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...

May's arrival once again brings graduation ceremonies for students and their families.

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Shawnee Community College reports that it will be the exclusive home of the only occupational therapy assistant program in Southern Illinois this fall. The two-year program will be held at the college's newly remodeled Union County Extension Center in Anna.

***

Cobden High School students received honors at recent regional and state competitions. More on this to come...

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Cobden School's ESL dance team is planning to have a fund-raising event from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 10, in front of Cobden High School. The dance team is scheduled to perform at 6:30 p.m.

***

A Regional Brain Games competition was held April 18 at Rend Lake College in Ina. Thirty teams from all over Southern Illinois were in attendance. The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School team of Matti Houseman, Ruby Yates, Jay Althoff and Grayson Garner placed fifth overall.

***

SIH Sports Rehabilitation is planning to offer sports physicals on the morning of May 9 at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School. Athletes, dancers and cheerleaders from the school are welcome.

***

Shawnee Community College near Ullin is planning to host a spring band and choir concert at 7 p.m. Friday, May 3.

***

Rural Health Inc. hosted a banquet on Monday, April 22, at Pizza Villa in Anna to honor its 2024 scholarship recipients.

***

Southern 7 Health Department environmental health staff members plan to conduct active tick surveillance for all species, including those which cause Lyme disease, during May. Ticks will be collected in seven area counties.

***

A community yard sale day is planned Saturday, May 11, in Cobden. Maps with locations of yard sales will be available at Cobden Village Hall at 7 a.m. on the day of the event.

***

Community yard sale days are scheduled May 10-11 in Alto Pass.

***

The Cobden Spay/Neuter Coalition and Union County Animal Control plan to host a Furry Family Fun Day on June 1 at the park in Alto Pass.

Area fire departments/districts receive state grants

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, OSFM, in Springfield on April 26 announced the recipients of funding through the 2024 Small Equipment Grant Program.

A total of $4 million was awarded to 165 fire departments/districts and EMS providers across the state.

Fire departments in the Union County area were among those receiving grants.

Grant recipients in area counties and their awards included:

Union County

Jonesboro Fire Department, $24,016.

Dongola Fire Department, $23,826.85.

Alto Pass Fire Protection District, $25,515.

Alexander County

Tamms Fire Department $26,000.

Jackson County

Makanda Township Fire Department, $25,981.25.

Dowell Volunteer Fire Department, $25,842.

Massac County

Massac County Fire Protection District, $25,898.08.

Metropolis Fire Department, $24,480.

Pulaski County

Karnak Fire Department $24,702.80

Pulaski Fire Department, $25,345.99.

Williamson County

Energy Volunteer Fire Department, $25,145.42.

Hurst Fire Department, $26,000.

Cambria Fire Department, $11,000.

The program was established to provide grants of up to $26,000 each for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment.

OSFM said in a news release that the program is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for fire departments and not-for profit ambulance services in Illinois, particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment.

The purpose of the program is to allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small equipment that they may otherwise not be able to purchase.

The OSFM received 417 applications, requesting around $9.5 million in funding for this grant period.

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Alto Pass to host Cinco de Mayo Fest

The Village of Alto Pass is planning to host a Cinco de Mayo Festival on Saturday, May 4.

The celebration begins at 9 a.m. and continues until 9 p.m. at the park in downtown Alto Pass.

The day's festivities will include authentic a Cinco de Mayo queen and king contest, a parade, a performance by the Cobden High School folklorico dance troupe, a pinata, activities for children, music, Mexican food vendors and beverages.

The schedule for the day follows:

Parade line up, 11:30 a.m. Parade at noon. Cobden High School folklorico dance troupe performance, 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Queen/king contest, 2 p.m. Pinata, 3 p.m. Bands perform, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Parade participants will be accepted until the time of the event. Those wanting to walk, ride or march in the parade can just show up.

Proceeds from the event will go toward future festivals and for improving the Alto Pass park and properties.

Weather

High 80, low 43;
0.39 of an inch of rain

Temperatures ranged from a high of 80 degrees to a low of 43 during the period of April 23-29 in Union County. Precipitation totaled 0.39 of an inch of rain.

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

Tuesday, April 23: high 74, low 43. .07 of an inch of rain.

Wednesday, April 24: high 71, low 48. .09 of an inch of rain.

Thursday, April 25: high 66, low 43. .08 of an inch of rain.

Friday, April 26: high 80, low 53. .06 of an inch of rain.

Saturday, April 27: high 79, low 63. .16 of an inch of rain.

Sunday, April 28: high 79, low 66. .02 of an inch of rain.

Monday, April 29: high 72, low 62.

Drought Update

The U.S. Drought Monitor reported last week that Union County was continuing to experience moderate drought conditions.

The latest update on the region's drought conditions was released Thursday, April 25.

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



Union County CEO program hosts celebration

The Union County CEO program hosted an annual all-star celebration and trade show Wednesday evening, April 24, at The Barn Event Center near Anna. Part of the CEO program tasks students with creating a model for their own business concepts. A dozen Union County high school students set up booths to showcase new businesses they created for this year's CEO program. Students offered unique crafts, treats, services, apparel and other products to the public. A full house was on hand to be a part of the special CEO celebration. The individual students and their businesses will be highlighted in an upcoming issue of the paper. Photo courtesy of Union County CEO/Hannah Prendergast Photography.

Mississippi River rising early this week in region

The Mississippi River was reported to be on the rise early this week in parts of Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri.

As of early Monday, Union County was not included in the warning area. The county is bordered on the west by the Mississippi River.

The National Weather Service office in St. Louis issued a flood warning for parts of the river which was scheduled to go into effect Wednesday morning and continue until further notice.

"Rainfall heavier than forecast could cause river levels to rise even higher than predicted," the weather service advised.

The weather service reported that it would continue to "monitor this developing situation and issue follow up statements as conditions change."

The weather service reported that the river's stage at Chester late Monday morning was 17.9 feet. Flood stage is 27.0 feet. Chester is about 50 miles north of Anna.

The river was expected to rise above flood stage Wednesday morning at Chester and to continue rising to a crest of 34.4 feet by early Friday afternoon.

Trees planted for Arbor Day

Three trees were planted on the campus of Anna School District 37 as part of an Arbor Day celebration on Friday, April 26.

The event was a joint project between the City of Anna and the Anna-Jo Garden Club along with the Anna School District's Student Council. This year marks the fourth year the Anna-Jo Garden Club and the City of Anna have teamed up to celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of trees.

Two October Glory red maples and a sugar maple tree were purchased by the City of Anna and the Anna-Jo Garden Club for the event. Members of the student council were on hand to assist with planting and watering the new trees.





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New animal control facility

Progress continues on the construction of a new Union County animal control facility. The new facility is located along Kaolin Road, between Anna and Cobden.

County board approves road, bridge resolutions

Resolutions for approval for local matching funds for two major infrastructure projects were on the agenda at last Friday morning's regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners. An update on another project also was shared.

The meeting was at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

The commissioners approved a resolution for local matching funds for a Lick Creek Road safety project.

A resolution also was approved for local matching funds for a new bridge on New Hope Road near Lick Creek. Work on both of the projects is planned this year.

County engineer Jeff Denny said the Lick Creek Road project will involve adding four-foot-wide asphalt shoulders along the road from Anna to Interstate 57.

The Lick Creek Road project is expected to cost $2.4 million. The county has received $2.1 million in federal safety project funds for the work. The county's match for the project will be $200,000.

The bridge project is expected to cost about $350,000. Federal, state and local funds will be earmarked for the project.

The county engineer also announced at the meeting that he is planning to retire at the end of the year. "We appreciate very much what you've done," county board of commissioners chairman Max Miller said. Several applications have been received by the county to fill the post.

In other business at the meeting:

County commissioner Kent Pitts reported that progress continues on the construction of a new animal control facility. The new facility is being built along Kaolin Road, between Anna and Cobden.

Pitts again reported an ongoing need for donations of food for the dogs at the current animal control facility. Donations of money also are welcomed.

County commissioner Darryl Harvell made note of the services which are offered by the Southern Five Regional Planning District and Development Commission.

Harvell represents the county commissioners on the district's board. Southern Five serves local governing bodies and businesses in Union, Alexander, Johnson, Massac and Pulaski counties.

State police trooper injured in crash

A traffic accident last week in Union County left an Illinois State Police trooper with injuries.

The state police gave the following account of the accident:

On April 23, at approximately 9:06 p.m., Illinois State Police, ISP, officials investigated a traffic crash in Union County involving an ISP trooper's squad car which was hit by a motorist who failed to move over.

On the above date and time, an ISP squad car was parked on the inside shoulder on Interstate 57 northbound near milepost 37.5, just north of Lick Creek Road, with emergency lights activated, handling a motorist assist.

The trooper was inside of the squad car when it was struck by a white Infiniti.

The trooper was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the Infiniti, 59-year-old Kimberly Keser of Creal Springs, reported no injuries on the scene.

Keser was cited for the Move Over Law – Failure to Yield to Stationary Emergency Vehicle and Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident.

Already in 2024, as of April 24, ISP had sustained 14 Move Over Law-related crashes, with six troopers injured.

In 2023, ISP had 21 Move Over Law-related crashes, with seven troopers injured.

The state police sustained 25 crashes in 2022, leaving 13 troopers injured.

ISP reminds the public that the Move Over Law, also known as "Scott's Law," requires all drivers to move over when approaching an emergency vehicle or any vehicle with its emergency or hazard lights activated.

ISP noted that a person who violates the Move Over Law faces a fine of no less than $250 and no more than $10,000 for a first offense.

If the violation results in injury to another person, the violator's driver's license will be suspended for a mandatory period of anywhere between six months and two years.

Fire department grants

(continued from page 1)

"We continue to see and hear about the need and understand the issues fire departments face when it comes to funding across the state," Illinois State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera said.

"I am proud this year we were able to increase our grant funding to $4 million, a $2.5 million increase from last year, which has allowed us to award over 100 more departments money to purchase lifesaving tools they might not have been able to afford otherwise," Rivera said.

Most Illinois fire departments, fire protection districts, township fire departments and stand-alone, nonprofit ambulance service providers were eligible to apply.

All fire departments, fire protection districts and township fire department applicants were required to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System, NFIRS, for a minimum of two years prior to applying.

Housing rehab grants awarded

Illinois state officials on Wednesday, April 24, announced Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, for Housing Rehabilitation recipients.

A total of $8.9 million has been awarded to 14 communities, which will support housing rehabilitation projects.

Awards for local governments range from $539,000 to $650,000, with up to $60,000 available for each home.

The awarding of the grants was announced in Chicago by Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, DCEO.

Southern Illinois communities were among those receiving grants. They included:

The Village of Carrier Mills, $650,000. The Village of Goreville, $539,000. The City of Mt. Vernon, $650,000. The City of Orient, $650,000. The City of Zeigler, $650,000.

Housing rehabilitation grants are designed to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners with improvements to ensure safe and sanitary living conditions.

Eligible uses of funds include structural work, electrical, plumbing, new appliances, flooring, ADA accessibility accommodations and more.

Drill conducted

Southern Illinois University Carbondale conducted its annual emergency exercises April 24 with a different scenario: what happens in the four hours after the immediate danger has passed and people need services.

First responders, university leaders and the Emergency Operations Center, EOC, comprising professionals from many departments, continued from last year's simulation, in which an active shooter killed and wounded students before taking his own life.

Poshard Foundation announces grants for more than $104,000 to area agencies

As part of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, Jo Poshard, director of the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children, planned to announce grants for more than $104,000 at a press conference early this week.

The press conference was scheduled Tuesday afternoon at John A. Logan College in Carterville.

A total of 28 grants were be given to Southern Illinois agencies to be used specifically for services directly dealing with abused, abandoned and neglected children in the region.

