said property is commonly known as 1275 Old Highway 51 N, Anna, IL 62906 and which said mortgage(s) was/were made and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number 2023R1372, and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Union County on or before MAY 4, 2026, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

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8221-963465

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS. JOHN CASEY A/K/A JOHN L CASEY; STEPHANIE CASEY A/K/A STEPHANIE R CASEY F/K/A STEPHANIE R POOLE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS. NO. 2025FC12 835 JIM TOWN LOOP ANNA, IL 62906 NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on April 6, 2026, will on May 27, 2026, in UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 309 W. MARKET, JONESBORO, IL 62952, at 9:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 02-20-00-972-1

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 835 Jim Town Loop
Anna, IL 62906

Description of Improvements: Gray vinyl siding, 2 story single family home, detached 2 car garage

The Judgment amount was $198,576.23.

Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Information: Visit our website at http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 333 W Wacker Drive, Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60606-1220. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 25-22479IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.

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8221-963982

Hills Arts Council to host Barbara Boysen exhibit



Exhibit opening soon

Barbara Boysen of Cobden will be holding an opening reception for her "Spirit of the American West" exhibit at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council.

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council will host "Spirit of the American West," an art exhibition by Cobden artist Barbara Boysen, beginning later this month.

An opening reception is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26, at the arts council, 117 W. Davie St. The event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

The exhibit will run through May 24. Viewing hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Boysen, a longtime resident of Cobden, has been painting since 1974. Working primarily in watercolor, she occasionally incorporates acrylics, often blending the two mediums to add depth and character to her work.

Her subject matter has evolved over the years, guided by personal interest and curiosity. Her latest collection draws inspiration from the American West, featuring imagery such as old trucks, cowboys, wide-open landscapes and ranch life.

A sense of humor and whimsy is a recurring element in her work, particularly in her "rusted truck" series, where she reimagines worn and weathered objects through color and texture.

Boysen studied for many years alongside fellow Cobden artist Ellen Spalt, helping shape her artistic style and technique. Her work has been exhibited at regional venues including StarView Vineyards, Alto Vineyards, Ant Hill Gallery, the Varsity Art Center and the Mitchell Museum.

The exhibit invites viewers to explore themes of history, landscape and imagination through Boysen's interpretation of the American West.

Annual Family Eco Festival highlights nature, conservation

The public is invited to a free event on Earth Day that highlights nature, conservation and Southern Illinois' unique ecology through immersive experiences.

Teachers from Southern Illinois University Carbondale's River Region Master Teaching Fellows Program are planning to host the fifth annual Family Eco Festival at Alto Vineyards in Alto Pass from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. April 19.

Those who attend the event will have an opportunity to participate in more than 20 activities, such as science projects, arts and crafts and environmental education programs.

Those attending the festival also will be able to bid on silent auction items, shop an array of vendors and listen to live music. John West is scheduled to perform at 1 p.m., followed by Carr and Tejada at 3 p.m. Those 21 and older can sip Alto Vineyards' wine selection; non-alcoholic options are also available for purchase.

Proceeds from the event will support the nonprofit organization Innovations in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, STEM, Education. The group awards competitive grants to K-12 teachers in Southern Illinois. The teachers use the funds to purchase supplies for STEM and sustainability-based projects.

During the 2025-2026 school year, the organization selected grant recipients from six different school districts. Their STEM projects included:

A native plant pollinator garden for students with emotional disabilities. Exploring local bird species and building birdhouses. Utilizing hydroponics for plants. Creating a mini eco-house for sustainable living. Collecting data on local pollution levels. A forest ecology and history hike.

Since the festival's inception, more than 1,000 students across Southern Illinois have benefited from the fundraiser. This year's event will support a new round of educators and their classrooms for the 2026-2027 school year.

Sponsors include Alto Vineyards, the Illinois Education Association, StraightUp Solar and Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Alto Vineyards is located at 8515 Illinois Route 127 in Alto

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

Sunday, April 12

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on April 12. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins.

The annual meeting was held with reports given by Stanley Elkins, NDI President, Jessica Elkins, NMI President and Secretary of the Church Board, Trey Morrison, NYI President and Verna Fuller, Church Treasurer.

