THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

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News Notes

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

Once again...congratulations to all of our 2024 graduates and their families.

***

Memorial Day observances are being planned in Alto Pass, Anna, Cobden and Mound City. More on this to come...

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Blessing of the Bikes is planned Sunday, May 19, at the Cross of Peace on Bald Knob Mountain near Alto Pass.

***

June's Annabelle Festival in Anna will feature a full slate of activities on June 7, 8 and 9.

***

A disc golf tournament at the Anna City Park will be one of the many Annabelle Festival events. The tournament is planned Sunday, June 9.

***

Preregistration is scheduled to begin Friday, May 24, for this year's summer reading program at Stinson Memorial Library in Anna. A kickoff carnival is set for Friday, June 7. Weekly programs begin June 11 and continue through July 25.

***

The Union County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for patrol deputy. Applications must be on filed with the sheriff's office on, or before, 4 p.m. May 20.

***

The City of Anna plans to flush fire hydrants starting at 7 a.m. Thursday, today. This may cause discoloration of water, which should clear up in a couple of days, the city noted.

***

Cobden School District art teacher Jeremy Crawford has an art show on display through July 21 in the Regenhardt Gallery at the Shrode Art Center at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon. The exhibit is titled "Native Strings: The Art of Jeremy Crawford."

***

Shawnee School District 84 is planning to host a variety of summer camps in June. Activities include art, sports, technology and more.

***

The United Recovery Community Coalition is planning to host a free event from noon to 2 p.m. on May 29 to help educate the public about supporting the basic needs of people in recovery. The event will be will be at the Harvest Church of Southern Illinois in Anna.

***

The First Baptist Church in Jonesboro is recognizing Myrtle Martin, who turned 101 years old on May 13.

***

Students representing Coffman's Martial Arts Academy in Anna brought home many honors from the River to River martial arts tournament, which was May 4 in Vienna. More on this to come...

(continued on page 3)

May 8 'extremely busy day' for National Weather Service office in Paducah

'Astounding 119 combined warnings' issued for region

Multiple rounds of severe thunderstorms impacted the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region on Wednesday, May 8.

The Union County area was under numerous severe storm warnings and watches throughout the day. Tornado warning sirens sounded in some areas shortly before 10 p.m. on May 8.

Ahead of the thunderstorms, the National Weather Service office in Paducah advised that parts of the region, including the Union County area, were under a Level 4 risk for severe weather during the day time and night time hours on May 8.

"Severe thunderstorms are likely today into tonight with a potentially volatile weather setup in place," the weather service warned on its website.

The Union County Sheriff's Office advised on social media that residents needed to stay weather aware on May 8.

The first round actually started during the late evening of Tuesday, May 7, and continued into the overnight and morning of the 8th, the weather service reported.

The most widespread and significant storms occurred during the afternoon and evening of the 8th.

Damaging winds in excess of 70 miles per hour and golf ball sized hail occurred with some of the stronger storms.

At least seven tornadoes have been confirmed so far. Multiple storms training over the same location resulted in flash flooding, with rainfall amounts exceeding 2 to 4 inches in some communities and locally 5 to 6 inches.

Four of the tornadoes were reported in Southern Illinois. Three occurred in Kentucky. One person sustained injuries during one of the tornadoes in Southern Illinois.

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Flooding on Anna streets

Flooding occurred at the intersection of East Davie and Freeman streets in Anna in the midst of downpours which occurred late Wednesday morning, May 8. Several rounds of heavy rain fell. The rain was accompanied by hail, lightning, thunder and strong winds.

Cobden's Nash-Mayberry honored as Illinois history teacher of year

National History Day, NHD, has announced the teachers honored as the 2024 Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year nominees.

Cobden High School teacher Jamie Nash-Mayberry has been named the Illinois history teacher of the year for the senior division of the 2024 Patricia Behring national award nominees.

Cobden School District 17 shared a news release about the honor on social media.

Each NHD affiliate may nominate one middle school teacher and one high school teacher per year for the award.

In addition to celebrating outstanding history scholarship and innovative classroom instruction, the award comes with a $10,000 cash prize.

The 102 teachers selected as the 2024 Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year nominees represent 50 of NHD's 58 affiliates.

NHD affiliates include all 50 states and the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam and international schools in Europe and Asia.

Each nominee is a teacher who demonstrates a commitment to engaging students in historical learning through the innovative use of primary sources, implementation of active learning strategies to foster historical thinking skills, and participation in the National History Day Contest. All nominees receive $500.

"The Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award nominees always represent the best in history education," said National History Day executive director Dr. Cathy Gorn.

"As NHD celebrates our 50th anniversary year, I couldn't be more proud of these teachers. Every day, they demonstrate their commitment to excellence in teaching, the rigorous study of history and primary sources, and the creativity and drive to engage students all across the country and world in National History Day."

One national winner in the middle school (junior) division and one national winner in the high school (senior) division will be selected by a committee of experienced teachers and historians and announced on Thursday, June 13, at the National History Day National Contest Awards Ceremony in College Park, Md.

The program is generously sponsored by the late Patricia Behring, a philanthropist and champion for education.

National History Day is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Md., that seeks to improve the teaching and learning of history.

The National History Day Contest was established in 1974 and currently engages more than half a million students every year in conducting original research on historical topics of interest.

Students present their research as a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance or website.

Cobden High School students have earned honors for their projects at local, regional and state competitions.

Projects compete first at the local and affiliate levels, where the top entries are invited to the national contest at the University of Maryland at College Park.

See Cobden History Fair Winners on page 2

Union County CEO program celebrated at trade show

The annual Union County CEO Trade Show was held April 24 at The Barn Event Center near Anna, which is owned by Carl and Suzanne Dillow.

The event was well attended by UCCEO investors, mentors, family members and friends.

All of those who attended were were eager to purchase and learn about new goods and services developed by the 2024 UCCEO team members and launched at the trade show.

The student businesses included:

Fancy Lou's Tote Company, owned by Alexandria Keller.

Ashley's Meltaway, owned by Ashley Sutliff.

PickleSweats, owned by Daniel Dover.

Drew's Dog House, owned by Drew Holshouser.

Jadyn's Gems, owned by Jadyn Samuels.

JAW Studios, owned by Josh Williams.

Kaylie's Creations, owned by Kaylie Adams.

KG's Dehydration Station, owned by Kinley Lingle.

Breezy Berries, owned by Lakelyn Carter.

Herb & Hearth, owned by Matti Houseman.

Presli's Business Designs, owned by Presli Garner.

Moose's Classic Cinnamon Rolls, owned by Evan Hall.

Union Print, owned by Tysen Tripp.

The Dash Detail, owned by Ryan Libbert.

On behalf of the UCCEO program, those involved with the program sincerely thank everyone who helped prepare for, attended and supported these young entrepreneurs and their businesses at the trade show and beyond. The community support is amazing.

The first semester of this high school class focused on planning and executing the very successful class business: Local Business Christmas Boxes.

The second semester has focused on each student developing their own "side hustle" business to learn time management, networking, customer service, financial realities, professionalism and more.

And all of this was while they were visiting successful business and community leaders at least twice a week at 7:30 a.m.

Many class days were spent working on the financial aspects of running a business with CEO Board member Mark Chamness, Whitney Accounting; Michael Jessup, SIU's Small Business Development Center; and Dori Bigler, City of Anna administrator.

Additionally, the class visited Mr. Jessup and Melissa Ray Roach, director of the SIU SBDC, to participate in a pitch workshop at the Dunn Richmond Economic Development Center at SIU.

With first drafts of business plans in hand for "Expert Day," the students presented their ideas, took suggestions and asked questions.

The "Experts" were Stephanie Cox, Kati Denny and Jennifer Carter, A-J National Bank; Brad Dodd, Taylor Dodd & Wood Insurance; Travis Holtkamp, Country Financial; Doug Hileman; Tyler Tripp, Union County state's attorney; Elle Basler, Law Office of Elvis Cameron; Hunter Boyd, UCCEO alumni and small business manager; Drake Campbell, UCCEO

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CEO students

Union County CEO program students who participated in a recent trade show included, in the first row, from left, Matti Houseman, Kaylie Adams, Jadyn Samuels, Lakelyn Carter and Ashley Sutliff. In the second row are Evan Hall, Kinley Lingle, Presli Garner, Josh Williams, Drew Holshouser, Daniel Dover, Alex Keller and Tysen Tripp. Ryan Libbert was not able to be present. Photo by Hannah Prendergast Photography.

Look for more about the CEO program on page 5...

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Flood warnings in effect for Mississippi, Ohio, Big Muddy rivers

Flood warnings are in effect this week for three rivers in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

The warnings included the Mississippi River, the Ohio River and the Big Muddy River.

Minor flooding was reported on all three rivers as of early this week. Minor flooding was expected to continue.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah posted information about flooding on the three rivers Monday morning on its website.

Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau

A flood warning remains in effect until early Thursday afternoon. This warning also impacts Union, Jackson and Alexander counties in Southern Illinois.

At 10 a.m. Monday, the river's stage was 34.8 feet. Flood stage is 32.0 feet.

The river is expected to fall below flood stage Thursday morning and continue fall to 29.5 feet Thursday, May 23.

Mississippi River at Thebes

A flood warning was to have remained in effect until early Wednesday afternoon.

At 10 a.m. Monday, the river's stage was 34.4 feet. Flood stage is 33.0 feet.

The river was expected to rise to a crest of 34.4 feet Monday afternoon. The river was expected to fall below flood stage Wednesday morning.

Big Muddy River near Murphysboro

A flood warning was in effect until early Wednesday afternoon. Part of northwest Union County is bordered by the river.

At 9:30 a.m. Monday, the river's stage was 23.8 feet. Flood stage is 22.0 feet.

The river was expected to fall below flood stage Wednesday morning and continue falling to 16.5 feet Monday, May 20.

Ohio River at Cairo

A flood warning remains in effect until early Friday morning.

At 9 a.m. Monday, the river's stage was 43.3 feet. Flood stage is 40.0 feet.

The river is expected to fall below flood stage late Thursday evening and continue falling to 32.5 feet Thursday, May 23.

Ohio River at Olmsted Lock and Dam

A flood warning was to have remained in effect until early Wednesday morning.

At 9 a.m. Monday, the river's stage was 37.2 feet. Flood stage is 36.0 feet.

The river was expected to fall below flood stage Tuesday evening and continue falling to 26.9 feet Thursday, May 23.

In November 1990, Dawn Clark Netsch became the first woman to be elected to a state constitutional office in Illinois. She served as comptroller from 1991 to 1995.