The organizations which were scheduled to receive grants included:

Amy Schultz Child Advocacy Center, Mt. Vernon. Arrowleaf, Vienna. Baptist Children's Home and Family Services, Carmi. Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Illinois

Brightpoint, Herrin. Cairo Women's Shelter Inc. Caritas Family Solutions, Carterville

CASA of Franklin & Hamilton Counties, Benton. CASA of Jefferson County, Mt. Vernon. CASA of South Central Illinois, Salem. CASA of Southeastern Illinois, Harrisburg.

Centerstone, West Frankfort. Children's Medical and Mental Health Resource Network, Anna

Clarity Women's Care, Carbondale. Franklin-Williamson Child Advocacy Center, Herrin. Hoyleton Youth & Family Services.

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services, Southern Region. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Marion.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois-Prisoner and Family Ministry, Marion. Perry-Jackson Child Advocacy Center, Pinckneyville.

Shawnee Health-Healthy Families Program, Carterville. Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless, Marion.

Spero Family Services, Mt. Vernon. Stress and Trauma Treatment Center Inc., Eldorado. Survivor Empowerment Center, Carbondale.

The Guardian Center, Carmi. The Night's Shield, West Frankfort. Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center, Anna.

"April is state and national Child Abuse Prevention Month," Jo Poshard said. "Our foundation distributes these grants in April to draw attention to the plight of abused children in Southern Illinois and to remind the public that child abuse exists twelve months a year…not only in April. We must be vigilant year-round."

"It has been our mission for twenty-five years to help the abandoned, neglected and abused children of Southern Illinois to overcome their abuse and return to a more normal childhood through counseling, medical intervention, food security and recreational activities," Glenn Poshard said."These grants, administered by our committed social service workers, serve that purpose."

Glenn and Jo Poshard, co-founders of the Poshard Foundation, believe every child deserves a safe person, a safe place and a safe community.

Unfortunately, they say, that is not the reality for many children in Southern Illinois.

The abused, neglected and abandoned children are those the Poshard Foundation seeks to help.

Whether it is by providing counseling, cribs, therapeutic camps, supplies for college-bound foster children or training for the prevention of violence against children, the foundation strives to make a difference in young lives.



Blessing of Squads held Sunday

Personnel with law enforcement agencies from throughout the Southern Illinois area, including Union County, were in attendance for Blessing of the Squads, which was held last Sunday at the Cross of Peace on Bald Knob Mountain near Alto Pass. Blessing of the Squads was presented by the Southern Region Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary.

Home of new business center timeless treasure in City of Anna



Casper House Business Center

The new Casper House Business Center along North Main Street in Anna is home of eight businesses. All eight of the businesses are owned by women.

A ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, April 20, celebrated the grand opening of the newly renovated Casper House Business Center in Anna.

The owner of the Casper House Business Center, Brandy Renshaw, was joined by her fellow business owners, as well as their friends, family and members of the community for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Casper House Business Center is located at 205 N. Main St. in Anna, next to the Anna Post Office.

The ribbon cutting included an open house with members of PAST (Promoting Appreciation of Structural Treasures) on hand to portray characters from the history of the Casper House.

Renovation of the historic building into expanded commercial spaces began over a year ago. Today, all of the spots are filled, with eight businesses now calling the Casper House Business Center home.

All eight of the business are owned by women. The businesses that call the Casper House home include Luxe Sunless Tanning, Graceful Glow, Mr D's Melts & More, Ashley Williams Beauty, TMG Web Co, Roany Pony Boutique, Simply Graceful Events and Wild Rose Studio.

The Casper House Davie-Brown Family History

Editor's note: the following article was shared by PAST historian Barbara Bauer on the occasion of the opening of the Casper House Business Center.

Winstead Davie founded his new railroad town in 1854 and named it Anna in honor of his dear wife Anna Willard Davie.

However, they continued to live in Jonesboro throughout their lives. They welcomed 10 children into their family in the little house on Market Street just off the Jonesboro Square. They raised five children to adulthood.

A great deal of the town of Anna history can be related to the lives and families of the five Davie children, Daniel, Emily, Serena, Mary Ann and Nancy.

The oldest brick house in Anna was built by the founding Davie family at 100 W. Monroe in 1855.

When Winstead and Anna Davie chose to remain in Jonesboro, that new home was sold to their son Daniel Spence Davie and his wife Cornelia Flagler Davie. The property has a history all its own.

Davie daughter Emily married Col. Ben Wiley and subsequently moved to rural Makanda.

Serena married J.K. Walton and raised her family on the Walton Farm east of Anna.

Mary Ann married Thomas Perrine and lived in the big house on South Street in Anna. (She wrote letters to her mother a mile away in Jonesboro and sent them by courier.)

Daughter Nancy Atkins Davie was 10 years old when her father Winstead founded Anna. Her middle name was in honor of Anna Davie's mother Nancy Atkins Willard. As a teenager she watched her siblings marry and establish reputable career, business and social positions in the community.

Winstead Davie not only taught positive life skills to his descendants, he played an active role in their development as citizens. One can only imagine he was scoping the horizon for a son-in-law worthy of his daughter Nancy Atkins Davie. History doesn't tell us how they met, but it does describe the enterprising young man she was to marry.

Daniel Warren Brown was born near Cairo at Unity, Ill., in 1841. His father Daniel Brown was of Irish descent and was a farmer and large land owner.

Some accounts relate that he made his fortune lumbering timber from the rich Southern Illinois forests. D.W. worked with his father in agriculture, then took an apprenticeship at Caledonia to become a telegraph operator.

Then for some years, he worked for a New York company as a grain and cotton buyer in Cairo. He also cultivated cotton in Alexander County before he moved to Anna in 1865.

D.W. Brown, age 24, took a position as clerk in the merchandise business of Winstead Davie. (It seems he was not the first son-in-law who was in Mr. Davie's employ before his marriage to a Davie daughter.)

Daniel Warren Brown married Nancy Atkins Davie in 1867, and together they built the stunning brick Victorian home at 205 N. Main St. in Anna in 1875.

The Browns raised six children in this home: Warren, Hendra, Nancy Antionette, Mary, Zora Arthur and Anna Serena. There are Anna streets named for Warren and Hendra.

Prominent Anna citizens who are descended from this family include Warren's granddaughter Millicent Casper Hankla and Hendra's grandson, the late Everett L. Ury.

It is said that the Browns made their first fortune in lumber as they met the need for frame building construction in the mid-1800s. History repeats many stories of homes and businesses that were lost to fire in those days of candlelight and fireplace usage.

Winstead Davie and D.L. Brown owned land to the north west of Anna that afforded good clay for making bricks.

In the late 1800s, brick-making businesses flourished to meet the need for more fireproof structures in business and home construction. It is said that fortunes were also made in the brick making and brick construction trades.

A few senior Anna residents remember the Brown lawn bordered by a decorative iron fence and Annabelle plants. Since the Kirkpatrick family lived across the street, the plants were sure to be original native Union County stock.

The Brown-Casper House is one of those "timeless treasures" of lasting beauty in the City of Anna. It was sold by heirs of the Brown family in 1947 to Dr. Russell Casper. He and his son Dr. John Casper operated dental offices in the iconic building. Other rooms were used as rental property.

In 2024, the building was purchased by Brandy and David Renshaw who have painstakingly rescued, restored and repurposed this grand old building into a showplace of entrepreneurship. According to them and their associate business owners, the best is yet to come.

Best wishes to The Casper House from PAST of Union County.

PAST seeks to Promote Appreciation for Structural Treasures and to tell the stories of those who work, play, worship and live in those structures.

Wellness on Wheels visits scheduled in county

Southern 7 Health Department, S7HD, has announced Wellness on Wheels, WOW, Van Clinics which are scheduled during May in Union County.

The health department reminds the public that it offers STD and HIV testing and free condoms on the WOW van and at each of its seven public health clinics in the area.

The schedule for May includes:

May 8. Dollar General Store, Cobden, 9 a.m. to noon. Farm Fresh Dairy Store, Anna, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

May 29. Sunshine Senior Center, Anna, 9 a.m. to noon. Shawnee Community College Anna Extension Center, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Free services which are available include NARCAN training, blood pressure checks, home colorectal cancer tests (FIT), medication disposal packets, COVID test kits and condoms.

Charged services which are available include blood lead, hemoglobin and cholesterol screenings, STD tests (including chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis), HIV, pregnancy and TB skin tests, TD/Tdap shots for adults, well water tests and hereditary genetic cancer testing.

Charged services, excluding a well water test, require a health insurance card.

All services, both free and charged, will be offered while supplies are available on the day of service.

Flu shots will be provided to patients based on vaccine availability on the day of the clinic and while supplies last. Health insurance cards are required.

Southern 7 advised that those who want to request a COVID-19 booster should contact their local public health clinic for details.

Through a grant funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, Southern 7 Health Department provides many health care services through IDPH WOW Van Clinics.

The WOW Van rotates through high, health-risk communities each Wednesday in the lower seven counties in Illinois.

The Wellness on Wheels van is a multidisciplinary unit which is available to the Southern Seven Health Department through a partnership with IDPH to provide health screenings and other services.

IDPH partners with health agencies and hospitals to provide staff and services at the Wellness on Wheels van at sites where people can come for medical services.

No appointment is needed for services. Walk-ins are welcome. Clinic dates, times and available services are subject to change without notice.

The Big Eight

The director of two community economic development associations in Utah compiled the following tongue-in-cheek list of sure fire ways to "Ruin Your Town":

1. Stay away from town meetings and be sure to criticize the way things run. You don't have to be there to know that somebody else is not doing it right.

2. Complain bitterly about the climate. Dwell on cold winters, the hot summers and the generally tough conditions for the people who live here. Let the world know that this is the last place anybody would want to live and work.

3. Knock your city and county governments. Spread the word about the stupidity of your elected officials. After all, they are all just out to get you anyway.

4. Don't buy anything locally. Use discount stores in the city and direct mail catalogs for all of your purchases. It's a lot more important to save a buck than to save your local merchant.

5. Snipe at the local newspaper. Tell anyone who will listen that those media people are just no good and that they never print the news you want to read.

6. Boycott community events. Tell yourself and anyone else that it's not your job to show up for ball games, concerts and school programs. Who really cares if anyone participates in those things?

7. Be more negative. Everybody knows that all kids are delinquents, all business people are crooks and all public officials are just looking out for themselves. Try to get in as many bad remarks about the town as possible.

8. Be skeptical, cynical and critical about anything designed for the community's progress and betterment and do it as loudly as possible. Blame progress for every difficulty, economic development for changing things from the way they were in the good old days, and disagree with anything that makes things different in your town.

Most people interact with 10 or more people every day of their lives. That's 310 individuals this month alone. Think of the good you could do by keeping a more positive attitude when talking about your community.

Young writers honored

The English Department at Shawnee Community College has once again celebrated the works of young writers in the region.

The annual Celebrating Young Writers High School Writing contest featured three categories: non-fiction, short fiction essay, and poetry.

Two students from Dongola High School were among the winners.

In the 11th/12th grade poetry category, Sara Flick earned second-place honors with her poem "Acorns."

Kaitlyn Herrin received third place for her poem "Leaves Falling."

More than 100 students in grades 9 through 12 submitted their work.

The winners were celebrated recently with a dinner and awards ceremony at Shawnee Community College's main campus near Ullin.

First place winners received $100, second place $50 and third place $25.