The annual voting of 2026-2027 Church Officers was held at 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and immediately following the morning worship service

The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the Worship Team. The message "Making Christlike Disciples" from Philippians 1:3-6, 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5, Luke 9:23, Romans 12:1, 2 Timothy 2:2, Matthew 28:18-20, John 15:5, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 was brought by Pastor Wright. sharing his statistics for the year and encouraging the congregation to ask their self "Who Am I Discipling?'

There was no evening service.

Celebrating a birthday this week, 18th Chris Wright.

Celebrating anniversaries this week are 16th Scott & Marlena Wright and 17th Scott and Brookie Benefield.

Thursday, April 17

Missionary Rally at 7 p.m. at Carbondale New Beginnings Community Church Of The Nazarene. Guest Speakers: Monte and Bethany Cyr who are serving in the MesoAmerica Region.

Sunday, April 19

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

No Evening Service.

Wednesday, April 22

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

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

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

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On Sunday, April 12, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in the morning service, and he asked the congregation the question, "What is Stopping You?"

There was a woman who had desperation about a physical need; but so much faith she determined to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. She was delivered from sickness and then declared her healing.

Is there a need in your life that you are desperate about? Have you determined to go to God about it? What is stopping you? His text was from the eighth chapter of Luke and the fifth chapter of Mark, both found in the New Testament.

Parents Jacob and Madyson Ellis presented their baby, Rosalyn Maxine, for a baby dedication service during morning worship.

Pastor charged the parents, their families and the church family to present a good testimony to this child and train her in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The goal is to raise her to know God.

Music Director, Dee Rose, led in worship accompanied by Debbie York on the piano, and the praise team, Connor Benbrook, Kerry Shipley, and Lucas, Isabel and Megan Tehandón. Debbie York played a piano special, "There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood." The Praise Team sang the song, "There's Something About that Name."

Our service was sent via transmitter station 87.9 FM for those who want to listen via the radio. Due to technical conditions, we were unable to live stream the service. Please check our Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, for the latest videos and info on church events.

This week's activities include the Men's Bible Study at 6 p.m., Monday, April 13, at the church; and the Ladies' Bible Study at the home of Sheila Aldridge, also on April 13, 6 p.m. Upcoming events include the Hospitality Potluck on April 26 after morning worship and a Youth Outing to the Garden of the Gods, also on April 26.

Recent birthdays: Danielle Mayfield, April 14; Brook Sheffer, April 15. Happy birthday to all!

Congratulations to Tom and Diane Wright, married 41 years on April 13; and to Sonny and Sue Moreland, married 59 years. Happy anniversary!

Currently, our regular schedule for worship at Jonesboro First Baptist includes Sunday School classes on Sundays at 9 a.m.; Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m.; Sunday evening worship at 6 p.m. Youth for 6th-12th grades meet also on Sundays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. Our Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study also meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. All are invited to attend.

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

Bro. Easton's Easter message was "Made Alive in Christ" with 1 Corinthians 15:12-22 as his selected scripture.

Satan and his forces tried to quell the influence of Christ and his followers through the crucifixion. If Christ did not arise, then we are still in sin.

The "knowledgeable" at the time, and still today, said it was not rationally possible for a human to be truly dead and come to life again. Jesus was not just human; He was also God.

Christ did arise! Imagine the elation of Jesus' disciples and followers when they saw the risen Lord! When we accept Christ as our Savior, we are made alive in Christ for eternity.

Sunday, Bro. Easton resumed his series of sermons of Christ's messages to the "seven churches" in Revelation. His selected scripture from chapter three dealt with the message and warning to the church at Laodicea.

We all understand being chilled to the bone and the disappointment of our "hot" drink being room temperature. Likewise, we are disappointed when we are hot and thirsty and wanting a cold drink that is also room temperature.

This was the metaphor Christ used to warn the Christians at Laodicea: they were neither "hot" nor "cold" in their faith, but merely lukewarm.

Being "room temperature" for God is not acceptable by Him. We have to stand firm when tested by Satan, and make ourselves "useful" for God, not just being spectators to His will on earth.

Nathan Smith rang the bell to commence worship; Vodra and Aldi Gerard took up the tithes and offerings.