Cobden students honored at history fair competitions

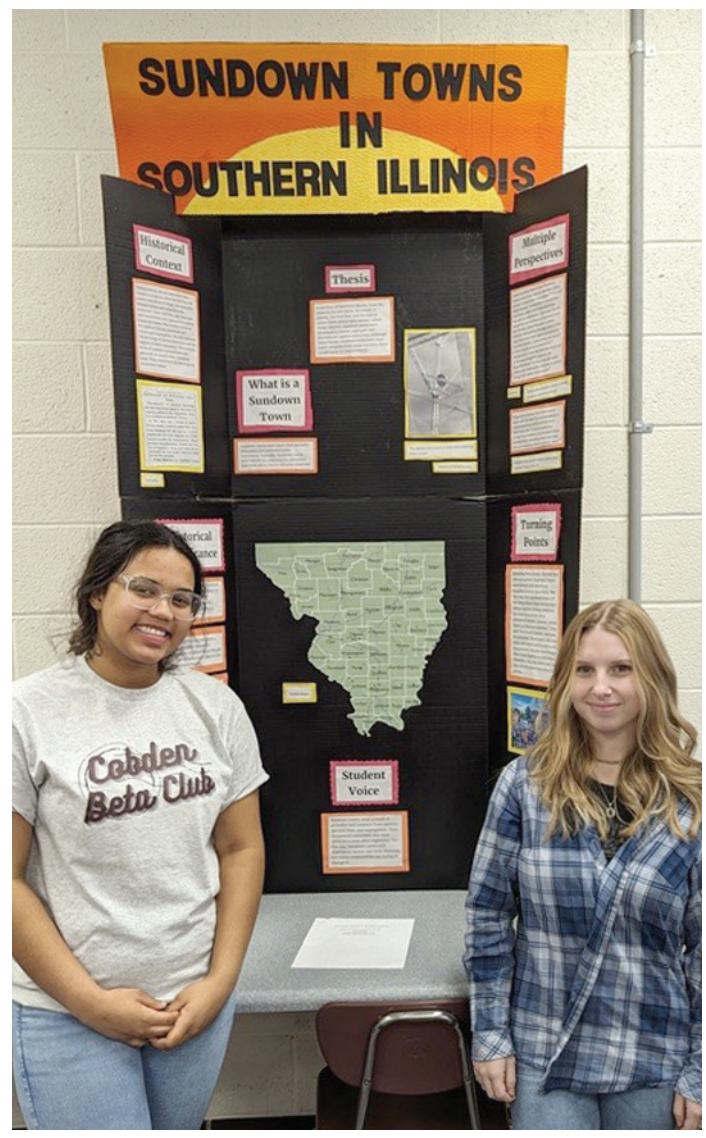
Cobden High School students have received numerous honors at recent history fair competitions. The students were taught by Cobden High School teacher Jamie Nash-Mayberry and student teacher Audri Green.

Cobden students participated in a local history fair. After the local history fair, students advanced to regional competition held at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Cobden students placed at all three levels for a group exhibit and advanced to state. Cobden had two groups selected as finalists at state.

The award-winning Cobden High School entries are featured in the accompanying photographs. Photos provided.



First place senior division group exhibit: Zitlalli Tomas and Daisy Amezquita on Jessie De La Cruz.



Second place senior division group exhibit: Grace Hawkins and Mackenzie Jackson on Sundown Towns. Sundown Towns earned state finalist honors.



Third place senior division group exhibit: Sophie Barnhart, Emma Roberts and Kim Adams on the Stonewall Riots.



Landen Richardson received a superior and advanced to state for his paper on Einstein.



Bea Genung, Ramsie Sauerbrunn and Shawnah Burgess received a superior for their group exhibit on Title IX. Title IX earned state finalist honors.

Look for Yard Sales in the Classified Ads

Weather

Storms; 2 1/2 inches of rain; 47 mph winds

Storms, more than 2 1/2 inches of rain and strong winds highlighted weather in the Union County area during the period of May 7-13.

Precipitation for the period totaled 2.53 inches of rain.

Temperatures ranged from a high of 84 degrees to a low of 46.

Following are temperatures, precipitation and other highlights for the period as recorded by weather observer Dana Cross near Jonesboro:

Tuesday, May 7: high 84, low 66. .54 of an inch of rain.

Wednesday, May 8: high 80, low 61. 1.96 inches of rain. Wind gusts as high as 47 miles per hour were recorded at 12:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 9: high 81, low 58. .02 of an inch of rain.

Friday, May 10: high 70, low 53.

Saturday, May 11: high 75, low 50.

Sunday, May 12: high 81, low 46.

Monday, May 13: high 76, low 58. .01 of an inch of rain.

Anna VFW calendar of events

Upcoming events at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna include:

Poppy Plates

The Anna VFW Post once again will be displaying Poppy Plates in the canteen. A plate can be ordered with your name on it or "in memory" of someone who has passed away.

Plates are $15 each. They can be ordered by contacting AnnaMaria Boyce at 812-525-5510.

Corn Hole Tournaments

A corn hole tournament is scheduled every Thursday night at the post. Sign up starts at 6 p.m. Play begins at 6:30 p.m.

The kitchen will not be open on Thursday nights in May.

An all-day tournament also is scheduled Sunday, May 19. The kitchen is scheduled to be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m..

Golf Scramble

The VFW Auxiliary plans to host its 22nd annual golf scramble on May 18. Sign up is available by visiting the post.

Post, Auxiliary Meeting

A joint meeting of the post and auxiliary is planned at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 20.

The auxiliary plans to have a monthly business meeting at 6 p.m. that night. The plans to have a monthly meeting at 7 p.m. that night.

Taco Tuesday

Taco Tuesday is planned May 21. Serving will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Memorial Day Service

A Memorial Day service is planned at the post at 11 a.m. Monday, May 27. The community is invited to attend this solemn service.

Lunch will be provided following the service. Installation of officers is planned at 1 p.m.

The post is located at 70 VFW Ln. near Anna. Upcoming events are open to the public.

Boy Scouts plan to change name

The Boy Scouts of America organization on May 7 announced that it will rebrand to Scouting America, reflecting the organization's ongoing commitment to welcome every youth and family in America to experience the benefits of Scouting.

The change will go into effect on Feb. 8, 2025, the organization's 115th anniversary.

The announcement also comes as the organization celebrates the fifth anniversary of welcoming girls into Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA programs.

Scouting America currently serves more than 176,000 girls and young women across all programs, including over 6,000 who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

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CEO trade show

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alumni and small business owner; Michael Jessup, SIU Small Business Development Center; Stephanie Rhodes, independent business consultant; Diana Howell, Kenz Boutique; and Rachel Weir, social media marketing.

The team members completed their business plans with this additional information, created business "pitches" and added the financial components which were reviewed on "Banker Day."

Participating bankers were David Carter and Greg George, Anna State Bank; Melanie Lasley, Kati Denny, Evan Hughey and Maria Hill, A-J National Bank; and Timbre Craig and Erin Hubbs, Southern Bank. The Cobden Presbyterian Church was the site for both of these important days.

Then, after another round of revisions and polishing of their pitches, the students were ready to present their final business plans at "Throw Your Pitch Day" held at Shawnee Community College's extension center in Anna.

This is when the written plans and the oral presentations were individually evaluated, loans were approved or denied and the businesses were given the UCCEO stamp of approval.

The "Scouts" included board members Angela Boyd, First Mid Bank; Lisa Tomazzoli, Shawnee Hills Real Estate; Hunter Boyd, alumnus and business manager; and Grant Capel; as well as Dr. Tim Taylor, Shawnee Community College; and UCCEO supporter Bill Ecker, State Farm Insurance.

Facilitator Melanie Smith shared: "The business professionals and community members who participated in these events were 'all in.' Their enthusiasm, attention, and commitment to the students has been instrumental in the success of these businesses. I cannot thank them enough for being part of our team."

As always, the Advisory Board of UCCEO, a chapter of Midland Institute of Entrepreneurship, is grateful for the many ways the business community, organizations and individuals support this program which positively affects not only these students but also Union County in many ways.

Special thanks to Mindy Carter, Board member; Kathy Capel, alumna parent; and Jennifer and Shane Osman, alumnus parents and providers of Schoolhouse Cheesecakes, for making the evening so memorable; and to the CEO investors who completely finance this program.

For more information about the program and opportunities to support Union County CEO, contact any of the CEO Advisory Board members or CEO treasurer, Stephanie Cox, A-J National Bank, or go to www.unioncountyceo.org/news.



Anna city officials

From left are Anna city commissioner Martha Ann Webb, Anna public works manager Gary Dahmer and Anna city administrator Dori Bigler. Photo provided.

Anna city officials honored for work with Honor Wreaths for Veterans

Three Anna city officials have been recognized for their work with the Honor Wreaths for Veterans program.

Anna city commissioner Martha Ann Webb, Anna public works manager Gary Dahmer and Anna city administrator Dori Bigler received certificates and thanks from Wreaths Across America for their work with Honor Wreaths for Veterans.

Webb is coordinator for Honor Wreaths for Veterans. Dahmer is co-coordinator.

The Anna officials remind everyone if you haven't donated a wreath for your loved one, they are $17 each. Checks can be made to Honor Wreaths for Veterans and brought to Anna City Hall.

Liz Wilkins is coordinator for the program in Jonesboro. Checks can be brought to Jonesboro City Hall.

Alyssa Penrod is coordinator for St. John's Cemetery near Dongola and the American Legion Cemetery in Dongola. Checks can be brought to Jonesboro City Hall.

Karen Winzenburger is coordinator for the Cobden Cemetery. Checks can be brought to Cobden Village Hall.

Monica Williams is coordinator for Alto Pass Cemetery. Checks can be sent to her.

All checks are to be made to Honor Wreaths For Veterans.

Organizers of the program voiced a special thanks to everyone who donates to remember, honor, teach and always thank the nation's veterans – past, present and future.

This year's ceremonies and laying of wreaths are planned at 11 a.m. on Dec. 14.

Author of 'Jockey Queen' to give talk at Anna library

Jockey Lillian Jenkinson Holder will be the subject of a free book talk which is planned Saturday, May 18, at Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna.

The talk by author Roger Peach is scheduled from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The library is located at 409 S. Main St. in Anna.

Lillian Jenkinson Holder is the focus of "Jockey Queen," a new biography written by Peach which has been touted as presenting "a new chapter" to horse racing history.

In 1927, at 19 years of age, Jenkinson Holder was issued a jockey's license, becoming the first female granted such a license in her native state of Nebraska.

This marked the first of three times Jenkinson Holder would make national news in pursuit of her jockey career.

A fierce competitor, Lillian won many "derby day" races throughout Southern Illinois in her decades of competition in the region.

Peach said in a news release that he hopes to have a couple of surprises for those who attend the presentation at the Anna library.

He also encourages folks to bring their Lillian stories to share. For many, like Peach, she was unforgettable.

The "Jockey Queen" book talk is open to the public and no advance registration is required.

Anyone who has the book is welcome to have it signed by the author.

Copies of "Jockey Queen" will be available for purchase ($35 cash or check, which eliminates shipping and handling costs required by online book sources).

Road work, property taxes discussed at board meeting

Road construction and an update on local property taxes were discussed at last week's regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners.

The meeting was Friday morning, May 10, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Road Construction

Union County Sheriff David Wilkins shared an update about work which is being done on local roads and highways.

The sheriff said that work was scheduled to begin late last week on Interstate 57 in Union County. Work also is underway on Illinois Route 146 from Jonesboro to Ware and on Illinois Route 3 in the western part of the county.

The work on the interstate will involve installation of barricades and traffic traveling head-on along the highway.

The sheriff is urging motorists to use patience as they travel in areas where road work is being done.

Property Taxes

Union County Clerk Lance Meisenheimer reported that the county's tax multiplier has been set at 1.0000 by the state. The multiplier is one of the factors which is used in calculating local property taxes.

Union County Treasurer Leigh Burns said she is tentatively planning to have tax bills in the mail on June 20. A tentative first installment payment due date would be in July.

Women's club awards scholarships

The SIU Women's Club has awarded scholarships to four Southern Illinois University Carbondale students.

The organization has given numerous scholarships to women since it began in 1956, but this is the first time it has awarded four $2,000 scholarships in one year.

The 2024 recipients are Hannah Brown, Jessica Hardges, Leslie Duran and Jillian Taylor.

The club bestows two awards named for former "first ladies" of the university: the Dorothy Morris Traditional Student Scholarship and the Joyce Guyon Non-Traditional Student Scholarship.