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SOUTHERNMOST ILLINOIS
SHAWNEE FOREST COUNTRY

Southernmost Illinois tourism promoted in Chicago

The Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau has launched a media campaign in the Chicago area. Chicago residents, commuters and visitors will see promotions to visit the Shawnee Forest Country of Southernmost Illinois as they move through their home neighborhoods, run errands or are traveling a little farther. Signs on buses and at bus and train stops show the beauty of Southernmost Illinois. The promotion throughout the City of Chicago is reaching pedestrians, riders and drivers on their daily journeys and shows the contrast of city life to adventures they can experience in Shawnee Forest County of Southernmost Illinois. The Southernmost Illinois Tourism



Illinois state retirees meet in Anna

Illinois state retirees met recently in Anna. Among those at the meeting were, from left, John Weir, president of Subchapter 55 in Eldorado and state executive board members; Jeri Knupp, president of AFSCME Council 31 Subchapter 90; Maria Britton-Sipe of Springfield, AFSCME Illinois retiree coordinator; and Bob Sipe of Springfield, a retired University of Illinois professor. Britton-Sipe was the guest speaker at the meeting. She shared information about pensions, health insurance, Social Security and other concerns. Martha Ann Webb won the door prize at the meeting. State retirees meetings are scheduled at 9 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Shawnee Community College Anna Extension Center. All retirees and their families are invited to attend the meetings. Photo provided by Martha Ann Webb.

Anna-Jo Garden Club
Spring Perennial Plant Sale
Straight from our garden to yours!
Saturday, May 4
8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
at the Anna-Jo Garden Club Park
Corner of E. Vienna and Old 51 S
Hostas, lilies, irises, ferns, Annabelle hydrangeas, perennial flowers, geraniums, house plants, trees and shrubs, AJ Garden Club aprons, Annabelle Festival T-shirts, gardening gloves and raffle tickets for a very large quilt donated to the club by Common Threads Quilt group will be for sale

"The Preaching Pen"

We Are All Debtors

The Apostle Paul admits, "I am a debtor both to Greeks and to the barbarians, both to wise and to unwise," Romans 1:14.

The rule for debt is repayment, and much like Paul, we will either pay by sacrificing our fleshly desires and wants to serve God, or we will pay by sacrificing our souls as we are separated from God. Because of our sin, we fall further into debt, Romans 3:23. However, Jesus Christ's sacrifice was, is, and will always be able to cover any debt that man accrues, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

To have our debt settled with God, we must walk after Christ. The term "walking" is a Jewish idiom for living. Servants of Jesus are to live in ways which are worthy of the Lord, Colossians 1:10 and in the Lord, Colossians 2:6. Rather than waver between worldly influences and our obligation to Christ, Christians must circumspectly examine their lives, Ephesians 5:15.

How can one accomplish such a task? First, we must commit to walk in love, Ephesians 5:1-2. Second, we must walk in wisdom, Colossians 4:5. We must be spiritually-minded. Finally, we must walk in Truth, 2 John 4. If we live by the Truth and in the Truth, the sacrifice of Christ's death will erase all our debts with God. Mankind cannot erase debt by himself; have you had your sins blotted out of God's ledger?

Ryan Thornsberry,
Anna Church of Christ

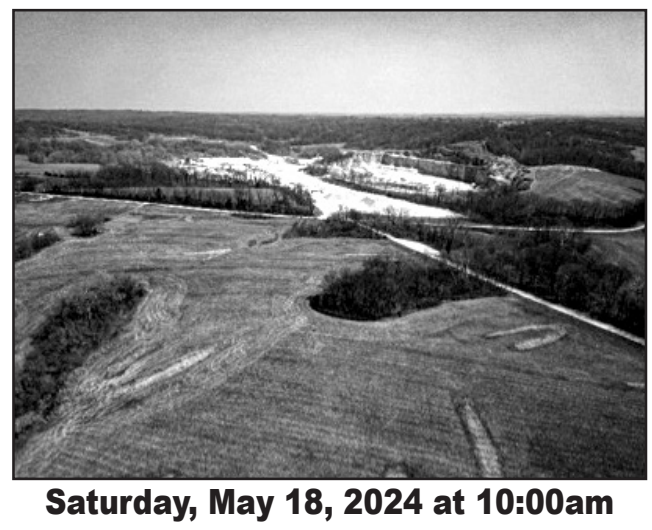
Tickets sold out for Cobden High School play

Tickets are sold out for the upcoming Cobden High School spring play.

"Puffs or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic" is scheduled to be performed May 3-4 at the Varsity Theater in downtown Carbondale. Performances are set for 7 p.m. each day.

No tickets will be sold at the door on the nights of the performances.

696+/- ACRES
WRIGHT FAMILY LAND AUCTION - UNION COUNTY, IL



Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 10:00am
St. Mary's Church Parish Hall, Anna, IL

The Wright Family is offering 696+/- acres of prime Illinois farmland, hunting land, and a quarry at public auction on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 10:00am at St. Mary's Church Parish Hall in Anna, IL. The property features 282 tillable acres, excellent hunting and recreation, approximately $330,000 in timber value, and an active limestone quarry. Tracts range from 5 to 388 acres.

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Information Herein Believed To Be Accurate But Not Warranted

Young performers take stage for show at Anna Arts Center



Talent show performers

Performers at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council's Anna Arts Center high school talent show on April 27 included, from left, Grayson Smith, Kayden Grant, Aaliych Preeter and the Animal Gallery Band: Jason Vizard, Cameron Golladay, Connor Richardson and Elias Harner. Photo provided.

By Lee Hackney
for the Shawnee Hills Arts Council

Saturday, April 27, I headed down to Shawnee Hills Arts Council's Anna Arts Center with some friends to see the high school talent show. I went in with an open mind and was ready to have a great time.

I loved the gathering of 58 people, including the seven performers, who watched each other perform from the crowd. It was amazing.

We were some of the first people to arrive, and all of the performers were helping each other set up for their acts. That's the kind of stuff you'd never have happen at an arena show.

Jaylyn Althoff, the coordinator and emcee for the event, did a fantastic job of pulling the event together and keeping things moving during the show. She is a sophomore at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School and a board member for the Shawnee Hills Arts Council.

The first act was the band Animal Gallery, with Connor Richardson on bass guitar, Cameron Golladay on lead guitar, Elias Harner on drums and Jason Vizard as singer. These guys put on a high energy show and got the crowd really hyped up. Even though I didn't know any of the words, I was still having a fantastic time, which shows they know how to put on a great show.

After that, Kayden Grant wowed the crowd when he played the piano and sang three gospel songs. Kayden loved talking to the crowd and explaining the history of the songs he sang.

Next was Aaliych Preeter, who sang a song. Her singing was so emotive and powerful and I loved the feeling and inflection in her voice. The crowd gave her a happy endorsement.

The last performer was Grayson Smith, who did karaoke. He traveled a couple of hours to get to Anna to surprise his girlfriend. Grayson put on a killer act and the crowd was really feeling it.

All in all, it was a great evening filled with great music and even better people. All of the performers were incredibly kind and down-to-earth. I had so much fun and as people were leaving it was obvious that they also really enjoyed themselves.

To sum things up, go to the arts center's events; support their shows. You'll have the time of your life. Remember it's happening at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council.

River-to-River Trail Society hike planned

The River-to-River Trail Society announces a public hike which is planned May 4 at Bork's Falls in Johnson County.

The hike is free and open to the public. The trail society said the hike will be a moderate out and back hike, 4 miles long, with three hours of hiking time.

The leader of the hike can be reached at 618-599-0686 for more information.

Those who want to go on the hike are advised to meet at 10 a.m. at the Goreville Village Park.

The hike is intended for people who are in good health who have done some hiking.

Hiking sticks and boots or sturdy shoes are recommended by the trail society.

The society advises hikers to bring their own water and a snack, and to not bring dogs.

A post on the River-to-River Trail Society website at www.rivertorivertrail.net has more information, including driving directions to the meeting area for the hike.

A-J softball posts 20th win of season

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School softball team keeps on winning.

A-J won three more games in recent action. With the victories, A-J improved to 20-4 this spring. The Lady Wildcats had an 8-1 record in conference play.

A-J 17, West Frankfort 2

Four players hit home runs as A-J defeated the West Frankfort Lady Redbirds 17-2 at home on Monday, April 22.

Kansas Craig hit a solo home run in the fourth inning and singled twice in the second inning. Ruby Yates, Ana Turner and Emma Craig also homered in the game.

Pitcher Ruby Yates earned the win for the Lady Wildcats.

Kansas Craig went 3 for 4, Jayci Needling 2 for 3, Ana Turner 2 for 3, Ruby Yates 2 for 2, Jayda Shepard 2 for 3, Emma Craig 2 for 3, Chesnee Marks 1 for 1, Carley Pearson 1 for 2 and Olivia Schaefer 2 for 2.

A-J 5, Crab Orchard 1

Ariana Turner hit 2 home runs and drove in 2 runs as A-J defeated the Lady Trojans at home on Wednesday, April 24.

Pitcher Ruby Yates earned the win for the Lady Cats, surrendering 5 hits and 1 run over 7 innings while striking out 7 and walking 2.

Kansas Craig went 1 for 3, Jayci Needling 2 for 3, Ariana Turner 2 for 3, Jayda Shepard 2 for 3, Emma Craig 1 for 3 and Kayleigh Wheaton 1 for 3.

A-J 15, Benton 0

Jayda Shepard drove in 5 runs on 2 hits to lead host A-J past Benton on Thursday, April 25.

Sadie Cross, Jayci Needling and Jayda Shepard all hit home runs in the win.

Shepard, Needling, and Kansas Craig each collected 2 hits to lead AJ.

Kansas Craig went 2 for 4, Jayci Needling 2 for 4, Ariana Turner 1 for 3, Ruby Yates 1 for 3, Jayda Shepard 2 for 2, Emma Craig 1 for 2, Chesnee Marks 1 for 1, Carley Pearson 1 for 1, Olivia Schaefer 1 for 2 and Sadie Cross 1 for 1.

A-J scheduled to play against Murphysboro on Tuesday, Century on Wednesday and has an away game against Massac County slated for Thursday, today.

Anna VFW calendar of events

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

The VFW Auxiliary plans to smoke pork butts on Saturday, May 11, just in time for Mother's Day. Orders can be placed by calling auxiliary president Phillip Wright at 618-967-1374. The auxiliary is also fixing sides, so Mom doesn't have to cook at all. Sides can be ordered by calling Linda at 833-7737. Sides can be picked up at the same time as the pork butts. The sides will include homemade potato salad, homemade baked beans, homemade slaw, homemade pasta salad and a baker's dozen of homemade cookies. You can mix or match a half gallon of each plus the cookies for $50 or you can get individual half gallons of the sides for $15 or gallons for $27. Orders must be received by no later than Thursday, May 9.

The VFW is raffling a TCL 65-inch TV that will be given away on Monday, May 27. Tickets are $5 each or five for $20 and can be purchased at the VFW.

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

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On Sunday, April 28, Pastor Perry Williams spoke at both services.

In the morning worship service, his message was about leaving a legacy. He shared "your families and friends will be influenced by your life choices. Will they follow along in your footsteps holding on to the things you thought important?" Scripture was from the second chapter of 1st Kings in the Old 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. Jayson Rose sang the song, "Don't Stop Praying."

Women's and men's Bible studies were planned at 7 p.m. Monday, April 29.

Birthdays: Kayleigh Wheaton, Nina Wright, April 28; Connie Wilkins, April 29; Levi Jones, May 4; Bella Tweedy, May 5.

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.

Respiratory virus season winding down

The Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, on Friday, April 26, reported that with the respiratory virus season continuing to wind down, the state's overall respiratory virus level was minimal.

IDPH also reported that all of the counties in the state were at a low level for COVID-19 hospitalizations, according to CDC data for the week ending April 20.

The total number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Illinois declined 22 percent during the same week, according to the CDC COVID Data Tracker.

"I am happy to see the continued decline in respiratory viruses across the state," IDPH director Dr. Sameer Vohra said in a news release.