Sandra Boaz is our lead elder for April.

Those celebrating birthdays thus far in April have been Sara Poole the 6th, and Raelynn Bonner the12th.

We invite you to join us each and every Sunday as we gather to study and Worship. At 9:15, we enjoy coffee and fellowship preceding Bible Study at 9:30 followed by Worship at 10:30. We are located at the intersection of Camp Ground Road and Tunnel Lane east of Anna, north of Route 146.

The Cat's Meow

by the Cobden Spay and Neuter Coalition

Our Flash Tattoo fundraiser was a Meowing success, thanks to Amanda and Cameron and her team at Ascendant Moon, who worked late into the evening Friday to accommodate all the supporters who wished to have new tattoos. And thanks to all of you who are now sporting some new art. It wouldn't have happened without you! The $850 raised will all go toward fixing needy cats over the next couple of weeks.

We also need to recognize the Anna Elks Club who generously donated $200. We are very grateful to them, as well.

We are still working toward our goals for Spring 2026 Spayapalooza—100 cats fixed, and $10,000 raised to do it in March and April. We are over halfway to our goals now. Please stay with us to finish this campaign with goals completed!

We are also continuing to visit various city and village boards and civic groups to request their support. CSNC is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible.

Please visit our website, cobdenspayneutercoalition.org, or our facebook page to see what we're up to. You may drop off, call in, or send donations to our account at Meller-James & Associates, send your gift online through givebutter.com, or mail them to CSNC, P.O. Box 542, Cobden, IL 62920. If more convenient, you may also drop off donations for us at Kiki's in downtown Anna.

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!

Rural Health urges update for Medicaid customers

Rural Health Inc. is urging Medicaid customers to update their contact information in order to stay informed about updates to their coverage.

The federal government is making changes that may affect some Medicaid customers starting in January 2027. Many customers will not be affected. Rural Health Inc. explained in a news release that for those who will see changes, Illinois Medicaid will contact you before you need to take any action.

Rural Health Inc. offered the following information related to the changes:

The most important step you can take right now is to make sure your contact information is up to date. This helps ensure you receive important notices about your coverage when they happen. Make sure your address, phone number and email are current.

You can update your information by visiting www.ABE.Illinois.gov and click "Manage My Case." There you can view notices, check coverage, update your information and more, all in one place. You can also update by calling 877-805-5312.

If you receive mail from the State of Illinois, open it right away. Your Medicaid coverage may depend on it.

Keeping your contact information up to date does not mean your benefits are changing. It simply helps Illinois Medicaid reach you if we need to share important information.

If you have any questions, you can also call Rural Health Inc. at 618-833-4471 and a member of their outreach and enrollment staff will assist you.

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

Families encouraged to schedule school physicals before rush

With another school year winding down, Rural Health Inc. encourages families to schedule their child's back-to-school physical and dental appointments and immunizations, if needed, before the rush of the next school year begins.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, the State of Illinois requires school physicals for students entering early childhood programs, kindergarten, 6th grade, 9th grade and all new out-of-state/country transfers. Physicals must include up-to-date immunizations, health history and diabetes screening. A lead risk assessment is also required for children ages 1 to 7.

Sports physicals are required for student athletes in 6th to 12th grade to participate in school-sponsored sports. The exam includes physical readiness (heart, lungs, musculoskeletal) and differs from the mandatory school health exam. A dental exam is required for children entering kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grades.

Immunizations for children and adolescents enrolled in child care, school or college are required in Illinois. A complete list of needed vaccinations is available through your child's healthcare provider, who will review your child's health and vaccination history to determine what immunizations are advised and answer any questions you may have.

Healthcare providers note that immunizations, also known as vaccines, are one of the greatest defenses against many serious illnesses. Vaccinations not only protect children, they also reduce the spread of severe infection to those who are unable to vaccinate or are vulnerable to infection due to immune suppression or other health condition.

"We know it's hard thinking about another school year when you're still in the current one," said Shawnna Rhine, director of public relations for Rural Health Inc., in a news release. "Scheduling your child's appointments early ensures you beat the late-summer rush, avoid delays in having vaccines available and paperwork needed, and guarantees you'll have everything in place for your child's first day of school."