The SIU Women's Club, which dates back to 1938, is a social organization for women who have a professional or personal connection to SIU. The group sponsors a variety of activities.

Anna City Council meets May 9

Project updates, unsafe property, employment agreements discussed

Project updates, concerns about an unsafe property and employment agreements were among the items on the agenda at last week's regular meeting of the Anna City Council.

The meeting was Thursday evening, May 9, at Anna City Hall.

Two residents of the neighborhood voiced their concerns to city officials about a burned house in the 400 block of East Chestnut Street. The residents said the house needs to be removed.

Mayor Steve Hartline welcomed the concerns which were voiced by the residents and agreed that action needed to be taken as soon as possible.

The mayor noted that the city is in the process of updating its ordinance which addresses such matters. The house on East Chestnut Street is one of several public nuisance structures which the city is working to address.

Work is expected to start in June on a water system improvement project. The work is expected to lead to some intermittent service interruptions and boil water orders.

Work is progressing on the installation of awnings on storefronts along South Main Street in the downtown Anna area.

The council authorized and approved employment agreements with Dori Bigler as city administrator and Gary Dahmer as public works manager.

The council approved an agreement with Brad Dawson to present a fireworks display on July 4.

Program about natural areas planned at wetlands center

Natural areas and Southern Illinois history will be featured at an upcoming program.

The program, "Chronicling History Before It is Lost," is set for 1 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the Cache River State Natural Area Barkhausen-Cache River Wetlands Center, which is located along State Route 37 south of Cypress.

The program will be presented by Max Hutchison about natural areas of Johnson County, such as Buffalo on the Rock, Moccasin Gap, Rock Spring, Potato Hill, several caves and shelter bluffs, to name a few of the 400 plus areas.

In order to chronicle history of the areas before it is lost, Hutchison spoke with people, visited each place and with his cousin, Joe Ashby, produced the book titled "A Gazetteer of Johnson County, Illinois, an Inventory of Natural Landmarks."

For their work, the authors received the Delta Award from the Friends of Morris Library. Morris Library is located on the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

More information is available by calling 618-657-2064.

Storms

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Southern Illinois Tornadoes

An EF-1 tornado impacted the the community of Cora in extreme western Jackson County on May 8.

The tornado occurred from 12:01 p.m. to 12:03 p.m. The tornado had estimated peak winds of 108 mph, a path length of 1.25 miles and a maximum width of 100 yards.

The weather service reported that the tornado began south of Cora, where it uprooted a tree in the Mississippi River bottomlands and did roof damage to a nearby barn.

Moving north, the tornado did significant tree damage in Cora and did roof, siding and facia damage to a few homes.

A couple of small barns and a carport were destroyed as well. One manufactured home slid about a foot off its foundation.

One person caught outside by the tornado was injured by a falling tree limb. The tornado ended immediately north of Cora.

The second tornado was confirmed in Jackson and Williamson counties.

The EF-1 tornado occurred from 3:10 p.m. to 3:26 p.m. The tornado had estimated peak winds of 90 mph, a path length of 4.6 miles and a maximum width of 50 yards.

Damage was mainly to tree limbs along a path beginning southeast of Carbondale along Giant City Blacktop.

Several large tree limbs were downed on Wagon Wheel Road and County Line Road.

Crossing into Williamson County, a large tree was uprooted on Skyhawk Road. Moving east, a barn sustained roof damage on New Hope Road.

The tornado lifted after crossing Spillway Road on the southwest side of Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

An EF-0 tornado did intermittent damage from the central subdivisions of the Lake of Egypt community to just south of Creal Springs in Williamson County.

The great majority of the damage was from downed tree limbs. A couple of trees in waterlogged soil were also uprooted.

The tornado occurred from 4:04 p.m. until 4:11 p.m. The tornado had estimated peak winds of 80 mph, a path length of 6.6 miles and a maximum width of 25 yards.

The final tornado occurred from 4:13 p.m. until 4:20 p.m. in the Carrier Mills area in Saline County.

The EF-1 tornado had estimated peak winds of 95 mph, a path length of 7.8 miles and a maximum width of 150 yards.

Several dozen trees were snapped or uprooted along with many large branches broken along the path. A few homes and barns sustained minor roof damage. One home was slightly shifted off its foundation.

Flooding

The weather service reported that a majority of the area received 1 to 4 inches of rainfall over a 24 to 30 hour period.

Much of Southeast Missouri that doesn't border the Mississippi River largely missed out though, with some areas failing to even pick up 0.25 of an inch of rain.

Meanwhile, localized higher pockets were observed, particularly across Western Kentucky.

Portions of Marshall, Trigg, southern Christian, and southern Todd counties in Western Kentucky received 5 to 6 inches of rain.

This led to flash flooding, with several roads impassable due to higher water levels. Streams, creeks and rivers observed a noticeable rise across the region.

Parts of Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri were under a flood watch. Several rounds of torrential downpours fell around midday in the Anna area. The heavy rain was accompanied by small hail, lightning, thunder and strong winds. The downpour led to street flooding in Anna.

Warning Statistics

The weather service office reported that May 8 was "an extremely busy day" for monitoring radar and issuing warnings.

The office reported that it "ended up issuing an astounding 119 combined warnings (Severe Thunderstorm, Tornado, and Flash Flood) for our 58 county forecast area during this event.

"117 of these warnings occurred on May 8th. This was BY FAR the most number of warnings we have issued in a single calendar day, breaking the old record of 71 warnings issued back on May 25, 2006.

"At the peak of the event shortly after 7 PM, we had 17 total warnings in effect at the same time across parts of our area.

"Almost everybody was in a warning at some point or another, and many locations received multiple rounds of severe thunderstorms.

"A severe thunderstorm or tornado warning was in effect for portions of our forecast area for nearly 14 consecutive hours (11 AM May 8th - 1 AM May 9th)."

The weather service office's forecast area includes parts of Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri, Western Kentucky and southwest Indiana.

News Notes

(continued from page 1)

The Union County Sheriff's Office was attempting to find the owner of a large box containing older-style hats which was found along new U.S. Route 51 around Spanish Bluff Lane. A deputy found the box of hats.

***

The Anna Arts Center and the host Historic Bell Hill event center in Cobden are partnering to present a series of "Full Moon Bluegrass Pickin' Parties" starting May 23.

***

An exhibit featuring the work of artist Emily Yates is on display through May 26 at the Anna Arts Center. Yates is a painter, illustrator and map maker.

***

The Friends of Stinson Library are reminding the community about their upcoming Annabelle Festival book sale. The sale is scheduled Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 7-9.

***

The Illinois Department of Public Health reports that it has provided more than 100,000 free gun locks since a statewide initiative began less than a year ago.

***

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity reports that the state welcomed 2.16 million international visitors in 2023, which was an increase of 39 percent from the previous year.

***

The U.S. Route 51 bridge over the Ohio River was temporarily closed last week after a tow boat antenna mast made contact with a beam on the structure. An inspection found no damage to the bridge.

***

Shawnee Community College is celebrating the graduation of nine students from the Shawnee Community College & Illinois Department of Transportation Highway Construction Careers Training Program.

Illinois had a population of 476,183 people in 1840.



Water over part of road

Water was over part of West Vienna Street in Anna late Wednesday morning, May 8. At the time the photograph was taken, another round of torrential rain was falling on the Anna area.

Suspect in custody over bomb threats at two state facilities in Springfield

After an extensive Illinois State Police investigation into a bomb threat at two state facilities in Springfield in April, 23-year-old Gabrielle Williams was taken into custody Thursday, May 9.

On April 22, the Illinois Department of Human services received a call from an individual saying a bomb had been installed at a public aid office building and the Illinois State Capitol.

The threat was relayed to the Illinois State Police Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center, which implemented the State Agency Facility and Employee, SAFE, Threat Protocol.

The Secretary of State, SOS, Capitol Police and its Hazardous Device Unit quickly cleared the grounds of the Capitol, while the state police and the Springfield Police Department secured the other state facility until the SOS Hazardous Device Unit could clear that building.

The SAFE Threat Protocol also triggered an investigation by state police special agents.

Using cellular information and conducting interviews, state police special agents were able to identify and locate the suspect.

The SAFE Threat Protocol has three main objectives:

Capture, assess and route threat information. Investigate threats towards state employees, offices and executives. Maintain a comprehensive understanding of the material reported and outcomes

Williams is being held in the Sangamon County Jail pending a pre-trial detention hearing.

A Clear and Present Danger report has been submitted to the Illinois State Police Office of Firearm Safety. A Clear and Present Danger report is filed when a person poses a threat to themselves or others.

When the state police affirm a clear and present danger determination, if a person has a Firearms Owner Identification Card or an application for one, it will be revoked or denied.

The state police thanked the various local, state and federal law enforcement partners, including the U.S. Marshals Service, who assisted during the investigation and arrest of Williams.

Urban agriculture program assists students with autism

By Hannah Spangler
FarmWeek

Students with autism and other related challenges are gaining essential life skills while learning lessons in urban agriculture.

The Growing Solutions Farm on the west side of Chicago is a 1.2-acre urban farm that started in 2013.

The farm offers a unique learning environment for 16- to 22-year-old Chicago Public High School transition-aged students with autism and related challenges.

Students working on the farm learn about urban agriculture while gaining transferable job and social skills they can apply to future employment or lead to meaningful lives as they transition to adulthood.

"We are providing much needed services for young people that have disabilities," said the farm operations manager, Tucker Kelly.

"This was a way to connect the student with employment that would hopefully make a huge change in a young person's life."

As students age out of the school system at 22, programs and services provided to them through public school are no longer available.

If these young adults don't have a plan, they potentially face significant isolation from the community.

The Growing Solutions Farm began as a pilot program for Urban Autism Solutions, UAS. Today the farm produces more than 70 different types of vegetables, fruits and herbs.

The students are involved in every step of the process. Assisting at the farm helps them build community, prevents isolation and provides support that will guide these young learners into adulthood.

Students working with UAS learn safe food handling practices and how to build raised plant beds, prepare soil, tend compost piles and harvest and prepare food for sale.

Additionally, students practice important job skills like following directions, communicating effectively with co-workers and supervisors, managing tasks and completing tasks.

The program also requires students to take public transportation to the farm, adding another skill to their portfolio.

"Largely what we're concerned with here are the occupational skills that are transferable to a job in a grocery store," Kelly said.

"We're there to treat their time on the farm like an entry-level job. They're expected to wear a uniform, greet us when they enter and follow multistep directions."

Kelly said they also want the students to look out for each other. When a student needs help or forgets something they need to do, the hope is fellow students and colleagues can help get the student back on track.

"That's like the big shining, golden moment as a teacher when you've imbued students with the skills enough to be able to teach one another."

Programming for the farm usually begins at the end of March and ends around Halloween.

Primarily, produce grown is sold on-site or in an eight-box subscription. Produce is also donated to local food pantries and students can take home as much produce as they want to enjoy with their families.

During the school year, 50 to 70 students will help. Up to 25 students are paid during the summer months to continue working on the farm with extended school year programming.

Younger students are also involved through summer ambassador programming, a partnership with Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council.

Growing Solutions Farm added a sensory garden in 2021 and expanded the garden further in 2022. Most recently, gas and electric lines were connected to their hoop house, providing further growing capabilities.

Kelly encourages anyone interested in learning more about the farm to stop by any day of the week.

The on-site farmstand is open on Wednesdays after Memorial Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Fridays from 2 to 6 p.m. All proceeds from the sale of their produce supports student programming.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

What Is The Value Of A Community Newspaper?