"As the respiratory season winds down, I want to make Illinoisans aware that COVID-19 has not been following the same seasonal trends as flu and RSV – at least not yet.

"For this reason, I want to remind those individuals most vulnerable to severe COVID-19 about their options to stay protected.

"If you are 65 years of age or older, you are eligible for a second dose of the updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine. If you are immunosuppressed, you are eligible to receive an additional updated shot two months after your previous dose."

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, ACIP, issued updated guidelines in February that recommend a second dose of the updated COVID-19 shots for those who are more vulnerable to severe outcomes.

With the respiratory virus season winding down, IDPH announced that it would suspend regular updates until further notice.

The public can continue to monitor statewide conditions at IDPH's Infectious Respiratory Disease Surveillance Dashboard.

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

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Apostolic Lighthouse Church
Breakfast and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship service at 10:45 a.m.
Midweek service Wednesday at 7 p.m.
423 S. Front St.
Cobden, IL
51-3GC

Worship & Praise

You're Invited!
CrossPointe Church
Sunday Worship Service 10:30am
Wednesday Bible Study 7pm
409 S. Green St, Anna, IL 62906 (Corner of West Spring and S. Green St)

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CALM BEFORE THE STORM

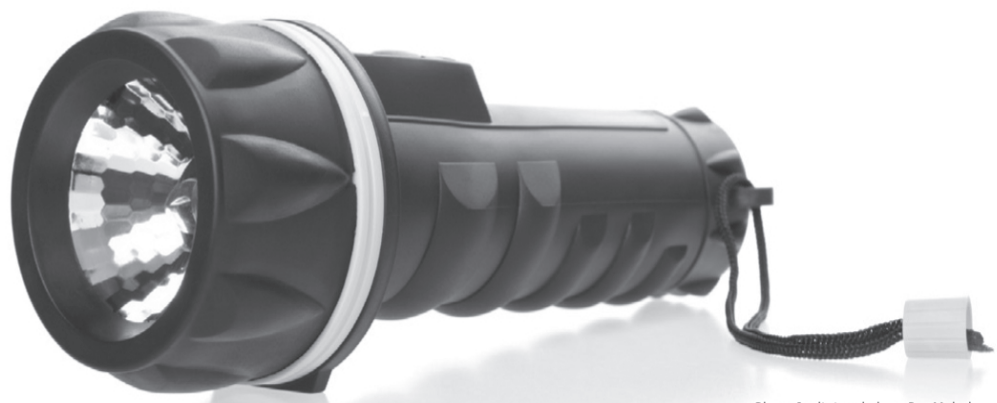


Photo Credit.istockphoto.PetrMalyshev

Why don't we search for the flashlight while it's calm? Instead, we often wait until the storm is raging and the electricity has gone out only to find ourselves rummaging around in the dark. Where's the light when we need it? It's not much help having a light you can't find in a power outage. It's better to be prepared. It's the same in life. We can be prepared for the storms if we look to our Lord. "You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light." (Psalm 18:28) Worship at His house this week and store up the light of God's love in your life.

Daily Bible Readings

Isaiah	Psalm	Psalm	Psalm	Psalm	Psalm	Psalm
56:1-8	16	34	50	80	81	84

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

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FOR SALE

YARD SALE: Trying Again! Saturday, May 4th 8 AM to ?? 700 McKinley, Anna. Plus size, men's & more, household, Weider Pro weight bench, vintage windows, portable building, lawn mower. LOTS MORE ADDED.

21g

COLLECTIBLE ITEMS: Plates, House items by Norman Rockwell, M.J. Hummel, Danbury Mint, Brenda Burke. Pictures, Toys, Nutcrackers, Porcelain Dolls, Barbies, X-Box & PlayStation. Games, Figurines, TY Animals, Frames, Books & More! May 3 and 4, 8:00 to 2:00. Wyatt Storage, by Anna State Bank. (come down the alley)

20p,21g

GARAGE SALE; May 3rd and 4th, 8am to 2pm, Cookware bakeware, jewelry, collectibles, and old stuff, much more. 1920 St. Johns Rd., rural Anna. Call 618-697-7936.

21g

SPECIALTY SHOP; Fiber & Threads Needlecrafts Yarns, supplies, beginning knitting, crochet and sewing lessons 1207 Frank Scott Parkway East, Suite 100, Shiloh, IL 62269 618-416-0738 www.fiberandthreads-needlecrafts.com or Facebook & Instagram fiber:-threadsn

21g

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Caregiver for elderly female. Requires assistance with all activities of daily living. No heavy lifting. Hours: 7:45 am to 5:30 pm, Monday thru Friday. Start date May 6th. Caregiving experience and reference required. Call 618-697-5350 for inquires.

20-21g

PASTOR NEEDED: Congregational Church of Alto Pass Il. is seeking a full-time pastor. Submit a resume to: Congregational Church, 5 Poplar St. Alto Pass, IL 62905

18-21g

JOB POSTING: Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81 is accepting applications for the following vacancies:

- Technology Coordinator
- Special Education Teacher
- Head Football Coach
- Cheerleading Coach
- Bus Drivers (for regular route and/or extracurricular trips)

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 (for Tech, Spec. Ed. or bus driver) or Rick Livesay, Athletic Director (for Football and Cheerleading Coach), 608 S. Main St., Anna, IL 62906. Please contact the Superintendent's Office at (618) 833-8421 for more information. Applications will be taken until positions are filled.

20-21g

VACANCY NOTICE: Dongola Unit # 66 is seeking applicants to fill the following position:

-Middle School Teacher

Specifics of the position are: Preferred endorsements include social studies and science. Flexibility to teach other middle school areas as needed. Benefits include sick, personal and bereavement leave. Health, dental and vision insurance is available. Board paid life insurance policy. Applicants must submit a letter of interest addressed to Dr. Paige Maginel, resume, transcripts and three letters of recommendation to:

Jamie Flores,
District Secretary
Administrative Building
Dongola Unit School #66
1000 High Street
Dongola, IL. 62926

DUSD # 66 is an equal opportunity employer. Position will be filled as soon as possible.

20-21g

YARD SALE

YARD SALE: Saturday, April 27TH 8 AM to ?? 700 McKinley, Anna. Plus size clothing, plants, household items, vintage windows, portable building, lawn mower, too much to mention. Rain = postpone.

20g

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN THE INTEREST OF: ARABELLA SKY LAMINACK, A Minor. NO. 2023-JA-39

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO 705 ILCS 405/2-16

Darrell Laminack, and any Known and Unknown Fathers, and to WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

TAKE NOTICE that on 11/6/2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by TYLER E. TRIPP, Union County State's Attorney, by his Assistant State's Attorney, J. Jeremy Lloyd, in the Circuit Court of Union County entitled "In the interest of ARABELLA SKY LAMINACK, a minor", and that in Judge Tyler R. Edmonds courtroom at Union County Courthouse, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, Illinois on Thursday, the 16th day of May, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

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

Keri Clark
Clerk of the Circuit Court
8221-941864

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

PUBLIC NOTICE: Request for Proposal (RFP) to Provide Food Service Management Company Services

Notice is hereby given that Jonesboro CCSD #43 ("the School Food Authority-SFA"); is requesting proposals to provide Food Service Management Company Services for the operation in the Federally funded School Nutrition Programs.

Proposals will be accepted at:
Attn: Kevin Westall
Superintendent
Jonesboro CCSD #43
309 Cook Ave.
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Proposals will be accepted until 1:00 pm on 06/17/2024, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. Proposals must be submitted in full as outlined in the solicitation.

A meeting to tour the facilities will be held at 3:00 pm on 05/13/2024, at 309 Cook Ave. Jonesboro, IL 62952. Attendance at this meeting is highly encouraged..

Beginning 05/25/2024, RFP specifications will be available. Contact Kevin Westall 618-833-6651 or kwestall@jonesboro43.com.

Questions related to the solicitation may be submitted, in writing, via email to kwestall@jonesboro43.com by 05/17/2027 before 12:00 pm, Questions will be answered via email in the form of an addendum to all potential proposers..

Proposers. must be fully aware and comply with USDA and state regulations regarding School Nutrition Programs.

The district reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or parts thereof, waive any irregularities or informalities.

All vendors must comply with applicable Illinois law requiring payment of prevailing wage by contractors working on public funded projects, and with Illinois statutory requirements regarding labor, including Equal Employment Opportunity Laws.

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.

8221-941956

PUBLIC NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE CERTIFICATE NUMBER 2020-00020

To: THE FIRST BANK & TRUST CO., AS TRUSTEE, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A LAND TRUST AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 12, 1986 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NO. 437 AND/OR UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS

OFFICER FOR THE FIRST BANK & TRUST COMPANY OF MURPHYSBORO

LARRY JAMES WALKER

MARY LOU WALKER

REGGIE EUGENE WALKER

DARREN BAILEY UNION COUNTY TREASURER

KWAME RAOUL IL ATTORNEY GENERAL

DAVID HARRIS IL DEPT OF REVENUE

LANCE MEISENHEIMER UNION COUNTY CLERK

, and all unknown owners, occupants, beneficiaries, heirs, devisees or parties interested. A Petition for a Tax Deed on the premise described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, as Case Number 2024-TX-7. On September 4, 2024 at 11:00 am, in Room TBD, the Petitioner will make an application to such court in Union County, Illinois, for an Order on the Petition that a Tax Deed be issued if the real estate is not redeemed from the sale. The real estate is described as follows, to wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: S12 T11 R1W E 1/2 NE SW E 1/2 SE SW MOBILE HOME PT 04-121

PERMANENT INDEX NUMBER: 04-12-02-204-A

and was sold on 2/9/2022 for general taxes for the year 2020. The period of redemption will expire on 8/16/24.

RAVEN SECURITIES INC PETITIONER
8221-941627

PUBLIC NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE CERTIFICATE NUMBER 2020-00110

To: ALAN MIKEL STEWART AND/ OR UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OFFICER FOR THE ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK LANCE MEISENHEIMER UNION COUNTY CLERK

, and all unknown owners, occupants, beneficiaries, heirs, devisees or parties interested. A Petition for a Tax Deed on the premise described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, as Case Number 2024-TX-8. On September 4, 2024 at 11:00 am, in Room TBD, the Petitioner will make an application to such court in Union County, Illinois, for an Order on the Petition that a Tax Deed be issued if the real estate is not redeemed from the sale. The real estate is described as follows, to wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: S24 T12 R2WLOT 27 WILLARD'S 1ST ADD. 55'X 144

PERMANENT INDEX NUMBER: 14-00-07-757-

and was sold on 2/9/2022 for general taxes for the year 2020. The period of redemption will expire on 8/16/24.

RAVEN SECURITIES INC PETITIONER
8221-941628

STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT UNION COUNTY PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT) REQUEST OF: Lane Michael Hammer CASE NUMBER 2024MR04

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from:

Lane Michael Hammer
to the new name of
Elena Vieira Hammer

The court date will be held on May 15, 2024 at 11:00 am at 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, Union County in Courtroom #1

/s/ Lane Michael Hammer
Petitioner
8221-941570

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS TRUIST BANK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS BRANCH BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY, PLAINTIFF, VS. MARLA M FULLER; KEVIN A FULLER; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS. NO. 23 FC 18 426 COOK AVENUE JONESBORO, IL 62952 NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on April 16, 2024, Sheriff of Union County will on June 5, 2024, in UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 309 W. MARKET, JONESBORO, IL 62952, at 9:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: SITUATED IN AND A PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE TWO WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, UNION COUNTY. ILLINOIS.