For questions regarding a child's back-to-school requirements or to schedule an appointment, call Rural Health Inc. at 618-833-4471 or visit www.ruralhealthinc.org.

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

Opinion and Commentary

Fallen Illinois State Troopers recognized for their sacrifice

On Illinois Trooper Day, which was commemorated April 1, the Illinois State Police, ISP, the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT, Illinois Tollway and the Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation announced every ISP officer killed in the line of duty will be honored for their sacrifice for the people of Illinois with a memorial sign along Illinois roadways.

"The lives and legacies of our fallen State Police officers deserve to be honored for generations to come, and we will ensure that no sacrifice goes unrecognized," Gov. JB Pritzker said. "Our State Police put their safety on the line to protect the people of Illinois, and that bravery and commitment will be memorialized along roadways across the state."

Trooper Albert J. Hasson was the first ISP trooper killed in the line of duty after being struck by a vehicle while on patrol on old Route 66 just north of Chenoa in 1924. Since the agency began providing services on April 1, 1922, 73 ISP officers have died in the line of duty.

"While the state has installed signs along Illinois highways in dedication of fallen ISP officers over the years, we recognized there were not signs for every fallen ISP officer, and to honor them, we are changing that," ISP director Brendan F. Kelly said. "These officers made the ultimate sacrifice for us all and these signs are one way to ensure that sacrifice is not forgotten."

Over the next several months, IDOT and the Illinois Tollway plan to erect uniform signs for all fallen ISP officers. The existing ISP signs vary in design. The new signs will be standardized for a uniform look that shows respect for the officer's, and their family's, sacrifice.

"For the millions of drivers on Illinois roads each day, these signs are a reminder that troopers constantly put their lives on the line to keep the public protected and safe," IDOT Secretary Gia Biagi said. "We are honored to participate in this tribute and forever grateful for the contributions of the Illinois State Police."

"The Illinois Tollway relies on the Illinois State Police to protect and assist the drivers and workers on our system and we're proud to participate in this initiative to ensure the sacrifices made by these fallen troopers are properly honored," Illinois Tollway executive director Cassaundra Rouse said. "Adding the new, standardized signs along our system will help ensure the service, dedication and sacrifice displayed by these troopers is properly recognized."

In 2011, the General Assembly began passing resolutions designating stretches of various highways in honor of ISP officers killed in the line of duty. It is believed the first ISP memorial sign was installed on State Highway 13 in honor of Trooper Lory Price, who was murdered, along with his wife, by the notorious Charlie Birger Gang in 1927.

"Remembering those men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice is one of the most important endeavors we can undertake to honor their legacies and families," ISP Heritage Foundation executive director Jarod Ingebrigtsen said. "I am thankful for the efforts of the Illinois General Assembly, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois Tollway in moving this initiative forward. These signs will serve as a reminder to the citizens of this great state, as well as its visitors, of the sacrifice paid by these officers as well as the daily efforts of our current and future law enforcement officers to keep our communities safe."

Anticipated sign locations in the Southern Illinois area, and the troopers they will honor, include:

Illinois Route 13 east of Illinois Route 166 in Williamson County, honoring Trooper Lory L. Price.

Illinois Route 34 north of Dorris Heights Road in Saline County, honoring Trooper Grady L. Sutton.

U.S. Route 45 outside Carrier Mills in Saline County, honoring Trooper Albert Cecil Brokmyer.

Illinois Route 14 outside Buckner in Franklin County, honoring Trooper Ralph R. Newman.

Interstate 57 outside Benton in Franklin County, honoring Trooper Charles J. Deans.

Illinois Route 37 south of Olmsted in Pulaski County, honoring Trooper Forrest F. Spencer.

Illinois Route 37 north of Benton in Franklin County, honoring Trooper Frank R. Dunbar.

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Life in a small town…human contact…etc…

Life in small town…

While out on a daily walk Monday afternoon, a fellow Traveler on The Journey Through Life drove by. The Traveler happened to be an acquaintance and rolled down the window on the passenger side of her vehicle. We had a nice chat, right there at the intersection. Talked about a little bit of this…and little bit of that.