What is the value of a community newspaper?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

from Publishers Auxiliary,
a publication of the
National Newspaper Association

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT
The Talk And Cobden Review
Serving The Union County Area Since 1849

Union County CEO all-star celebration, trade show held

The Union County CEO program had its annual all-star celebration and trade show Wednesday, April 24, at The Barn Event Center in Anna. As part of the CEO program, students plan and develop concepts for a business of their own. The trade show allowed students to showcase the final results of their business models. Photos by Benjamin Marxer.



Ashley's Meltaway by A-J's Ashley Sutliff offers a wax melts in a variety of shapes and fragrances.



Jadyn Samuels of Jadyn's Gems designs and creates custom, hand-made jewelry. Her products can also be found at her booth in Annabelle Market.



Daniel Dover of A-J earned an honorable mention for his pitch video submission at the 2024 CEO National Pitch Competition for PickleSweats, an apparel company producing pickleball-themed clothing.



Lakelyn Carter of A-J makes and sells orders of chocolate-covered strawberries for Breezy Berries.



JAW Studios is a videography service creating commercials for businesses and products as well as event videography. JAW Studios is owned by A-J student Joshua Williams.



A-J's Presli Garner's Presli's Business Designs designs and creates business cards, linked cards, flyers, posters and postcard orders for events and businesses.



Drew Holshouser of A-J owns and operates Drew's Doghouse for pet-sitting and house-sitting needs.



Kaylie Adams of Cobden creates custom items and crocheted crafts like keychains, pens, washcloths, potholders and bookmarks.



Tysen Tripp of A-J uses 3D printing to create customized, made-to-order items like keychains, small tools, phone stands, cases and more with Union Print.



Alexandria Keller from A-J (pictured with Fancy Lou) creates eco-friendly custom-printed tote bags for customers with Fancy Lou's Tote Company.



Created by A-J student Kinley Lingle, KG's Dehydration Station, prepares and sells dehydrated strawberry and banana snacks.



Ryan Libbert of Shawnee details vehicles for The Dash Detail. Ryan has been busy detailing the interiors of quite a few vehicles. He could not attend the Union County trade show because his class was on a senior trip. Ryan was able to set up his booth at the Jackson County CEO trade show. Union County CEO photo.



Mattilynn Houseman created a variety of seasonings and spice blends for Herb & Hearth, including rubs and spices, salts and snack seasonings.



Evan Hall of A-J makes homemade orders of cinnamon rolls for Moose's Classic Cinnamon Rolls. Pre-orders can be picked up at Schoolhouse Cheesecake Bakery in Anna.

All of those involved with the Union County CEO program sincerely thank everyone who helped prepare for, attended and supported these young entrepreneurs and their businesses at the trade show and beyond. The community's support is amazing.

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HELP WANTED: Reppert's Warehouse Office Furniture is seeking full-time sale representatives. Apply in person or email: jlreppert@annanews.com.
22-23gp

HELP WANTED: Shawnee Community College is looking for full and part-time Custodian for their Ullin Campus and The Massac County Extension Center. For more information, please Call 618-634-3200 Ext. 3436
22-33gp

JOB POSTING: Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81 is accepting applications for the following vacancies: • Instructional Aide, • Individual Student Aide. Interested applicants should pick up an application or print one from our website at www.aj81.net and return to Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81, Attn: Brett Detering, Principal, 608 S. Main St., Anna, IL 62906. Please contact the Principal's Office at (618) 833-8502 for more information. Applications will be taken until positions are filled.
22-23gp

JOB POSTING: The City of Mounds is currently accepting applications for Part-Time Positions: 2 Openings Each. City Clerk - $14.00/hr, Maintenance - $14.00/hr. Education/Certification: High School diploma or general education degree (GED). Must possess a valid Illinois driver's license, have a satisfactory driving record and be insurable by the City of Mounds to operate City Vehicles. Deadline for applications will be May 24th, 2024 and applications will be available at Mounds City Hall.
23gp

YARD / GARAGE SALE

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE: Friday & Saturday, May 24th & 25th, 8 am to 4 pm. 1645 Dogwalk Rd. Anna, IL. Grill, kayak, tiller, Brothers Sewing machine, dishes, bedding, house items, clothing, tools and more. Rain or Shine!
23p, 23-24g

YARD SALE: Saturday, May 18th, 8 am to ?? 1426 West Vienna St., New clothing, furniture, yarn, new things, planter pots and more.

MISC.

The City of Jonesboro will be flushing fire hydrants on May 17, 2024. Beginning at 8:00 p.m. and will continue until all necessary fire hydrants have been flushed. Residents of Jonesboro could experience low to no water pressure and possibly have discolored water.
23g

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

RONALD GARNER,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ESTATE OF JANET CARTER, DECEASED
Defendant,
No. 2024-CH-3

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice of a Hearing is given to Heirs at law of Janet Carter, now deceased, Denise Garner and. Dustin Pitts, and unknown heirs, and/or its successors in interests, and unknown judgment creditors that a Petition to Remove Mobile Home and Quiet Title has been filed by Ronald Garner, requesting that this Court order removal of a mobile home from his real property, vest fee simple title into Ronald Garner's name, and the Illinois Secretary of State Department of Motor Vehicles transfer title ownership of the mobile home to Ronald Garner.

NOW UNLESS you file your answer or otherwise appear in this case on of before June 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM, in the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, the Plaintiff's prayer for relief requested in the petition may be granted upon application to the Court therefore.

Dated: May 9, 2024
RONALD GARNER

CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ATTORNEY AT LAW
205 B N. MAIN ST.
P.O. BOX 196
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6345426
8221-942493

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2023-2024 AMENDED BUDGET

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Education of Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81 in the State of Illinois that the tentative amended budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, is on file and conveniently available for inspection at the District Office, 608 S. Main St., Anna, Illinois, after 8:00 a.m. on the 17th day of May, 2024. Notice is further given that a public hearing on said amended budget will be held at 5:45 p.m. on the 17th day of June, 2024, at the District Office at the address listed above.
8221-942279

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 17-40 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/17-40), the percentage to be applied to the assessed valuation of locally assessed property other than that assessed under Sections 10-110 through 10-140 and 10-170 through 10-200 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/10-110 through 10-140 and 10-170 through 10-200) in Union County as certified by the Department of Revenue for the assessment year 2023 is 0.00% by the application of an equalization factor of 1.0000.
8221-942343

STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
UNION COUNTY
PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (Minor Children)
REQUEST OF:
Susanna Lorraine Cohen
CASE NUMBER 2024-MR-05

There will be a court date on a Request for Name Change (Minor Children) for this child:

Aurora Ann Lorraine Cohen

to the new name of

Aurora Ann Lorraine Olvera

The court date will be held on June 5, 2024 at 11:00 am at 309 West Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, Union County Courthouse, Courtroom 01

/s/ Susanna Lorraine Cohen
Petitioner
8221-941838

Lyme disease awareness highlighted

With the weather warming up, the Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, is urging members of the public to get educated about how to protect themselves from ticks and Lyme disease.

The effort coincides with the observance of National Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

Lyme disease is an infection that sickens an estimated 500,000 people each year in the United States.

"Lyme disease is an infection that individuals can get from the bite of infected ticks...and it is the most common vector-borne illness in the United States with more than 500,000 people diagnosed and treated each year," said IDPH director Dr. Sameer Vohra in a news release.

Vohra said the most important thing people can do to "Fight the Bite" is to diligently check themselves, their pets and children for ticks after spending time in areas where ticks live, such as in and near wooded areas, tall grass and brush.

Removing ticks within a 24-hour period reduces the risk of potential disease transmission.

If you become ill with fever and/or rash after being in an area where ticks may have been, contact your health care provider immediately.

Advanced self-defense classes slated

Coffman's Martial Arts Academy in Anna is planning to host advanced self-defense classes every Thursday in June. Classes are scheduled from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The classes are for men and women, ages 18 and older, and are open to the public.

Self-defense expert Grandmaster Robert Cutrell, founder of ChunJi-Do and ChunJiDo International, will be teaching principles related to situational awareness, trapping and grappling, stick fighting, and gun and knife defense.

The cost is $35 for all four classes (for those who preregister); and $40 at the door.

More information is available by calling Master Heather Coffman at 618-521-3323.

More about Grandmaster Robert Cutrell can be found online at Chunjido.com.

Health survey underway in Illinois

The Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, recently announced the start of the 2024 Healthy Illinois Survey.

The survey is a statewide effort to compile essential data on the current state of health and wellness and areas where public health can be improved.

Under Illinois law, IDPH is required to administer an annual survey to obtain reliable data from every county and Zip Code in the state.

The goal is to establish a baseline of public health information to allow for progress to be tracked and measured each year.

This is the first full year for the survey, following a limited pilot project in 2023.

Union County Fixin's

By Suzan Harvel

Sour Cream Pound Cake

By Nora Mae Smithey

6 eggs, separated, room temperature
3 cups sugar
3 cups flour
2 sticks butter, room temperature
8 oz. sour cream, room temperature
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Cream butter and sugar. Add egg YOLKS, mixing one at a time. Sift flour and baking soda together and set aside.

Add flour mixture 1 cup at a time to the butter mixture. Fold in sour cream and extract. Beat egg whites until stiff in a bowl and then fold into batter gently.

Bake at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. Cool in pan (10 inch tube) for 15 minutes and then move to a rack to cool completely. Gently run a knife along outside edges and around the center, then invert onto plate. Store in air dry container. Can be iced or left plain.

April warmer than normal, precipitation was variable

Temperatures during April were above normal in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

In a climate review for April, the National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that precipitation was variable across the region.

Temperatures were above normal by around 3.5 to 4 degrees. Paducah tied its fifth warmest April on record.

A decent portion of Southeast Missouri into far Southern Illinois and the Jackson Purchase area of West Kentucky finished drier than normal in April.

Amounts ranged from 2.5 to 4.5 inches for many locations in this region.

Meanwhile, the Pennyrile region of West Kentucky and areas of Southern Illinois north of Route 13 observed a wetter than normal month. Most of this area observed 4.5 to 6.5 inches.

There were two severe thunderstorm events that impacted the region in April.

The most significant was on April 2, when 19 tornadoes touched down, all within a two-hour period between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m.

This was the most tornadoes in a single day in the weather service office's forecast area since Halloween 2013 and only two shy of the record for an event set back on May 6, 2003 (when 21 tornadoes occurred).

Another system produced severe storms across the area on April 18. Some wind damage and large hail occurred with this event, including 2-inch diameter hail in Johnson County in Southern Illinois.

County Line News

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

May Day

Do you know what May Day means? I remember in school that day involved us making laps around a "May"pole holding onto a ribbon. It was explained that it was a ritual to welcome the halfway point between spring and summer.

Then, later on in high school, I learned a different May Day had to do with a worker's union and that turned into a mess in other countries.

Then, there's the international distress call of "May-Day." Which in French, has the equivalent meaning of "help me." This came into being back in early 1923.

Due to a lot of international issues a distress signal was needed that everyone would understand. The "S" in "SOS" apparently didn't' transmit well, so the British came up with May-Day.

SOS still works in Morris Code and makes a dandy signal when spelled out in large forms on the ground in being seen from the air.

A May-Day call is usually issued three times and then wait for a response. SOS is once again a series of three short, three long, three short taps, flashes or dashes.

Incidentally, SOS has been said to mean Save Our Souls. Better see to the Lord for that, in my opinion.

Stormy Weather

The weather turned a bit ugly this past week, I noticed a few more trees down in yards and a heck of a lot of water locally. Not sure exactly what we received, as I haven't replaced the broken rain gauge yet.