DETAIL DESCRIPTION: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 00' EAST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 1560.58 FEET; THENCE NORTH 90 DEGREES 00' WEST A DISTANCE OF 488.79 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 82 DEGREES 25' 19" WEST A DISTANCE OF 279.82 FEET; THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES 14' 14" WEST A DISTANCE OF 291.238 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF THE "OLD HAMBURG ROAD"; THENCE NORTH 68 DEGREES 35' 57" EAST ALONG THE SAID CENTERLINE A DISTANCE OF 115.44 FEET TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO CORPORATE LIMITS; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 00' 00" EAST ALONG THE SAID CORPORATE LIMITS A DISTANCE OF 20.82 FEET TO THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE "OLD HAMBURG ROAD"; THENCE ALONG THE SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE ON A CURVE TO THE RIGHT OF RADIUS 308 FEET A DISTANCE ALONG THE ARC OF 62.11 FEET, THE LONG CHORD OF SAID CURVE BEING 62.00 FEET LONG AND BEARING NORTH 79 DEGREES 05' 29" EAST; THENCE NORTH 84 DEGREES 41' 21" EAST ALONG THE SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 107.54 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 36' 15" WEST A DISTANCE OF 297.34 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; EXCEPT PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, CITY OF JONESBORO, UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SAID EAST HALF; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 00' EAST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE SAID EAST HALF A DISTANCE OF 1560.58 FEET; THENCE NORTH 90 DEGREES 00 WEST A DISTANCE OF 488.79 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 82 DEGREES 25' 19" WEST A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 6 DEGREES 06' 47" EAST A DISTANCE OF 305.77 FEET TO THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF HAMBURG STREET; THENCE NORTH 84 DEGREES 41' 21" EAST A DISTANCE OF 70.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 36' 15" WEST A DISTANCE OF 297.34 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TAX NO. 08-25-06-155-A

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 426 Cook Avenue
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Description of Improvements: The property is a single family. The property has a one car garage. The garage is attached. The exterior is vinyl siding. The color is blue. The gas is off. The water is off. The property does not have a fence. The property is vacant.

The Judgment amount was $87,953.19.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 23-15173IL

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

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

I3242601
8221-941604

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

ESTATE OF MARGARET JENNY ANDERSON, DECEASED. NO. 2024-PR-8 IN PROBATE

NOTICE OF DEATH, INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Margaret Jenny Anderson of 485 N. County Line Road, Cobden, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 9, 2024, to Henry

Mulder, 245 Mt. Glen Hill Lane, Cobden, IL 62920, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this Court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Administrator, or both, on or before October 18, 2024, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Independent Administrator si required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant ot the Administrator and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: April 10 , 2024.
HENRY MULDER
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR

CAMERON LAW FIRM, LC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY NO. 6244394
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
8221-941401

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS TRUIST BANK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS BRANCH BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY, PLAINTIFF, VS. MARLA M FULLER; KEVIN A FULLER; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS. NO. 23 FC 18 426 COOK AVENUE JONESBORO, IL 62952 NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment

of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on April 16, 2024, Sheriff of Union County will on June 5, 2024, in UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 309 W. MARKET, JONESBORO, IL 62952, at 9:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

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

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 23-15173IL

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I3242601
8221-941604

Community college students awarded SIU Provost's Scholarships

Twelve high achieving community college students from Illinois have received Southern Illinois University Carbondale's 2024 Provost's Scholarships, which cover tuition and mandatory fees for two years.

SIU Carbondale provost Sheryl Tucker and other university officials recently paid surprise visits to present SIU's most prestigious transfer student award and congratulate seven of the students from three local community colleges: Shawnee Community College near Ullin, John A. Logan College at Carterville and Rend Lake College at Ina.

The remaining five scholarship recipients learned of their awards during a Zoom session on April 18.

One-hundred-fifty-three community college students competed in the selection process.

Selected students demonstrate high academic achievement, have a strong record of leadership in their communities and participate in numerous extracurricular activities.

The award is renewable, contingent upon the students maintaining a 3.0 or higher grade point average.

Scholarship recipients from the Southern Illinois area, by hometown, college and major, include:

Anna: Hayley Davis, Shawnee Community College, management.

Carbondale: Emily Fulk, John A. Logan College, journalism.

Johnston City: Cara Cullum, John A. Logan College, elementary education.

Mount Vernon: Cooper Hemby, Rend Lake College, accounting.

Percy: Kody Behnken, John A. Logan College, electrical engineering.

Sesser: Derek Sample, Rend Lake College, agricultural systems and education (teacher education program).

Sesser: Maggie Stacey, Rend Lake College, hospitality, tourism and event management.

Tunnel Hill: Alexis Goddard, Southeastern Illinois College, mathematics (teacher education program).

West Frankfort: Kile Britten, John A. Logan College, radiologic sciences.

West Frankfort: Autumn Ridlen, John A. Logan College, nursing.

Revival set at Anna church

Anna First Church of the Nazarene is planning to host a revival with the Rev. Kim Smith. The church is located at 100 Kirk St. in Anna.

The revival begins Sunday, May 5. The schedule includes breakfast at 9 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. A morning revival service is at 10:35 a.m. A cookout will be at 4 p.m. An outdoor evening revival service is planned at 6 p.m., if the weather permits.

An evening revival service is planned at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 6.

Garden club plant sale scheduled

Anna-Jo Garden Club is planning to have a plant sale on Saturday, May 4.

The sale is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Anna-Jo Garden Club Park in Anna. The park is located at the corner of East Vienna Street and old U.S. Route 51.

Featured at the sale will be hostas, lilies, perennial flowers, geraniums, house plants, trees, shrubs, Anna-Jo Garden Club aprons, Annabelle Festival t-shirts and gardening gloves.

Raffle tickets will be available for a very large quilt. The quilt was donated to the club by the Common Threads Quilt Group.

Total solar eclipse had impact on animals

By Phyllis Coulter
FarmWeek

People were talking about the birds and the bees and the total solar eclipse.

But they may have been missing the peripheral effects of the April 8 total solar eclipse on animals, especially those in the path of totality.

"The side consequences are more impactful on animals than the actual eclipse," said Angela Green-Miller, a University of Illinois professor who works with animal behavior, animal systems and welfare.

It's things like increased traffic among eclipse watchers that farmers and animal managers should have prepared for, she said. While the eclipse itself lasted only about four minutes, other impacts lasted for hours.

Having experienced a four-hour drive taking eight hours after the last total solar eclipse, Green-Miller encouraged farmers to plan ahead.

Be aware that feed deliveries may have been delayed in slow traffic.

During the eclipse itself, animals often react either like it's sunset or a storm is coming. It might have created some confusion for animals outdoors, but animals indoors might not have noticed the difference, she said.

Animal experts know from experience how animals are likely to react during an eclipse, said Brent Pease, assistant professor in the forestry department at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Since the mid-1900s, much has been written on how wildlife responds.

"Birds generally become quiet. Nocturnal insects, like crickets, vocalize. Spiders repair their webs. Bees retreat to their hives," he said.

What's different now is the increased input from technology to observe this behavior. And the ability to "engage the public with the scientific process," said Pease, who is involved with Eclipse SoundScapes, a citizen-science project led by NASA.

He leads the Sounds of Nature Project, based in Illinois, where people have been given devices to record the sounds of nature to monitor biodiversity. The data collected helps protect diversity in nature.

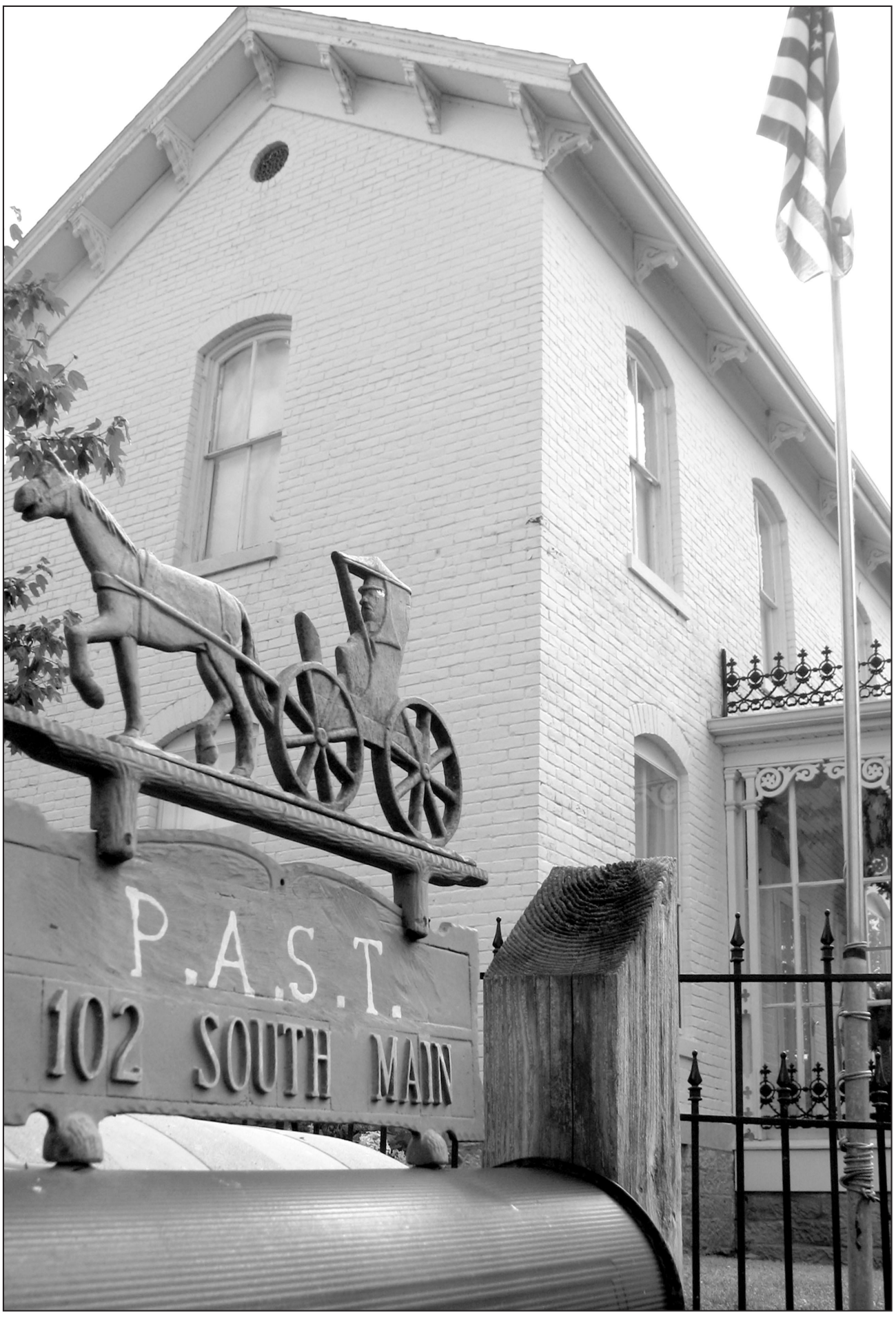
The Eclipse Soundscapes project did the same thing but recorded the sounds of nature, before, during and after the eclipse to gather data about the impact on animal behavior.

About 100 people involved with Pease's Illinois-based project were expected to join the national effort.

"For Soundscape, SIU is increasing data capacity collection by 25 percent," he said.

Pease was also excited about how the sound project can engage others. The eclipse itself was mostly a visual experience, but by drawing attention to how wildlife sounds change, it could engage individuals who could not see the moon shade the sun. The National Federation of the Blind supported the sound-based efforts, he said.

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.



PAST of Union County's

Heritage House Museum, Jonesboro

One of the many reasons we are glad to be a part of the Union County community.