Yup. Life in small town. Don't know if such a nice encounter could happen in the big city…

Meanwhile…

As an "official" old guy, a status which has been held for just over two decades, a sigh and a shake of the head seemed appropriate after reading an article in the March 30 issue of USA TODAY. By the way…"official" old guy status comes with with a membership card which can proudly be carried in a wallet or purse.

The article in the newspaper featured a subheadline which read: "Malls are making a comeback as young shoppers seek connection." Yes. It seems that malls, which had been going the way of the dinosaurs and landline phones, are becoming popular again…

Apparently, the young folks who fall into the Gen Z category are craving in-person connections with other human beings. Gen Z, from what I learned on the internet, is folks who were born from 1997 to 2012, which would have been time when yours truly became a member of Gen Old, which was preceded by life as a Baby Boomer…the generation of folks who are responsible for all, as in all, of the bad things which are now happening on the planet.

Anyway, Gen Z-ers are going to malls to connect with other real, live humans…and to go on a shopping trip when you can actually have touchy-feely contact with something you might to buy. And then, you actually buy what you want and take it home…instead of having to wait for a drone or a Big Ol' Van to bring what you bought to your doorstep.

One sentence in the article happened to catch my attention. A consumer markets industry leader (didn't even know there was such a thing) was quoted as observing that young folks find "The simple experience of shopping in person feels novel."

Wow. That's what we've come to. Shopping in person is novel. Yup. It's official. This writer is O-L-D.

Meanwhile…

At about the time four American astronauts were returning to Earth last Friday evening, three young squirrels were scampering around their home on the third planet from the sun.

The astronauts had completed their successful journey to the moon and returned home safely. And, as noted a while back, yours truly went with them. Sort of. Thanks to a "boarding pass" program offered by NASA, the nation's space agency, for the flight to the moon, yours truly's name was included on a SD card. (I don't think SD cards were a "thing" when I officially became old.) The card was carried to the moon on the Artemis spacecraft. I was one of 5,647,889 folks who secured a "flight" to the moon. With that many passengers, leg room was at a premium…

The three young squirrels most likely were oblivious to a journey to the moon. They were still busy, though, exploring their little part of the universe…a sweet gum tree in our front yard. And… once again…none of three little Critters left the tree. They would journey to the base of the tree…look around…and scamper back to someplace safe.

Meanwhile…

Recent Critter Sightings have included…

…a June bug in April. Do we call it an April bug? This particular bug was pretty lucky. It managed to escape from a spider web. Nothing worse than ending up as the main course for dinner…no matter what month it might be.

…a firefly, or, if you prefer, a lightning bug. I think it was last Sunday night when the six-legged Critter made an appearance in our front yard while Bob and one of the people he tolerates were sitting on our frequently mentioned porch swing. It was nice to be able sit out on the porch swing without a jacket or a coat. Of course, Bob left his coat on.

…a heron…way up there in a bright blue evening sky. The feathered Critter was flying on a similar path with what I assume was a jet liner. Made for something interesting to see.

…a Thunderbird…as in a vintage, classic motor car from back in the day. Technically, it was not a Critter…but it sure was a nice looking car…

Meanwhile…

…an update on The Other Half's agricultural enterprise…her new raised beds are looking good…potatoes, peas and onions are growing… We think we saw a woodchuck building a ladder so it can get into the raised beds…



Mockingbirds, including this one, seem quite willing to pose for a photograph…even while they are chirping, whistling, cackling and doing a very fine job of imitating other birds. We have several mockingbirds in our little corner of the world. All seem to be quite social.



Too early in the season? Iris flowers are the kinds of blossoms this writer associates with much warmer weather. Then again…the weather has been a lot warmer than normal lately.

Hazardous materials awareness highlighted

A dry pattern which began late in the summer and fall of 2025 has continued through the winter and into early spring in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that as of April 9, parts of the region had experienced their top five driest periods on record since Dec. 1. Paducah has had its driest Dec. 1 through April 9 period on record.

Drought conditions have worsened recently in small parts of Southern Illinois, including eastern Union County, and in Western Kentucky.

Much of the region did experience rainfall amounts between 0.50 of an inch and 1 inch during the week prior to April 9. Localized totals of up to 2 inches were observed.