I doubt it's the last storms we'll see, but it sure prompted folks to talk about past storms.

Next month hurricane season starts and I imagine we'll be hearing about that on television. Hurricanes in areas along the coast usually spawn storms that we have to deal with.

In any event, this past week's storm predictions were scary enough to cancel church services and other events, and some schools dismissed early so that students could get home. Better safe, than sorry.

Fishing at the Pond

Fishing has seen an uptick in our pond of late. My brother-in-law and a friend have been hauling the boat out and doing pretty well.

My husband doesn't get in boats any longer and does his fishing from the bank. He has caught some, but didn't do nearly as well.

I don't fish, and don't eat it much either, but I do enjoy sitting on the dock with my coffee first thing in the morning and listening to the world wake up.

The turtles have been sunning themselves on submerged logs or just swimming around. We've had geese on the pond too.

We used to have an egret that my father-in-law called "ole blue" that made an appearance every year, but I've not seen it in the last couple of years. I did see one at my cousin's pond down the road, but it was white.

We've also had deer come get a drink. We've had three at a time mosey along the levy on their way back into the holler. Sitting there watching and listening is a blessing, and, so far, the biting critters haven't found me down there.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Linda Keller's granddaughter, Whitney, who was pinned an LPN this week. Congratulations to all the nursing students that achieved their goal. It took dedication and a lot of hard work to get that far. They deserve our praise.

Mill Creek Baptist Church

Brother Bobby Richardson gave his message from Ephesians 4: 11-16. It was a sermon about spiritual growth.

As a new Christian we are in the baby stages. We need nurturing on God's word and need to practice to build our prayer life.

As fellow believers it is our responsibility to help them, support them and in turn we often find tidbits we ourselves missed.

The next stage is childhood and as we grow, we learn what God wants and expects of us. We need structure, just as children do, to grow in love, confidence and faith.

As mature Christians it's our obligation and responsibility to show how to be Christ-like in everyday life. As the hymn says, "Let others see Jesus in you!" Some other scriptures to review are: 1 Peter 2: 1-10, 1 John 2: 1-2 and 3: 1-3 and 3:18.

Prayer List

Our prayer list has added Kenny Quick for surgery; Mary Powles for pain; Karen Sadler for treatments and travel mercies; Geraldine Grey for strength and health; the families of Michael Kelley, Carl Massey, Lynn Heisner, James Hoyle, Scott Geringer, Lynn Wright, Karen Hallman, Joe Reppert and Kristy Burns in their passings; Paul Sadler for health issues; Joyce Rowe; David Hogue for health; Susan Whitemountain for upcoming surgery; Alice Thodoropoulos for health; Gary Rider for eye surgery; and my brother-in-law, Gary Lott, for heart health and other issues that came from that.

Barbershop chorus to meet in Anna



Barbershop chorus performs

Dressed in familiar barbershop chorus attire, members of the Little Egypt Barbershop Chorus performed during a past annual show. From left are Steve Dinkins of DeSoto, Norm Bauer of Anna, Lee Sanders (in back) of Carbondale, David Bremer of Metropolis, Herb Beattie of Sparta, Peter Gimse of Carbondale and director Jim Alvey of Ava. Photo provided.

The Little Egypt Barbershop Chorus plans to meet and sing at Anna's Pizza Villa at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 21.

The chorus meets weekly in Carbondale at the high school for regular rehearsals. Once a month it meets at an area restaurant for supper and singing. The May 21 "sing-out" is scheduled at Pizza Villa in Anna.

Visitors and diners are welcome to come and listen to the a cappela music, and to even join in the singing.

The chorus is directed by Jim Alvey of Ava. Chorus members come from all over Southernmost Illinois and include Norm Bauer of Anna and David Bremmer of Metropolis. The men say they just like getting together to harmonize and enjoy the music.

Barbershop music is typified by close harmony and is sung without accompaniment or "a cappella." The four parts are lead, tenor, baritone and bass.

Opinions differ about the origin of barbershop type music.

Some say it has African-American origins. Some say the informal singing began in a barbershop setting with men gathered around the barber chairs for impromptu harmonizing.

Most agree the origins of barbershop harmony are early American, but today there are chapters found around the world.

The Little Eqypt Chorus usually performs an annual barbershop show as a fund-raiser. The chapter gives scholarships to aspiring musicians.

As schedules permit, invitations are accepted to sing for nursing homes or other special occasions.

For information or to learn about membership in the Little Egypt Barbershop Chorus, call Norm Bauer at 618-697-

Asian longhorned tick discovered in Illinois

Illinois is the 20th state where the Asian longhorned tick (Haemaphysalis longicornis) has been discovered.

The tick, considered an invasive species, was found April 12 during routine active tick surveillance in Morgan County as part of an Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, grant-funded active tick surveillance program.

Additional surveillance in the area on April 24 discovered two additional Asian longhorned ticks.

Identification was confirmed by entomologists at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

While the tick was first introduced to the United States in 2017, this is the first known collection of this tick species from anywhere in Illinois.

Asian longhorned ticks are light brown in color and are very small, often smaller than a sesame seed. The tick is capable of carrying tick-borne diseases that affect cattle.

In addition, a female can reproduce without a mate and lay up to 2,000 eggs at a time. Therefore, numbers may expand rapidly, IDPH advised.

"In some cases of severe H. longicornis infestation, livestock death has been reported," said Dr. Mark Ernst, Illinois Department of Agriculture, IDOA, state veterinarian.

"Farmers and producers should continue working with their veterinarian to maintain an appropriate management plan."

The IDOA, IDPH and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, are monitoring the situation in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"IDPH's active tick surveillance program was instrumental in discovering the Asian long horned tick in Illinois," said IDPH director Dr. Sameer Vohra.

"Although the role that this tick will play in the transmission of infections in humans is yet to be determined, the Department of Public Health is working closing with the Department of Agriculture to monitor the presence of the tick and investigate the risk it carries to both humans and livestock."

If anyone believes they have identified H. longicornis on an animal, state officials said the tick should be placed in a jar with isopropyl alcohol and the Illinois Department of Agriculture should be contacted at 217-782-4944.

Reappointments to local governing bodies approved

Reappointments to local governing bodies were on the agenda at last Friday regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners.

The meeting was Friday morning, May 10, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Darryl Harvell and Carol Hoffman were reappointed as members of the Union County Hotel Operators' Occupancy Tax, HOOT, Board.

Harvell is a member of the county board of commissioners. He represents the county board on the HOOT Board. Hoffman is executive director of the Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau.

Kent Pitts was reappointed as a member of the Jackson-Union Counties Regional Board District. Pitts is a county commissioner.

Ron Shepard was reappointed as a Shawnee Valley Water District Commissioner.

Five persons were reappointed as Ebenezer Hall Cemetery Board trustees. Those reappointed included Dean Durham, Georgena Davis, Sherri Housman, Aaron Stover and Tina Carter.

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THE WEED EATER



Photo Credit.Bigstockphoto.phodopus

Weeding the garden is a chore; but if we procrastinate, those weeds will take over and choke out beautiful plantings. Mark 4:7 tells us, "...seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain." In our daily lives we must be vigilant for "weeds" like pessimism, negativity and fear. We don't want them to creep in and destroy the beauty and fruitfulness of our lives. Stay close to God and plant seeds of faith, hope and optimism! The gifts of the Spirit are great "weed eaters". Worship regularly - don't let the "weeds" take over.

Daily Bible Readings

John 14:1-14	John 14:15-31	John 15:1-17	John 15:18-16:4a	John 16:4b-15	John 16:16-24	John 16:25-33

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

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

Obituaries

Della L.'Ms. Della' McMahan-Shepard



Della L. McMahan-Shepard, 85, of Wolf Lake, went home to her Lord and Savior Friday, May 10, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on Oct. 25, 1938, in Anna, the daughter of Eugene and Martha Chamness Koch.

She married Robert E. "Sarge" McMahan on Aug. 31, 1957, in Anna. He preceded her in death on Nov. 28, 1996. She later married Ron Shepard on Aug. 11, 2004, in Belleville.

She is survived by her husband, Ron Shepard; five children, Cliff and wife Mary McMahan, David and wife Angie McMahan, Beth and husband Jack Thornton, Shawn and wife Deneen McMahan, and Luke and wife Shelly McMahan; stepdaughter Paige and husband Randy Bosanko; her "Mac Pack" of 13 grandchildren, Katelyn, Logan, Adam, Aiden, Lindsey, Jordan, Lucas, Bailey, Nick, Ty, Abbie, Bethany and Autumn; 15 great-grandchildren, Cooper, Lakelyn, Aubree, Beau, Saylor, Cole, Shelby, Reed Sadie, Archer, Ace, Bentley, Kendall, Bryson and Arleigh; brothers Richard and wife Tanya Pengress, Frank Pengress, Robin and wife Kathy Pengress; other relatives and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, "Sarge" McMahan; and a nephew, Jonathan Wade Pengress.

She was a faithful member of the Wolf Lake Community Church. She retired in 2002 from the Shawnee School District, where she spent 33 years in various positions. She affectionately became known as Mrs. Della by all the children she cared for at the school. She loved to travel and go camping with Ron, but was always ready to get back to the farm.

She was a member of the Red Hat Society and the VFW's Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 Ladies Auxiliary. For over 67 years, she and her classmates, known as the Club Girls, still got together for laughs and fellowship.

She was very proud of her children and grandchildren; home and family were her heart and soul. Her love for cooking brought everyone around the table as a lifetime of memories were made.

Funeral services will be at noon Saturday, May 18, at the Wolf Lake Community Church. The eulogy and services will be conducted by her family. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the service hour at noon at the church. Interment will be private on the family farm.

Memorials can be made to the Wolf Lake Community Park or to the Wolf Lake Community Church. Envelopes will be available at the church and at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home.

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

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

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES

Linde Ann Caraker-Owens



Linde Ann Caraker-Owens, 72, of Cobden, died Saturday, May 4, 2024, at her home.

She was born on Sept. 23, 1951, in Germany before being adopted by American serviceman Roy Milford and Norma Jean Crist Anderson.

She married Jim Owens on Nov. 30, 2015. He preceded her in death on Dec. 28, 2022.

She is survived by her children, Angela Maelene (John) Grant of Buncombe, Robert Eugene (Gretchen) Caraker Jr. of Dover, Pa., and Valerie (Brandon) Caraker of Cobden; grandchildren Leaonna Reena Robinett, Tina Marie Grant, Katie Jo Grant, Destiny Danielle Wheaton, Michael Eugene Wheaton, MacKenzie Viola Wheaton and Brandie Paige Caraker; six great-grandchildren; a brother, Robert Anderson of Decatur; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; her birth mother, Isolde Jean Lutz; a daughter, Brandie Danielle Caraker; and a brother, Stephen.

She loved spending time with her family and her neighbors. She was a very spiritual person. If you had any questions about the other side, she could tell you. She was a smart woman, full of wisdom and very beautiful. Her final answer to everything was, "Okay, fine."

Though we will miss her dearly, she was ready and even expressed that to her children. Just remember, as the spiritual woman she was, with the days coming and after visits from children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and the company of her lovely neighbor, we believe that the Lord knew Saturday, May 4, would be her peace day. She just needed us all in the right places. She will always be watching over us. We love you and miss you. It's not goodbye, it's until we meet again.