The Gazette-Democrat

The Talk and Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Obituaries

Michael F. Whelan



Michael F. Whelan, 64, of Barnhart, Mo., and formerly of Cobden, died peacefully at Mercy Hospital South in St. Louis on April 22, 2024, after a lengthy battle with cancer-related complications.

He was born on Sept. 14, 1959, in Chicago, the son of James and Florence Jones Whelan.

As the youngest of three boys, Mike was raised by an aunt and uncle in Herrin. He graduated from Herrin High School in 1977.

Shortly after graduating, he joined the U.S. Navy. Over his naval career as a damage controlman, he got to see the world and was a highly decorated sailor.

In 1991, he married his beloved Elizabeth, and they spent the next 33 years having all sorts of interesting adventures together.

Mike retired from the Navy in 2000 after 20 years of service and went about furthering his education, graduating in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He worked in the legal, financial and security sectors until his retirement in 2019.

He enjoyed painting, cooking, camping, traveling, DIY projects, Cubs baseball, learning and trying new things and his dogs.

He is survived by his loving and dedicated wife, Elizabeth; his older brother, Frank; nieces Heather and Amber; and two step-kids, Laura (Matthew) and John. He was preceded in death by his parents and his oldest brother, Thomas.

He will be remembered as a soft-spoken, intensely private, fiercely persistent, hardworking, loyal, kind and generous man with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. He will be terribly missed.

Funeral services for Michael Whelan were at 1 p.m. Friday, April 26, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with Bill Littrell officiating. Interment followed in the Cobden Cemetery.

Military funeral honors were conducted at the cemetery by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW and the U.S. Navy honors team.

Memorials can be made to the ASPCA. To visit his memorial page and to leave online condolences for his family, visit the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

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

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES

Kenneth Dean Phillips



Kenneth Dean Phillips, 95, of McClure, died Saturday, April 27, 2024, at his home.

He was born on Nov. 28, 1928, in St. Louis, the son of Romyn and Dorothy Brown Phillips.

He married Barbara Lindsay on Dec. 27, 1958, in Alton.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Phillips of McClure; children Renee (David) Day of Memphis, Tenn., Sheila (Doug) Dorsey of St. Louis, Dr. Kenneth (Emily) Phillips of Cape Girardeau, Kristi (Brian) Rowan of Olive Branch, Miss., Kirk (Lee) Phillips of Shelbyville, Ky., Clay Phillips of Cincinnati, Ohio, Kyle (Gretchen) Phillips of Kansas, Ill., and Gretchen (Darryl) Bunch of Jonesboro; grandchildren David (Shelly), Hunter (Derek), Haley (Trevor), Connor, Taylor, Troy, Kirk, Holden, Alaina, Stephen, James, Kaitrin, Seth and Hanneli; great-grandchildren Leala, Emerson, Rowan, River, Della and baby Cora on the way; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings and their spouses Donald (Ann) Phillips, Betty (Merle) Abercrombie and JoAnn (Keith) Wahlstrom; and two grandchildren, Asher David Phillips and Spencer Thomas Phillips.

Mr. Phillips served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a member of the American Legion, the Missouri State Teachers Association and Farm Bureau.

He graduated from the University of Missouri. For one year, he taught at Parkway High School in St. Louis before beginning his 20-year teaching career at Cape Girardeau Junior High School.

He loved to work. So much so, it often carried over into his dreams. He loved farming, never considering it a job, but rather an honor to be on the land.

The family of Kenneth Phillips gives a special thank you to Residential Home Health and Hospice and the special women and men who helped take care of Ken his last two years.

Funeral services for Kenneth Phillips were at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with Ivan Ryan officiating.

Interment followed in the Anna Cemetery. Military funeral honors were conducted at the cemetery by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW and the U.S. Marine Corps funeral honors team.

Memorials can be made to Residential Hospice, the American Cancer Society or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

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

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

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES

View Obituaries Online at annanews.com

Carl Dean Massey



Carl Dean Massey, 87, of Anna, died Sunday, April 28, 2024, at the Illinois Veterans Home in Anna, surrounded by his family.

He was born on May 6, 1936, in Union County, the son of Charlie and Lucy Fite Massey.

He was married on July 27, 1961, to Betty Joyce Barlow. She preceded him in death on Sept. 3, 1998.

He is survived by his two sons, Eric Massey (Jennifer) of Anna and Ronald Massey of Anna; grandchildren Morgan Bodnar (Matt) of Raleigh, N.C., Derek Massey of Anna, Zach Massey of Energy and Bryce Massey of Anna; his special friend, Evelyn Hileman; many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 37 years, Betty Massey; as well as his parents; brothers Bill (Helen) Massey, Leland Massey, Ted Massey and Delmar Massey; sisters Mildred (Wilis) Reynolds and Helen (Glenn) Brewer; and his daughter, Becky (Cagle) Massey.

Mr. Massey was a member of the United Pentecostal Church of Ware and he loved the Lord. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He led his family with guidance and support throughout all his life, and family was his greatest achievement.

Mr. Massey served in the U.S. Army. He was a Master Mason. He became a Standard Oil agent in 1965. In 1976, he and Betty began Massey Oil Company Inc., which he proudly operated through October of 2004.

Carl and Betty put God, church, family and friends at the forefront of everything they did. Together, their children continue to carry on the leadership example of love, support and forgiveness of one another.

After the death of Betty, Carl and Evelyn enjoyed many years of adventure, friendship and fun. Evelyn is a grandmother to many grandchildren, but she is the grandmother that became best friends with our Papa.

Visitation was from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, at Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro. Services followed at the funeral home, with Dwane Sims officiating. Interment with military honors followed at the Anna Cemetery.

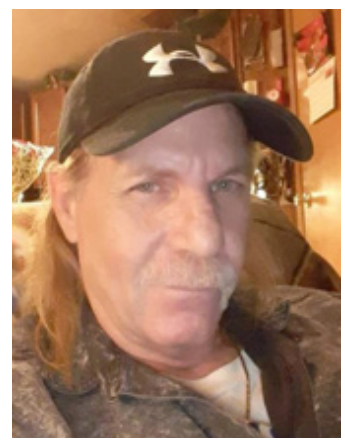
Memorials can be made to the activity department at the Illinois Veterans Home in Anna and to Hospice of Southern Illinois.

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

Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro was in charge of arrangements.

Crain Funeral Home

Larry 'Joe' Birkhead



Larry "Joe" Birkhead, 63, of rural Buncombe (the Mt. Pleasant community), died at 4:25 p.m. Thursday, April 25, 2024, at Union County Hospital in Anna.

Joe, as he was known to family and friends, was born on May 25, 1960, at Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Mo. He was the son of Larry Maurice Birkhead and Janet Jo Gillespie Birkhead.

He is survived by a son, Blaze Birkhead of Carbondale; daughters Cindi (Chip) Banks of Du Quoin and Aimie Taylor of Carbondale; grandchildren Tristan Taylor of Murphysboro, Jadyn (Natalie Knight) Taylor of Carbondale, Chad Carroll of Murray, Ky., and Raylee Carroll of Carbondale; a great-granddaughter, Nova; a sister, Debra Hess of the Mt. Pleasant community; and nieces Lottie Jo (Mark) Smith and Rebecca (Ian) Marx.

He was in death by his parents, as well as his maternal and paternal grandparents.

He attended Shawnee Community College and earned certification as a welder. He was an owner/operator over-the-road truck driver. He also was a heavy equipment operator and dump truck driver.

He was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed fishing, riding his Harley and shooting pool. He was a member of New Beginnings Community Church in Carbondale.

A graveside service honoring the life of Larry Joe Birkhead was conducted at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, at McGinnis Cemetery, 8365 Illinois Route 146 E., Dongola. Pastor Mike Miller officiated. Interment followed.

Memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society, 5 Schiber Port, Suite C, Maryville, Ill. 62062.

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

Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna was in charge of arrangements.

Schools competing to win $5,000 grant

Six schools in the southernmost part of Illinois are competing to win a $5,000 grant in Arrowleaf's School Grant Contest.

The participating schools are Anna-Jonesboro Community High School, Buncombe CUSD No. 43, Hardin County High School, Vienna Grade School, Vienna High School and Meridian CUSD No. 101 in Mounds.

The competition involves selling ultimate family destination raffle tickets. Sales began March 30 and continue until May 6.

The school that sells the most tickets will win the contest's grand prize. The top ticket-selling class or club will also win a pizza party.

The contest aims to support Arrowleaf's initiative to construct a safe and secure emergency shelter for local individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Participating schools were required to register by March 29. The schools received a comprehensive packet containing instructions and promotional materials to kick-start their ticket-selling efforts.

"The outpouring of support from ours and the surrounding communities for Buncombe Grade School is amazing. I want to encourage everyone to support Arrowleaf and their great work for our region," Buncombe CUSD No. 43 superintendent/principal Jamie L. Kerley said in a news release.

Arrowleaf development officer Allison Schuster shared her enthusiasm for the collective effort towards a common goal of supporting local initiatives.

She also urged supporters to visit myarrowleaf.org/shop and place their orders to bolster their chances of winning.

The winner will be announced live on Facebook on May 10.

For more information about Arrowleaf's School Grant Contest, including how to participate and support a local school, visit https://myarrowleaf.org/school-grant-contest/.

Information also is available by contacting Allison Schuster at allison.schuster@myarrowleaf.org.

Jonesboro Library to host special activities in May

Jonesboro Public Library is planning to host special events during May.

Here's a look at the upcoming schedule:

Saturday, May 4, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bubbles and Books. The program is geared towards toddlers. An interactive story hour with bubble play is planned.

Wednesday, May 8, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tortured Poets Club. The club is a poetry event for teens.

Friday, May 10, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. DIY Clay Buttons. The workshop is for adults who are looking for a creative outlet. Seasoned crafters and curious beginners are welcome.

Saturday, May 11, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Paint Rocks. The activity is for middle school students.

Thursday, May 16, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Butterfly Garden. Kindergarteners are invited to come and learn about butterflies.

Saturday, May 18, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bubbles and Books.

Wednesday, May 22, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tortured Poets Club.

Friday, May 24, 2 p.m. DIY Clay Buttons.

Saturday, May 25, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Paint Rocks.

Thursday, May 30, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Butterfly Garden.

Regular library hours are scheduled from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The library is closed on Sunday and Monday.

Cemetery commission plans to have memorial dedication

The Mound City National Cemetery Preservation Commission is planning to have a memorial dedication to honor Sherry Moses Miller.

A magnolia tree will be placed on the grounds of the Mound City Historical Museum at 315 S. 4th St. in Mound City at 5 p.m. Monday, May 6.

Friends are invited to gather for the dedication and a small reception following the ceremony.

Sherry Moses Miller was a longstanding member of the commission.

She joined the commission in the early years of its formation and was a dedicated, loyal member.

She served on the board as secretary until her passing. She was active in implementing and helping in all the activities the commission sponsored over the years.

Moses Miller worked with the Daystar Community Program in Cairo for more than 30 years. She began her work as the program's outreach coordinator and went on to become the director.

SIU Jazz Ensemble to perform

The premiere of works aimed at emphasizing the importance of peace will be featured by the SIU Jazz Ensemble at Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Shryock Auditorium in a free, public concert which is scheduled at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 4.

The "Songs for Peace" is composed by Isaac Lausell, an associate professor and director of jazz studies in the SIU School of Music. The work is a suite for Lausell's students in the ensemble.

Members of the jazz ensemble Lausell directs include Conner W. Branch, a junior in aviation flight on trumpet; Jake A. Heetel, junior, aviation flight, on saxophone; Spencer G. Bouhl, junior, music, on trombone; Myles Daniels, junior, music, on guitar, along with SIU alumni Thomas O. Willhoit on bass guitar and Kyle B. McDonald on drum set.