Soil moisture remains very low across much of the southeastern United States, including much of the region served by the Weather Service office in Paducah.

Temperatures were well above normal during March. The abnormal warmth continued into the first several days of April before a brief cool down happened April 5-7. Above normal temperatures have since returned. Unseasonably warm weather was in the forecast for this week. Record high temperatures are possible.

The forecast also was calling for a good chance of widespread showers and thunderstorms with some much-needed rain from late Wednesday night into Thursday morning. Rain is possible again Saturday and Saturday night.

Warm, dry and very windy conditions were recorded once again last Sunday. Wind gusts up to 45 miles per hour were recorded early last Sunday afternoon at the Southern Illinois Airport near Carbondale. At the time, the temperature was close to 80 degrees. The humidity was 43 percent.

Early last Sunday morning the Weather Service office issued a special weather statement for parts of the region, including Union, Jackson, Williamson, Alexander, Pulaski, Johnson and Massac counties. The Weather Service advised that there would be an elevated wildfire danger Sunday afternoon.

The elevated conditions for wildfires were expected mainly between noon and 7 p.m. Relative humidity values were forecast to fall to 25 to 35 percent during those hours. Sustained winds of 10 to 15 mph, with gusts up to 25 to 30 mph, were forecast.

"Vegetation is dry due to ongoing moderate to severe drought conditions over much of the region," the Weather Service reported. Outdoor burning and activities that involved open sparks or flames were discouraged.

While some rain has fallen recently, the Union County area continued to experience moderate drought conditions.

The U.S. Drought Monitor on April 9 reported moderate drought conditions in eastern Union County. The western part of the county was experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Moderate drought conditions also were reported in small parts of southeastern Jackson County and southeastern Massac County, all of Williamson and Alexander counties, most of Pulaski County and northern Johnson County.

Abnormally dry conditions were reported in most of Jackson County, southern Johnson County, extreme eastern Pulaski County and most of Massac County.

51st Cardboard Boat Regatta planned

Southern Illinois University Carbondale's 51st Great Cardboard Boat Regatta is planned Saturday, April 18. The competition begins at 1 p.m. in the Campus Lake beach area near Becker Pavilion and it's a family friendly affair. Spectators are welcome at no cost. The event will also feature food trucks, a bar and grill, vendors and more.

Admission is free for the regatta, with viewers encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets and claim their favorite vantage point to enjoy the spectacle. Race participation is open to all as well, competing either as individuals or in groups of up to 10 people.

SIU student groups, scouting organizations, schools, youth groups, families, work groups and assorted teams of all kinds have pooled their energy to create regatta boats over the last 50 years and will again in 2026.

The top three finishers in each division, based on times, will earn prizes and bragging rights. There are also several special awards, including the coveted "Titanic Award," presented in recognition of the most spectacular sinking. There are also honors for the best use of cardboard, the best team spirit, and for people's choice.

The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta is now a worldwide phenomenon, duplicated at universities and communities everywhere, but it all began rather inauspiciously at SIU long ago. In truth, cardboard boats first appeared in 1962 at Campus Lake, courtesy of then design department chair Davis Pratt. It seemed to be a one-and-done event. That is, until 12 years later when faculty member Richard Archer, unaware of his colleague's challenge, hatched a cardboard boat race as a final exam for his freshman dimensional design class. He insisted that creating a successful boat design would aptly assess what his Salukis had learned.

About half of the boats sank, but that did not matter. A tradition was born and by 1976, the race was open to anyone, including other universities.

The national spotlight has shined on the regatta many times in a half-century, including appearances on CNN, the Armed Forces Radio Network, Good Morning America (multiple times) and more. Contestants have come from as far away as Paris and New Zealand to test their ingenuity and in 1998, the race drew a record crowd estimated at 20,000, as well as a record 206 entries.

Alumni are welcome to stop by the SIU Alumni Association tent at the regatta from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and enjoy refreshments and giveaways.

For more details, including the complete rules, entry forms, updates and more, visit the regatta website at ton.siu.edu or the Great Cardboard Boat Regatta Facebook page. Email ton@siu.edu or call 618-453-1188 with questions.