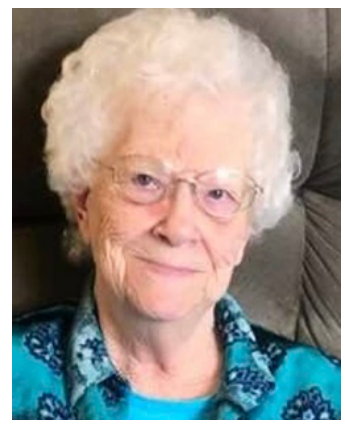
The family of Linde Caraker-Owens will host a celebration of her life. Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden is assisting the family with arrangements.

To visit here memorial page and to leave online condolences for her family, visit the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES

View Obituaries Online at annanews.com

Barbara Morrison



Barbara Morrison, 88, of Anna, died Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at Union County Hospital in Anna.

She was born on Oct. 17, 1935, in Alto Pass, the daughter of Ernie and Gussie McKinny Dehart.

She married Glenn Morrison on Jan. 8, 1969, in San Diego, Calif. He preceded her in death on Sept. 16, 2009.

Mrs. Morrison is survived by her children, Glenn Allan and wife Jennifer Morrison of Canonsburg, Pa., and Charlotte Ann and husband Danny Hartline of Cobden; daughter-in-law Julie Dean of Cobden; six grandchildren, Beau and wife Holly Hartline, Danielle and husband Joe Hartline, Khyle and wife Jessica Dean, Kristal Dean, Glenn Morrison III and Irena Morrison; five great-grandchildren, Drake Hartline, Aiden Bass, Logan Dean, Aria Brigham and Adaley Dean; numerous nieces and nephews; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Glenn Morrison; a son, Lawrence Michael Dean; three sisters, Mable Dean, Myrtle Alsip and Ruth Shadowens; and five brothers, Donald, Wesley, Buddy, Floyd Ray and Paul William Dehart.

She was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church in Cobden. Early in her working career, she was a waitress at the White House Coffee Shop in Anna and at Flamm's Café. She was an avid bingo player and enjoyed watching her stories.

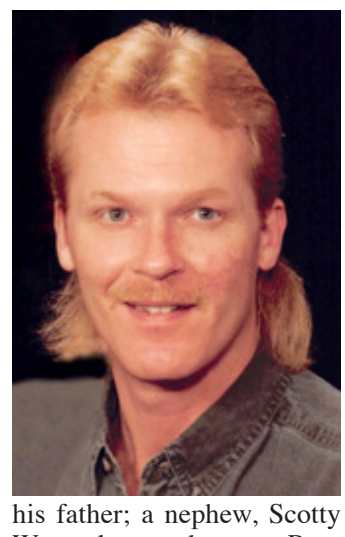
Funeral services were at noon Saturday, May 11, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden, with Dr. Ed Falgout officiating. Interment was in the Alto Pass Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the First Baptist Church in Cobden.

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

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden was in charge of arrangements.

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES

Keith Todd Beggs



Keith Todd Beggs, 62, of Paducah, and formerly of Dongola, died Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at Stone Creek Nursing in Paducah.

He was born on Jan. 9, 1962, in Anna, the son of Clyde Edwin and Patricia Ann McCommons Beggs.

Mr. Beggs had worked at the Secretary of State Driver's License facility in Metropolis. He had also worked in health care at hospitals and nursing homes, including Charter Hospital. He got great pleasure in helping other people.

He was a graduate of Dongola High School, where he enjoyed being a drummer in the band, and he was also known as a jokester.

Survivors include his mother, Patricia Beggs; daughter Haylee (Nick) Hollifield; grandson Leland Clyde Hollifield; sister Vicki Womack; niece Mandi (Todd) Perkins; great-nephews Jacob Beasley and Alec Beasley; special friend Mark Whitlow; great-great-nephew Myles Galan; cousins and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father; a nephew, Scotty Womack; grandparents Russell and Helen McCommons and Eldie and Della Beggs; aunt and uncle Jodene and Barney Porterfield; and a cousin, Jan Porterfield.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Monday, May 13, at Crain Funeral Home in Dongola, with the Rev. Perry Williams officiating. Burial followed at Christian Chapel Cemetery.

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

Crain Funeral Home in Dongola was in charge of arrangements.

Crain Funeral home

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship on Mother's Day, which was Sunday, May 12. Mothers were honored and given a gift.

Pastor Lupe greeted everyone in the sanctuary and those visiting by way of live stream.

Announcements were followed by prayer for those who are sick.

The call to worship was about home and family. All mothers were honored. Scripture was from Proverbs. Honor and glory were given to God with the 100th Psalm.

Jean Denny led hymns worship with "God Give Us Christian Homes" and "The Family of God."

The contemporary worship team led "Because He Lives" and "Here I am to Worship."

Pastor Lupe's sermon was titled "Mommy Powers." Scripture was from Exodus and Ephesians.

The sermon shared that "Biblical motherhood embodies strength, wisdom and compassion, drawing inspiration from the stories of figures like Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Hannah, who fervently prayed for a child.

"It emphasizes nurturing both physical and spiritual growth, instilling values of love, faith and integrity in children.

"A Biblical mother's role extends beyond biological ties, encompassing guidance, discipline and unwavering support in times of joy and adversity.

"Even raising a child not their own reflects the boundless love and selflessness exemplified by figures like Moses' adoptive mother, who nurtured him as her own with unwavering devotion and faith."

The church plans to host a concert by Nashville Christian country recording artist Marty DeRoche on May 18. The concert begins at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. All are welcome.

A yard sale to support the church's mission trip to Mexico is planned May 17-18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday School for all ages meets at 9 a.m. each Sunday morning.

The church's worship service for children and adults starts at 10:15 a.m. Sunday.

The church has a youth program which meets at 6 p.m. each Wednesday.

The church has a bus which runs for all of its programs and services. Information is available by calling the church's office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The church's services can be watched on YouTube at Anna First Live Stream.

First Baptist Church is located at 409 Morgan St. in Anna. The church's phone number is 833-5416.

Illinois students invited to enter Cream of the Crop photography contest

With the school year coming to an end for many Illinois students, State Treasurer Michael Frerichs reminds young photographers to submit photos for the 2024 Cream of the Crop Photo Contest by June 14.

The contest is for students ages 8 to 18 and provides them with an opportunity to share their unique vision of agriculture in Illinois.

Bright Start scholarships of $1,000, $500 and $250 will be awarded to students who place first, second or third in each of three age categories.

"My office sponsors the Cream of the Crop Photo Contest to put a spotlight on agriculture and to inspire young people to share their creativity through photography," Frerichs said in a news release.

"We encourage students to explore the beauty and diversity of Illinois agriculture, and we celebrate our great state's status as a leader in the agricultural industry."

The treasurer's office is accepting electronic submissions for the Cream of the Crop Photo Contest online at www.CreamoftheCropContest.com.

Top photographs will be chosen in three age-based categories: ages 8-10, 11-14 and 15-18. Each student may submit up to two photos by June 14, 2024.

To read the rules, terms, and legal conditions associated with this contest, visit the website at www.CreamoftheCropContest.com or contact Teri Whitfield at 217-900-0075.

Now in its 12th year, the photo contest offers Illinois students an opportunity to highlight their most innovative or scenic pictures that depict their vision of agriculture in the state.

More than 700 students have participated in the contest since it debuted in 2013, and they have submitted over 1,200 photos.

Illinois agriculture encompasses the growing of corn, beans and so much more.

For example, specialty crops such as pumpkins, apples, peaches, horseradish and grapes are all cultivated in Illinois' rich soil.

Agriculture can be found on fields, on rooftop farms and in community gardens throughout the rural and urban areas of Illinois.

The Cream of the Crop Photo Contest is part of the Illinois State Treasurer's Ag Invest program.

Winning photos will be featured in Ag Invest marketing material and next year's Cream of the Crop calendar, as well as at the 2024 Illinois State Fair.

Ag Invest is one of the nation's largest agricultural linked deposit programs, celebrating 41 years in 2024.

The program helps hundreds of Illinois farmers and agriculture professionals.

The state treasurer's office, through Ag Invest, partners with eligible financial institutions to offer farmers and ag businesses operating lines of credit and long-term, low-interest loans which can be used for operating costs, equipment purchases, construction-related expenses and livestock purchases.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

A morning worship service was held Sunday, May 12. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins.

Music was led by Pastor Randy Wright and the worship team.

Special music was provided by Jessica Elkins and Abigail Hinkle.

The Sunday morning message was titled "A Virtuous Woman." The message was brought by Pastor Wright. Scripture was from Proverbs.

The message can be listened to on the church's website at annanaz.com and on the Anna First Church of the Nazarene Facebook page.

A Mother's Day banquet was held Saturday, May 11. The men of the church cooked and served a meal to the ladies of the church and their friends.

The Sunday evening service was canceled so members could spend time with their families in honor of Mother's Day.

Sunday, May 19

Breakfast, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning service, 10:35 a.m. Evening service, 6 p.m.

Wednesday Night

A Wednesday night service is planned at 6:30 p.m. May 22 in the sanctuary. A youth group meeting and children's quizzing are planned at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The church can be contacted by calling the church office at 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, May 12, Pastor Perry Williams spoke at the church's Mother's Day service during morning worship. All mothers were recognized and honored. The oldest mother present was Ervina Johnson. First-time mothers Amanda Rich and Molly Jones were present at the servicce.

The pastor spoke about "obeying God because he loves you and has your best interest at heart, just like your mother may demand that you obey her rules because she loves you and wants the best for you." The message was based on scripture from the 14th chapter of John in the New Testament.

The service was sent by transmitter station 87.9 for those who wanted to listen on the radio. The service was also live streamed on Facebook. The church's Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, has videos and the latest information about possible closings.

Music director Dee Rose led worship. Debbie York was the pianist. Connor Benbrook sang a special, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Women's and men's Bible studies were planned at 7 p.m. Monday, May 13.

Birthdays: Myrtle Martin, 101 years old on May 13; Jayson Rose, May 13; Teresa Hunter, May 15.

Anniversary: Jose and Jerri Tehandon, May 25, 25 years.

The 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. and Sunday evening worship at 6 p.m.

Youth meet from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Adult prayer meeting and Bible study are scheduled on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Illinois Small Business Development Center at SIU earns recognition

The Illinois Small Business Development Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is the 2024 Illinois SBDC of the Year, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The award was to have been presented during a ceremony on Thursday morning, May 2, at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center in Carbondale.

State and regional officials were scheduled to be in attendance for the event, which was held in conjunction with National Small Business Week.

"The Illinois Small Business Development Center at SIU has been the foundation of our business services since we met with our first small-business client in 1985," said Lynn Andersen Lindberg, executive director of the Office of Innovation and Economic Development and of the SIU Research Park.

"Whether assisting with market research, business plan development, financial analysis or other services, the SBDC team works together to support emerging and expanding Southern Illinois businesses to be the best that they can be.

"This award from the U.S. Small Business Administration, and recognition from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, is really a tribute to the many small-business owners throughout the region who have chosen the Illinois Small Business Development Center at SIU to be their trusted business advisers.

"I am so proud of all the staff who have worked to provide high-quality business assistance, not only today, but for the past 39 years."

The SBA recognizes the accomplishments of small businesses and their "champions" each year during National Small Business Week, which was April 28-May 4. The week is a time devoted to recognizing those who boost the nation's economy on a daily basis.

The Illinois SBDC is a foundational component of SIU's Office of Innovation and Economic Development and offers a full array of no-cost, confidential business services to assist the region's entrepreneurs in launching and growing small businesses.

The center also helps with utilization of new technology and expanding into additional markets, one-on-one professional advising, training and workshops, and more.

For more information about SIU's SBDC and its numerous services, visit the website at sbdc.siu.edu, email sbdc@siu.edu or call 618-536-2424.