Cobden students visit Union County Museum

Students in teacher Ashley Taylor's 7th grade history class at Cobden Junior-Senior High School visited the Union County Museum on Friday, April 26. The museum is located in downtown Cobden. The students toured the museum and also learned about local history. Photo provided.

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

Bro. Easton continued his series on "You Can't Put God in a Box," focusing on verses from 2 Samuel, chapter 7.

The main points covered Sunday were that "when God calls us to do something, He will not abandon us halfway through; even though our 'name may be great,' we still sin but God will restore us if we repent; and, God will 'give us rest' from our enemies."

Vodra and Aldi Gerard took up the tithes and offerings.

Camp Ground Church's lead elder for May will be Tony Gerard.

Those who had birthdays during the past week included Mary Robertson on April 25 and Mary Jones on April 29.

Those with wedding anniversaries have been Wally and Tracey Warren on April 25 and Billy and Donna Williams on April 28.

Sympathy is extended to Mary Robinson, whose sister passed away this past week. Services were in Chicago.

All are welcome to services each Sunday at Camp Ground Church. Fellowship and coffee are at 9:15 a.m., followed by Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

The church is located at the intersection of Camp Ground Road and Tunnel Lane east of Anna and north of Illinois Route 146.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

A morning worship service was held Sunday, April 28. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins.

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

The Sunday morning message was titled "Taming the Tongue." Scripture was from James. The message was brought by Pastor Wright.

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.

The Sunday evening message was titled "The Promise Before the Persecution." The message was brought by Pastor Wright from several scriptures.

Spring Revival with the Rev. Kim Smith

Sunday, May 5: Breakfast, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning revival service, 10:35 a.m. Cookout, 4 p.m. Outdoor evening revival service, 6 p.m., weather permitting.

Monday, May 6: Evening revival service, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night

A Wednesday night service is planned at 6:30 p.m. May 8 in the sanctuary. A youth group meeting and children's quizzing are planned at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Mother's Day Banquet

May 11: Mother's Day banquet in the fellowship hall, 6 p.m. The cost is $2 per person, with proceeds going towards children's and teens' summer camps. (scholarships are available for the cost if needed).

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.

Television Listings

THURSDAY MAY 2, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	NHL Pre	★★★ **"Captain America: The First Avenger"** Chris Evans.	Big City	The Sympathizer	**"Out of League"** ('10)	**"The Fighter"** ('10)
:30			Local			2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs (Live)		Big City			
7 PM	9-1-1 (HD)	Young	Next Level Chef (HD)	Law & Order (HD)				Hailey's	Jinx Life Death (HD)	**"Fifty Shades of Grey"** ('15) Jamie Dornan.	**(:15) "What Happens Later"** ('23) Meg Ryan.
:30		Ghosts						Hailey's			
8 PM	Grey's Anatomy (HD)	**(:01)** So Help Me Todd	Lego Masters (HD)	Law & Order: SVU				Moon Girl	**"Bridget Jones's Baby"** Renée Zellweger.		
:30					2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)		★★★ **"Captain America: The Winter Soldier"** ('14) Chris Evans. (HD)	Miraculous			
9 PM	**(:01)** Station 19 (HD)	Elsbeth (HD)	Local Programs *Local info.*	Organized Crime (HD)				Miraculous		**"Fifty Shades Darker"** ('17) Dakota Johnson.	A Gentleman (HD)
:30						NHL Post		Miraculous			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local		**"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story"** ('16) (HD)		Jessie	Reality		★★ **"In the Cut"** ('03, Mystery) Meg Ryan. (HD)
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	**(:35)** Late Show (HD)		**(:35)** Tonight (HD)				Jessie	The Sympathizer		
11 PM			Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)			Miraculous		**"Fifty Shades"** ('18)	
:30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night			911 Crisis	Miraculous	Leo Reich		

THURSDAY

7:00pm

ABC 9-1-1 "There Goes the Groom" Maddie and Chimney prepare to finally enjoy their wedding day, but when the groom suddenly vanishes, the team bands together to find him. TV14 (HD)

8:00pm

NBC Law & Order: Special Victims Unit An elite squad of New York City Police Department detectives must investigate a series of sexually oriented crimes throughout the city to serve justice. TV14 (HD)

FRIDAY MAY 3, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	**(5:00)** Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA Countdown (HD)	Bang (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Big City	**(5:59)** ★★★ **"Wonka"** ('23) Timothée Chalamet.	**"Don't Let Go"** ('19)	★★½ **"Baywatch"** ('17) Dwayne Johnson. (HD)
:30						2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs (Live)		Bluey			
7 PM	Shark Tank (HD)	S.W.A.T. (HD)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (HD)	To Be Announced	**(:10)** 2024 NBA Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)		Chicago Fire (HD)	Bluey		**"Walking Tall"** Dwayne Johnson.	
:30								The Ghost			**"Anything for Fame"** ('23) (HD)
8 PM	**(:01)** 20/20 *Investigative news.* (HD)	Fire Country (HD)		Dateline NBC *Investigative news.*			Chicago Fire (HD)	The Ghost	We're Here (HD)	★★ **"American Heist"** Tory Kittles.	
:30								Miraculous			
9 PM		Blue Bloods (HD)	Local Programs *Local info.*		2024 NBA Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	**"Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker"** ('19) Daisy Ridley.	Chicago Fire (HD)	Miraculous	Real Time with (HD)		★★★½ **"Boogie Nights"** ('97, Drama) Mark Wahlberg. (HD)
:30								Miraculous			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local			Chicago Fire (HD)	Hailey's	Reality	**"The Last Stand"** Arnold Schwarzenegger.	
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	**(:35)** Late Show (HD)		**(:35)** Tonight (HD)				Hailey's	We're Here (HD)		
11 PM			Local Programs				Chicago Fire (HD)	Bluey			
:30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night				Bluey	Real Time		

FRIDAY

7:00pm

MAX Walking Tall ★★½ (2004, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Johnny Knoxville. A former Special Forces operative discovers his hometown is on the verge of being corrupted by the influx of drugs and gambling. PG-13

9:00pm

USA Chicago Fire "One Crazy Shift" The squad searches for the cause of mysterious fires; Casey continues down a disturbing path; Mouch hopes to make bring his long-awaited dream to fruition. TV14 (HD)

SATURDAY MAY 4, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	MLB Baseball *"Regional Coverage-Teams TBA"* (Live) (HD)	The 150th	2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs (Live)	**"The Empire Strikes Back"** ('80)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Villains	**"Fury Road"** ('15) (R)	**"Fast Color"** ('19)	**"Saving Private Ryan"** ('98) Tom Hanks. (HD)
:30				Local				Kiff			
7 PM	NHL Hockey *"Teams TBA"*	FBI: International		Law & Order (HD)			Chicago Fire (HD)	**"Movie"**	**"Predators"** ('10) Adrien Brody.	★★½ **"xXx"** ('02, Action) Vin Diesel. (PG-13)	
:30					2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	**(:47) "Star Wars: Episode VI: Return of the Jedi"** ('83) Mark Hamill.					**"Black Lotus"** Rico Verhoeven.
8 PM		FBI: Most Wanted		Weakest Link (HD)			Chicago Fire (HD)	**(:40)** Kiff	**(:50)** ★★★ **"RoboCop"** ('14, Action) Joel Kinnaman. (PG-13)		
:30								Big City		★½ **"xXx: State of the Union"** ('05)	
9 PM		48 Hours (HD)	Local Programs	Password (HD)			Chicago Fire (HD)	Big City			**(:35) "13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi"** ('16)
:30								Hamster			
10 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs *Local info.*	We Are Family (HD)	Local	SportsCenter (Live)	**"Star Wars: Force Awakens"**	Chicago Fire (HD)	Hailey's	**(:20)** We're Here (HD)	**(:46) "Insidious: Chapter 3"** ('15)	
:30				Saturday Night Live (HD)				Bluey			
11 PM	Local Programs		Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)		Chicago Fire (HD)	Bluey			
:30											

SATURDAY

7:00pm

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)

8:00pm

CBS FBI: Most Wanted "Footsteps" The team steps in to investigate after a string of bombings begin targeting retired NYPD officers; Ray decides to strengthen his relationship with Cora. TV14 (HD)

SUNDAY MAY 5, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	Next Level Chef (HD)	Weakest Link (HD)	MLB Baseball *San Francisco Giants at Philadelphia Phillies* (Live)	**(5:02) "Star Wars: Return of the Jedi"** ('83)	Law & Order: SVU	**(5:15) "Movie"**	**(:04)** ★★½ **"Predators"** ('10) Adrien Brody. (HD)	**"Baby Mama"** ('08)	**"Forrest Gump"** ('94)
:30											
7 PM	American Idol *"716 (Adele Night)"* (HD)	The Equalizer (HD)	Simpsons	The Voice *"The Playoffs, Part 2"* (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	Villains		**"Vacation"** ('15) Ed Helms. (HD)	A Gentleman
:30			Krapopolis					Big City			
8 PM		Tracker (HD)	North (HD)			Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	The Sympathizer		The Chi *"Long Live"*
:30			Grimsburg			Bang (HD)		Big City		**(:40) "The Losers"** ('10, Drama)	
9 PM	Jeopardy! Masters	CSI: Vegas (HD)	Local Programs	Dateline NBC	SportsCenter (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	Jinx Life Death (HD)		The Chi (HD)
:30						Bang (HD)		Miraculous			
10 PM	Local Programs *Local info.*	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs *Local info.*	SportsCenter (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Villains	Last Week	**(:18) "The Foot Fist Way"** ('08)	A Gentleman
:30						Bang (HD)		Chibiverse	**(:40)** The Sympathizer		
11 PM		Local Programs	Local Programs			**"Menace"** ('99) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous			**"The Hateful Eight"**
:30					Sports			Miraculous	Sympathiz.	**"Attack"**	

SUNDAY

7:00pm

FOX The Simpsons "The Tell-Tale Pants" After a fight with Homer and an unexpected windfall, Marge decides to secretly spend the money on herself instead of telling him. TVPG (HD)

8:00pm

SHOW The Chi "Long Live" The community is shaken over a loss; Jake's wisdom provides Victor with clarity; Kiesha has a breakthrough after reliving a past memory; Bakari faces Nuck. TVMA (HD)

MONDAY MAY 6, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	★★★ **"The Giver"** ('14)	**(5:02) "Shades"** ('17)	**"Into Darkness"** ('13)
:30			Local			Bang (HD)		Big City			
7 PM	Jeopardy! Masters	Neighbor.	MasterChef Junior	The Voice *"Live Top 12 Performances"* (HD)		Bang (HD)	WWE Monday Night Raw (Live) (HD)	Hailey's	The Sympathizer	**"Don't Let Go"** ('19) Storm Reid.	Star Trek: Discovery
:30		Bob Hearts				Bang (HD)		Hailey's			
8 PM	Celebrity Wheel of	NCIS *"Reef Madness"*	Think You Can Dance			Bang (HD)		Moon Girl	**"Stop Making Sense"** ('84) (NR)	★★ **"Killing Me Softly"** ('02) Heather Graham.	Mayor of Kingstown
:30					2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	Bang (HD)		Miraculous			
9 PM	**(:01)** Press Your Luck	NCIS: Hawai'i (HD)	Local Programs *Local info.*	Deal or No Deal (HD)		Bang (HD)		Miraculous	**(:31)** Jinx Life Death		Mayor
:30						Dad (HD)		Miraculous			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local		Dad (HD)	**(:01)** McBee Dynasty	Jessie			**(:40) "Boogie Nights"** ('97, Drama) Mark Wahlberg. (HD)
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	**(:35)** Late Show (HD)		**(:35)** Tonight (HD)		Dad (HD)		Jessie	Reality	**(:25) "The Lovely Bones"** ('09)	
11 PM			Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)	Dad (HD)	**(:03)** McBee Dynasty	Miraculous	**(:01)** We're Here (HD)		
:30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Dad (HD)		Miraculous			