Television Listings

THURSDAY MAY 16, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	NBA (Live)	Young	**"Fast Five"** ('11) (HD)	Hailey's	The Sympathizer	**"Obvious Child"** ('14)	★★★½ **"The Hateful Eight"** ('15, Western) Samuel L. Jackson. (R) (HD)
:30			Local		(:40) 2024 NBA Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	Young		Hailey's			
7 PM	9-1-1 *"Step Nine"* (HD)	Young	Next Level Chef (HD)	Law & Order (HD)		Bang (HD)	★★★½ **"Fast & Furious 6"** ('13, Action) Vin Diesel. (PG-13) (HD)	Hailey's	Jinx Life	**"Baby Mama"** ('08) Amy Poehler.	
:30		Ghosts				Bang (HD)		Hailey's	(:50) ★★½ **"Predators"** ('10) Adrien Brody. (HD)		
8 PM	Grey's Anatomy (HD)	(:01) So Help Me Todd	Lego Masters (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		Bang (HD)		Hailey's		**"Office Space"** Ron Livingston.	
:30						Bang (HD)		Hailey's			
9 PM	(:01) Station 19 (HD)	Elsbeth (HD)	Local Programs *Local info.*	Organized Crime (HD)	2024 NBA Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	Bang (HD)		Lady Dragon			The Chi (HD)
:30						Bang (HD)			Reality		
10 PM	Local	Local		Local		★★ **"Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins"** ('08)	(:01) **"Fast Five"** ('11, Action) Vin Diesel. (HD)	Jessie	(:08) John Early: Now	(:10) **"How to Talk to Girls at Parties"** ('18)	**"Talk to Me"** ('23) Sophie Wilde.
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)				Jessie			
11 PM			Local Programs					Miraculous	**"X-Men: Wolverine"**		
:30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night	Sports			Miraculous			Gentleman

THURSDAY

7:00pm

MAX Baby Mama ★★½ (2008, Comedy) Amy Poehler, Tina Fey. An infertile businesswoman chooses an obnoxious girl to be her surrogate, but plans for baby's arrival change when the girl shows up without a place to live. PG-13 (HD)

7:50pm

HBO Predators ★★½ (2010, Science Fiction) Adrien Brody, Topher Grace. A mercenary reluctantly leads a faction of human "predators" that are systematically hunted and done away with by a new breed of alien hunters. R (HD)

FRIDAY MAY 17, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA (Live)	Bang (HD)	**"Captain"**	Hailey's	**"The Devil Wears Prada"** ('06) Meryl Streep.	★½ **"xXx: Union"** ('05)	**"Forrest Gump"** ('94)
:30					(:40) 2024 NBA Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	Bang (HD)	★★★ **"Captain America: The Winter Soldier"** ('14) Chris Evans. (HD)	Hailey's		**"Other Side of the Door"** ('16)	Mourning in Lod (HD)
7 PM	Jeopardy! Masters	S.W.A.T. (HD)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (HD)	To Be Announced		**"Training Day"** ('01) Denzel Washington. (HD)		**"Moana"** ('16) Dwayne Johnson.	We're Here (HD)		(:15) The Chi (HD)
:30								Marathon		(:36) ★★ **"Slice"** ('18) Zazie Beetz.	
8 PM	(:01) 20/20 *Investigative news.* (HD)	Fire Country (HD)		Dateline NBC *Investigative news.*				Big City	Real Time with (HD)		★★★ **"The Last Voyage of the Demeter"** ('23)
:30		Blue Bloods (HD)	Local Programs *Local info.*		2024 NBA Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	(:20) ★★★ **"Any Given Sunday"** ('99, Drama) Al Pacino. (R)	**"Avengers: Age of Ultron"** ('15) Robert Downey Jr. (HD)	Big City		**"Silent House"** Elizabeth Olsen.	
9 PM	Local	Local		Local				Big City	Reality		
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)				Big City	(:32) We're Here (HD)		(:05) The Chi (HD)
11 PM			Local Programs					Miraculous			
:30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night	Sports			Miraculous	Real Time	**"Let Go"**	

FRIDAY

7:00pm

TBS Training Day ★★★½ (2001, Drama) Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke. A rookie police officer finds that he is in a moral dilemma because of the methods his training officer uses to rid the streets of drug dealers. R TV14 (HD)

8:00pm

CBS Fire Country A convict is offered an unorthodox release agreement, commuting his sentence in exchange for serving as a firefighter battling wildfires in Northern California. TV14 (HD)

SATURDAY MAY 18, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	MLB Baseball *"Regional Coverage-Teams TBA"* (Live) (HD)	Preakness	Stanley	**"Ocean's 8"** ('18) (HD)	★★★ **"The Lost World: Jurassic Park"** ('97) Jeff Goldblum. (HD)	★★½ **"Ferdinand"** ('17)	★★½ **"Aquaman"** ('23)	★★★½ **"Compton"** ('15)	(:20) **"Daddy's Home"** ('15) Will Ferrell. (HD)
:30				Local	College Softball *"Teams TBA"* (HD)						
7 PM	2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	NCIS: L. A. (HD)		Law & Order (HD)		Bang (HD)		★★★ **"The Lion King"** ('19) Donald Glover. (PG)	★★★½ **"The Iron Claw"** ('23, Drama) Zac Efron.	★★½ **"Hotel Artemis"** Jodie Foster.	
:30		48 Hours (HD)		Weakest Link (HD)		Bang (HD)				**"You're Next"** ('13) Sharni Vinson.	★★★½ **"Boogie Nights"** ('97, Drama) Mark Wahlberg. (HD)
9 PM		48 Hours (HD)	Local Programs	Password (HD)	Top Rank Boxing on ESPN *"Main Card"* (Live)	Bang (HD)	★★½ **"Jurassic Park III"** ('01) Sam Neill. (HD)	Kiff's	(:15) The Sympathizer		
:30						★★½ **"Ocean's 8"** ('18, Action) Sandra Bullock. (PG-13) (HD)		Kiff			
10 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs *Local info.*	We Are Family (HD)	Local				Hailey's	Reality	(:09) **"Insidious: Chapter 3"** ('15)	(:35) **"X"** ('22) Jenna Ortega. (HD)
:30				Saturday Night Live (HD)				Hailey's	(:48) We're Here (HD)		
11 PM	Local Programs		Local Programs				**"The Croods"** ('20)	Miraculous			
:30								Miraculous	**"Crank"**	**"Amityville"**	

SATURDAY

7:00pm

HBO The Iron Claw ★★★½ (2023, Drama) Zac Efron, Jeremy Allen White. A father finds himself with a successful career in professional wrestling, but problems ensue when five of his sons decide to pursue his career path. R

8:00pm

PARSHO Boogie Nights ★★★½ (1997, Drama) Mark Wahlberg, Julianne Moore. A director of pornographic movies transforms a busboy into an adult film star, but the young man falls into a world of drugs and promiscuity. R (HD)

SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	Next Level Chef (HD)	**"Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald"** Eddie Redmayne.	MLB Baseball (HD)	(4:30) **"The Meg"** ('18)	Law & Order: SVU	Kiff	(5:39) ★★★½ **"The Iron Claw"** ('23) Zac Efron.	**"Line of Duty"** ('13)	(:15) A Gentleman
:30								Kiff			
7 PM	American Idol *"718 (Grand Finale)"* (HD)	The Equalizer (HD)	Simpsons			Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	**"The Jungle Book"** Neel Sethi.		★★★½ **"Aliens"** ('86) Sigourney Weaver. (R) (HD)	A Gentleman *"Adieu"*
:30			Krapopolis			Bang (HD)					
8 PM		Tracker *"The Storm"*	North (HD)			Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		The Sympathizer		The Chi (HD)
:30			Burgers			Bang (HD)		Big City			
9 PM		CSI: Vegas (HD)	Local Programs	Dateline NBC	SportsCenter (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	Jinx Life Death (HD)	**"Vampire's Assistant"** ('09) John C. Reilly.	A Gentleman *"Adieu"*
:30						Bang (HD)		Big City			
10 PM	Local Programs *Local info.*	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs *Local info.*	SportsCenter (Live) (HD)	**"The Meg"** ('18, Thriller) Jason Statham. (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	Last Week		The Chi (HD)
:30								Big City	(:39) The Sympathizer		
11 PM		Local Programs	Local Programs				Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous		**"The Losers"** ('10)	A Gentleman *"Adieu"*
:30					Sports			Miraculous	Sympathiz.		

SUNDAY

7:00pm

CBS The Equalizer "Shattered" Mel is kidnapped by a member of her veteran support group; Dante is offered a new position with the NYPD's Special Investigation Unit in Los Angeles. TV14 (HD)

8:00pm

USA Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Smut" A woman is found raped and beaten with no memory, and Benson and Stabler discover a string of similar incidences connected to one man. TV14 (HD)

MONDAY MAY 20, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	WNBA Basketball *Connecticut Sun at Indiana Fever* (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	**"The Color Purple"** ('23) Fantasia Barrino.	**"Room"** Brie Larson.	Mourning in Lod (HD)
:30			Local			Bang (HD)		Spring			
7 PM	Jeopardy! Masters	The Price Is Right at Night	MasterChef Junior	The Voice *Hopefuls coached.* (HD)		Bang (HD)	WWE Monday Night Raw (Live) (HD)	Miraculous		**"Silent House"** Elizabeth Olsen.	Star Trek: Discovery
:30						Bang (HD)		Miraculous			
8 PM	Celebrity Wheel of	NCIS *"Strange"* (HD)	Think You Can Dance			Bang (HD)		Miraculous	STAX Soulsville		Mayor
:30					ESPN Films (HD)	Bang (HD)		Moon Girl		**"Attack the Block"** Nick Frost.	Mayor of Kingstown
9 PM	Press Your Luck (HD)	To Be Announced	Local Programs *Local info.*	The Irrational (HD)		Dad (HD)		Hailey's	STAX Soulsville		
:30						Dad (HD)		Hailey's			The Chi (HD)
10 PM	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (Live)	Dad (HD)	Race to Survive (HD)	Jessie	(:53) Jinx Life Death	(:55) **"Carrie"** ('76) Sissy Spacek.	
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)		Dad (HD)		Jessie			★★★ **"Juice"** ('92) Omar Epps. (HD)
11 PM			Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)	Dad (HD)	(:15) Race to Survive	Miraculous	Reality		
:30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Dad (HD)		Miraculous	We're Here	**"Hellboy"**	

MONDAY

8:00pm

ABC Celebrity Wheel of Fortune "Tim Gunn, Debbie Gibson and Luis Guzman" TV personality Tim Gunn, musician Debbie Gibson and actor Luis Guzmán spin the wheel and solve word puzzles for the chance to win for their selected charities. TVPG (HD)

8:26pm

MAX Attack the Block ★★½ (2011, Action) Nick Frost, Jodie Whittaker. A gang of South London teenagers attempts to defend their home against the invasion of a savage group of creatures from outer space. R

TUESDAY MAY 21, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA Countdown (Live) (HD)	MLB on TBS	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(5:41) **"A Star Is Born"** ('18) Bradley Cooper.	**"Jersey Boys"** ('14)	★★½ **"Baywatch"** ('17) Dwayne Johnson. (HD)
:30						MLB Baseball (HD)		Big City			
7 PM	Will Trent (HD)	FBI *"Ring of Fire"*	The Cleaning Lady *Doctor's secret.* (HD)	The Voice *Hopefuls coached.* (HD)	(:40) 2024 NBA Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)		WWE NXT (Live) (HD)	Miraculous		**"Yes Man"** ('08) Jim Carrey. (HD)	
:30								Miraculous			
8 PM	The Rookie (HD)	FBI: International						Miraculous	STAX Soulsville		The Chi (HD)
:30								Moon Girl		(:45) **"Vacation"** ('15, Comedy) Ed Helms. (HD)	
9 PM	The Good Doctor	FBI: Most Wanted	Local Programs *Local info.*	Found (HD)	SportsCenter with Scott (Live)	Post-Game	(:08) Race Survive: New Zealand	Hailey's	STAX Soulsville		**"Talk to Me"** ('23) Sophie Wilde.
:30						Family		Hailey's			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local		Family	**"Boogie"** ('21) Taylor Takahashi.	BUNK'D	(:04) The Sympathizer		
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)		Family		BUNK'D		**"Life After Beth"** Aubrey Plaza.	**"Scream VI"** Melissa Barrera. (R)
11 PM			Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)	Family		Miraculous	(:59) **"Spy"** ('15) (HD)		
:30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Family		Miraculous			

TUESDAY

7:00pm

MAX Yes Man ★★★ (2008, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel. A depressed man is urged to enroll in a self-help seminar, where he discovers that saying yes to everything can give him a fresh start in life. PG-13 (HD)

9:00pm

NBC Found A recovery specialist and her team focus their efforts on the cases of missing and forgotten persons, and they each have experience with disappearances. TV14 (HD)

WEDNESDAY MAY 22, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	SportsCenter (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	**"Dawn"** Andy Serkis.	**"Office Space"** ('99)	★★½ **"What's Your Number?"** ('11) Anna Faris.
:30						Bang (HD)		Big City			
7 PM	Jeopardy! Masters	Survivor (HD)	The Masked Singer	To Be Announced	2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	The Sympathizer	**"Leatherheads"** ('08) George Clooney. (HD)	
:30								Miraculous			
8 PM	Elementary		Ramsay's Food Stars	Quantum Leap (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	★★★ **"Forgetting Sarah Marshall"**		★★★½ **"Boogie Nights"** ('97, Drama) Mark Wahlberg. (HD)
:30	Conners							Moon Girl			
9 PM	(:01) Pyramid (HD)		Local Programs *Local info.*	Magnum P.I. (HD)		Family	Law & Order: SVU	Hailey's		**"Road House"** Patrick Swayze.	
:30						Family		Hailey's	Reality		
10 PM	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (Live)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Raven Home	(:20) **"Crank"** ('06) Jason Statham.		
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)		Family		Raven Home		★★ **"American Heist"** Tory Kittles.	(:35) **"Anything for Fame"** ('23)
11 PM			Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous			
:30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Family		Miraculous	**"Crank 2"**		

WEDNESDAY

7:56pm

HBO Forgetting Sarah Marshall ★★★ (2008, Comedy) Jason Segel, Kristen Bell. A man escapes to a Hawaiian resort to get away from his ex-girlfriend, but he discovers that she and her new, rock star boyfriend are visiting the same place. R (HD)

8:00pm

PARSHO Boogie Nights ★★★½ (1997, Drama) Mark Wahlberg, Julianne Moore. A director of pornographic movies transforms a busboy into an adult film star, but the young man falls into a world of drugs and promiscuity. R (HD)

Opinion and Commentary

Incorporate extra safety measures into routine tasks during spring planting season

Spring weather conditions have a lot of tractors parked for now, but when the weather clears and fields dry, it will be a fast-paced season for planting 2024 statewide.

Although another Midwest farming season may seem routine, the agriculture industry is highly prone to risks, accidents, severe injury and death. It is important for those driving the tractors and those following behind them to be aware of their surroundings and leave plenty of room for safety.

From sharing the roadways to working on a broken-down planter, there are many risks for accidents and injury. University of Illinois Extension encourages incorporating extra safety measures into these routine tasks to help decrease the chances of accidents this spring.

"Planting season is a fast-paced, high-pressure time for farmers, workers, operators and their families," says Salah Issa, assistant professor and Extension specialist in the University of Illinois Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. "Incorporating safety measures in established routines can assist in decreasing accidents and injuries while still focusing on getting the crop into the ground in a timely manner."

Today's farm equipment is very large, and it can take up a lot of the availability of the roadways, especially in rural areas where the opportunity to meet a tractor is higher. Some safety planning steps for farmers and operators include:

Move equipment at times when there is less traffic.

Use hazard lights, active turn signals, all mirrors and add reflective tape.

Place slow-moving vehicle signage on equipment in a clear and clean location.

Drive on mapped-out routes from fields typically containing less traffic and identify areas where the equipment can be pulled over safely.

Avoid distractions like cell phones and radios.

For drivers who encounter moving farm equipment, steps to take include:

Slow down when approaching farm equipment.

Allow extra time for travel or take alternate routes to destinations in rural areas during farming seasons.

Avoid blind spots and assumptions that the equipment operators can see all vehicles on the road.

Use patience, distancing and awareness before passing.

Watch for hazard lights and turn signals before making lane moves or passing.

Lives on and off the farm can be saved by making time and incorporating simple safety measures into daily routines.

For more about current ag safety research and programs available, visit Illinois Extension at extension.illinois.edu.

Alto Pass Memorial Day ceremonies scheduled

The Alto Pass Area Veterans Memorial Organization is planning to conduct a Memorial Day ceremony on Saturday, May 25.

The ceremony is set for 1 p.m. at the veterans memorial in downtown Alto Pass.

The ceremony will include a brief presentation and a three-volley salute.

The veterans also plan to conduct Memorial Day ceremonies with a three-volley salute on Monday, May 27.

Ceremonies are planned at 10 a.m. at the Alto Pass Cemetery and at 10:30 a.m. at the Dutch Ridge Cemetery near Alto Pass.

The Alto Pass Area Veterans Memorial group is responsible for creating and maintaining the Alto Pass veterans memorial.

The memorial honors U.S. military veterans who have passed away and were from the Alto Pass area.

Veterans from the Alto Pass area are invited to become members of the organization.



Support for reading program

Jane Bauer, left, president of the GFWC Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club, and Martha Ann Webb, right, publicity chairman, presented a check on behalf of the women's club to Sarah Watkins, center. Watkins is director of Stinson Memorial Library in Anna. The check was presented in support of the upcoming summer reading program which is planned at the Anna library. A kickoff event for the summer reading program is planned from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, June 7, at the library. The kickoff will feature games, bounce houses, popcorn and a prize. Photographer Bessie Mae Ellis.

The Gazette-Democrat
Covering the Union County Area
Since 1849

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Spending special time together...in a deluge



Divine precipitation? Please read on for the "rest of the story"...

...which involves some very special time The Other Half and yours truly spent together in Anna on the second Wednesday of May. We'll call this very special time a Rainy Day Date. Or, perhaps more correctly, a A Torrential Downpour of Potentially Apocalyptic Proportions Date. Maybe not...

I had accompanied The Other Half to Union County's biggest metropolitan area to try to lend a helping hand with a little project she does to help out folks in the community. The project involves unloading some items out of a trailer.

On this particular Wednesday in May, our little corner of the world happened to be under what was reported to be a Level 4 risk for severe weather. That's Level 4 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being The End of the World as We Know It. (Go ahead and find the R.E.M. song of the same name on YouTube, since it's already stuck in your head. You are welcome.)

For our journey to the Big City, we went in separate vehicles. Before I left home, I decided to get an update on the weather. I paid a visit to the website for the National Weather Service office in Paducah, since those folks seem to know quite a bit about the weather.

The weather radar image I saw at the time suggested that there indeed was some rain out in the world, but it looked the precipitation would not last long. Hah. Hah. Hah.

The Other Half and yours truly got to where we needed to be in Anna...just as the rain started to fall. Within minutes, Mother Nature had unleashed a torrent of precipitation from the sky.

The rain was accompanied by lightning...and thunder...and even some hail. Not long after the deluge had started, South Main Street in Anna began to resemble the Mississippi River. The parking lot where we were doing what we needed to do took on the appearance of the Anna City Pool.

Well, in a word, or two, we got S-O-A-K-E-D. I do not remember the last time I was as wet as I was last Wednesday. Water was dripping from the drips which were falling from the ball cap I was wearing.

The two of us eventually got back home and put on some dry clothes. Mother Nature wasn't quite done with us, though. Wednesday night, we had our very own tornado warning, complete with a sound track featuring a wailing siren...

By the way...the photograph of the sign was taken in the midst of the deluge...the picture guy was back in his car...soaked... and dripping...when he happened to notice the rather timely message... Oh...the sign read: "Did you pray for rain? Well, it worked" Amen...



This picture just seemed kind of timely...since we're supposed to see something like 50 bazillion cicadas emerge from their holes in the dirt to make our spring and/summer extremely noisy this year. It didn't make a lot of sense that this cicada was seen on the tire of a car Wednesday morning, May 8. Maybe it just wanted to get out of town before the deluge which fell that day. I don't know if cicadas can swim...



What's up, duck? This duck on a dock was spotted last Sunday afternoon when yours truly when a drive in the warm sunshine. The duck apparently was rather happy to stay on the dock...it was there when I drove by the first time and was still there on the drive back home.

Shawnee National Forest children's fishing derby set

The return of an annual children's fishing derby has been announced by the Shawnee National Forest/U.S. Forest Service.

The fishing derby is planned May 18 at the Oakwood Bottoms Interpretive Site near Grand Tower.

This is a free event which is open to children ages 5 to 15. Organizers note that children must be accompanied by an adult.

No fishing license is required. Some bait will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own equipment and bait if they have it. Prizes will be awarded in various categories.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Participants begin fishing at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided. The event will be held rain or shine.

The event is made possible by the Friends of the Shawnee National Forest, the Friends of Turkey Bayou, the Future Angler Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Graphics Galore, Timberline and other local businesses.

More information is available by contacting the Hidden Springs Ranger Station at 618-658-2111 or by visiting www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee.

Family announces public auction of 696-acre property

ANNA – The Wright family announces the public auction of their 696-acre property in Union County at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 18.

The expansive land, which has been under the family's ownership since 1939, will be offered in six individual tracts, ranging from five acres to 388 acres at the auction which will be held at St. Mary's Church Parish Hall in Anna.

The property features approximately 282 acres of tillable land, with the remaining acreage providing excellent hunting and recreational opportunities.

The land also contains an estimated $330,000 worth of quality merchantable timber, as assessed by a consulting forester in March 2024.

The timber resource includes mature black walnut, poplar, hickory, oak, sycamore, maple and ash, with the majority of the value concentrated in Tracts 4 and 5.

A unique feature of the property is an active limestone quarry, famous for producing some of the highest quality agricultural lime in the nation.

The quarry has been leased and operated since 1964 and presents a value-added component for potential buyers, given the strong demand for crushed limestone in the construction and agriculture sectors.

The auction will utilize the multi-par bidding method, allowing buyers to bid on individual tracts, combinations of tracts or the entire property.

A 10 percent down payment is due within 24 hours of the auction, with closing to follow on or before July 16, 2024.

The seller will provide clear title at closing, and a 5 percent buyer's premium will be added to the high bid to establish the contract price.

"This is an opportunity to acquire a substantial and diverse land holding in Southern Illinois with strong income potential from farming, timber, recreation, and mineral extraction," said Joe Ollis of Joe Ollis Real Estate & Auction, which will be conducting the sale. "We encourage interested parties to visit our website at www.ollisauction.com for complete terms, additional information, maps, photos, soil and quarry production data and to contact us to arrange a private preview of the property."



Limestone quarry

A limestone quarry, hunting grounds and farmland will be featured in an upcoming auction.