MONDAY

7:00pm

FOX MasterChef Junior Talented children between the ages of 8 and 13 showcase their culinary abilities and compete for a grand prize of $100,000, facing challenges along the way. TV14 (HD)

8:30pm

TBS The Big Bang Theory "The Status Quo Combustion" Sheldon contemplates whether he should make a life-changing decision as his whole world begins to change all around him; Raj and Emily reach a new level. TVPG (HD)

TUESDAY MAY 7, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	**(5:00)** Local Programs	Local Programs	2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	MLB Baseball *Houston vs New York* (Live) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	**(5:58)** We're Here	**"Woman Walks"** ('18)	**"Everything"** ('22) (R)
:30								Big City			
7 PM	Will Trent (HD)	FBI *Protect America.*	The Cleaning Lady	The Voice (HD)			WWE NXT (Live) (HD)	Hailey's	**"The Zone of Interest"** ('23)	★★½ **"Exotic Marigold Hotel"** ('15) Judi Dench.	A Gentleman
:30								Hailey's			
8 PM	The Rookie (HD)	FBI: International	Alert (HD)	Weakest Link (HD)				Moon Girl			★★★½ **"Rocketman"** ('19) Taron Egerton. (HD)
:30					2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)			Miraculous	Reality		
9 PM	The Good Doctor	FBI: Most Wanted	Local Programs *Local info.*	Password (HD)		Post-Game	**(:08) "The Truman Show"** ('98, Comedy) Jim Carrey. (HD)	Miraculous	**(:19)** The Sympathizer	**(:03) "The Upside of Anger"** ('05) Joan Allen.	
:30						B/R Gaming (HD)		Miraculous			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local				Villains			**(:05) "Beau Is Afraid"** ('23) Joaquin Phoenix.
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	**(:35)** Late Show (HD)		**(:35)** Tonight (HD)		Family		Villains	**"The Lighthouse"** Willem Dafoe.		
11 PM			Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)	Family		Miraculous		**"Manchurian"** ('04)	
:30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Family	**"Truman"**	Miraculous			

TUESDAY

7:00pm

ABC Will Trent "Why Is Jack's Arm Bleeding?" When Will and Faith reopen the case of a missing girl, Will copes with frequent flashbacks; Angie and Ormewood search for answers regarding a veteran's death. (HD)

8:00pm

CBS FBI: International Headquartered in Budapest, the FBI's International Fly Team is tasked with protecting American citizens who face the threat of harm in other countries. TV14 (HD)

WEDNESDAY MAY 8, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	**(5:00)** Local Programs	Local Programs	2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous: Ladybug	**"Devil Wears Prada"**	★½ **"xXx: Un-ion"** ('05)	**(5:35) "Forrest Gump"** ('94) Tom Hanks. (HD)
:30						Bang (HD)					
7 PM	Jeopardy! Masters	Survivor (HD)	The Masked Singer	Chicago Med (HD)		All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite	Law & Order: SVU	To Be Announced	**"Brandy Hellville: Fashion"** ('24)	**"Carrie"** ('76) Sissy Spacek. (HD)	
:30											★★★★ **"Saving Private Ryan"** ('98, Drama) Tom Hanks. (R) (HD)
8 PM	Elementary		Animal	Chicago Fire (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	Moon Girl			
:30	Conners	The Amazing Race *"My Precious"*	Family Guy		2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs *"Teams TBA"* (Live)			Moon Girl	**"Don Jon"** Joseph Gordon-Levitt.	**(:40) "Insidious: Chapter 3"** ('15)	
9 PM	**(:02)** The Pyramid		Local Programs *Local info.*	Chicago P.D. (HD)		Family	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous			
:30						Family		Miraculous			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local		Family	Law & Order: SVU	BUNK'D	Reality	**(:18)** ★★ **"Slice"** ('18) Zazie Beetz.	
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	**(:35)** Late Show (HD)		**(:35)** Tonight (HD)		Family		BUNK'D	**"Road Trip"** ('00) Breckin Meyer.		
11 PM			Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous		**"Silent"**	**"Slevin"** ('06) (R) (HD)
:30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Family		Miraculous			

WEDNESDAY

8:02pm

FOX Animal Control After being fired for trying to expose corruption, a former police officer joins the local animal control office as they deal with various animal emergencies. TV14 (HD)

8:40pm

MAX Insidious: Chapter 3 ★★★ (2015, Horror) Dermot Mulroney, Stefanie Scott. Prior to the harrowing experiences of the Lambert family, psychic Elise Rainier is called upon to use her abilities to help a teenage girl. PG-13 (HD)

Opinion and Commentary

Illinois State Police alert public about phone scam

A warning to the public about a phone scam has been issued by the Illinois State Police, ISP.

ISP reported Thursday, April 25, in a news release that several phone calls had been received during the previous two days from individuals reporting a person claiming to be a state police investigator telling them their identity has been stolen.

This is a scam, ISP declared. ISP special agents will not make cold calls requesting personal or financial information or ask you to confirm personal or financial information.

If you receive a phone call from someone claiming to be an ISP investigator, ask for the caller's name, badge number and phone number, and then hang up. Never provide or confirm personal or financial information over the phone to an unknown caller. You can verify if a caller is an ISP special agent by contacting one of the seven investigative regions throughout the state, which can be found on the ISP website.

If you have provided personal or financial information to a caller, or think someone may have stolen your identifying information, ISP recommends contacting each of the three credit bureaus to put a free security freeze on your credit. This will prevent someone from opening credit in your name.

Contract information for the credit bureaus follows:

https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/.

https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html.

https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze.

You can also call the Illinois Attorney General's Identity Theft Hotline at 1-866-999-5630 (7-1-1 relay service). You will be assigned a consumer advocate to guide you through the recovery process.

Launch of region's new businesses celebrated

During National Small Business Week, the Small Business Spotlight at Southern Illinois University Carbondale plans to celebrate the launch of new businesses in the region. Everyone is invited to attend the Illinois Small Business Development Center event, set for 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. May 2 at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center, which is located at 1740 Innovation Dr.

"The Illinois SBDC at SIU is thrilled to celebrate National Small Business Week alongside our community," said Melissa Ray Roach, SBDC director. "This event not only spotlights the creativity and resilience of our local entrepreneurs, but it also highlights the support and resources available through the SBDC to help businesses launch and grow. We are especially excited about the new Accelerator program the center has partnered on with the city of Carbondale. It provides funding to help support businesses during this very important initial phase in their entrepreneurial journey."

The event will be a time of networking and celebrating the many ways local businesses are succeeding. The winners of the Carbondale Accelerator Program, CAP, Business Plan Competition will be announced. Steve Mitchell, the city's economic development director, will speak about how the grant-funded accelerator program and partnership with SIU began and how it bolsters small businesses.

Also, representatives from area businesses who recently completed an intensive 10-week Launch That Business "fast-track" training program offered by the SBDC will be honored for graduating from the program. Visitors can view exhibits highlighting the products or services offered by those businesses at the showcase, as well.

Launch That Business is designed to assist home-based or small business entities in getting their business concepts on track, offering entrepreneurs practical steps for registering their enterprises as legal entities and providing them with simple tips and tools for maintaining and growing their businesses.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held to celebrate the launch of the new business ventures, too, and a reception with light refreshments will follow.

The U.S. Small Business Administration has observed National Small Business Week for more than six decades, and this year's celebration is set for April 28-May 4. SIU's SBDC is joining to recognize the contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

The SBDC offers a wide variety of services to help the region's small businesses thrive and grow. Business owners can take advantage of no-cost one-on-one professional advising, training and workshops and more. For additional information, visit the website at sbdc.siu.edu, email sbdc@siu.edu or call 618-536-2424.

SIU honors student workers

Southern Illinois University Carbondale recently honored its student employee of the year and other outstanding student workers. A student from Union County was among those honored.

During April 10 award presentations, winners received special Saluki dog trophies, which also commemorated the 2024 eclipse. The awards were designed and created by the SIU Craft Shop.

Anthony Stanczak-Rajcok of Cobden was presented with a Critical Thinking Award.

Ronnie Greiner, an information technology support associate, nominated Stanczak-Rajcok, who is a senior computer science major.

Greiner described Stanczak-Rajcok as "one of our brightest and most thoughtful employees at the Solution Center."

"Anthony definitely stands out above the rest," Greiner said. "He synthesizes problems quickly and asks detailed questions to try and get to the root of the situation."

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Kitty's curiosity leads to big adventure...

So much time...so much space...so little to write about...

Yes, folks, we're keeping with a theme which began a couple of weeks ago. Trouble is, my brain was a wee bit foggy early this week. I'm thinking it was the pollen and various other wonderful things that were floating around in the soupy Southern Illinois spring time air. I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one dealing with such things.

Well, when all else fails, I once again turned to Bob our cat for inspiration. As he often does, Bob was taking a nap Monday evening after he'd had dinner. Or maybe it was before he had dinner. Bob eats and sleeps so much, the routine gets confusing at times.

Anyway, Bob was asleep in a box. The box might have come from the fine folks at Amazon. I do not remember. We have lots and lots of boxes from Amazon.

Fortunately, none of our boxes have come with a cat inside. At least, not that The Other Half has told me. She keeps hinting that we "need" another cat. Two inside cats and her little buddy outside seem like enough to me. Then again, what do I know?

At least one box from Amazon did indeed come with a cat in it. Maybe you saw the story. Kitty's home was in Utah. Kitty, being a curious cat (surprise, surprise), found an Amazon box to her liking. Being a cat, she couldn't help herself. She got in the Amazon box.

Somehow, the story goes, kitty ended up getting accidentally shipped in the Amazon box...all the way to California. Fortunately, kitty had a microchip, which meant that the story had a happy ending. Kitty ended up back home.

A few years ago, Bob had a bit of a road trip of his own. He didn't end up in California. He ended up in Decatur. I'm sure Bob probably wished that we had found him another travel agent.

Bob left home on his road trip to Decatur with all 30 of his pearly whites. When he got back home, soft food was on his menu. Turns out Bob had some sort of cat dental issue, which required a teeth-ectomy. As in all of his teeth. He's doing fine now. And he eats quite well.

Bob is an energetic, rambunctious and occasionally sneaky kitty. When he gets a chance, he'll zoom out the door and head at the speed of light to a nearby gully. The gully has a drain pipe which runs under the street. Bob has determined, a number of times, that the drain pipe is a perfect place to hide.

Fortunately for us, Bob does like to eat...and to sleep in a nice, warm comfortable place...so he eventually makes his way back home after an adventure in the drain pipe.

We have made an attempt to "outsmart" Bob, if such a thing is possible for a human being to do with a cat. We acquired a very fashionable orange and black cat leash. You may scoff at the idea of a cat wearing a leash. Bottom line: it works.

Oh, by the way. The leash came from Amazon. In a box. Without a cat...







We had so much fun with our critter collage last week that we decided to try another one...the goose (and goslings), the bluebird and the hawk were spotted during various meanderings in our little corner of the world. When I looked closely at the goose, the feathered critter appear to have a smile on its beak. Really.





Garden of month award presented

Anna-Jo Garden Club has chosen its first garden of the month award recipient for 2024. The award was presented to Maria Castillo in Cobden. Her home is on Cobden School Road near the Cobden Cemetery. In early April, daffodils covered a north facing hillside in her yard, creeping phlox bloomed and her crab apple tree was in full bloom. Later in April, her beds boasted drifts of colorful irises. Her rose bushes and peonies were covered with many buds, promising a beautiful garden all through the spring and summer. Pictured with Maria Castillo are her granddaughters, Valerie and Melanie Godinez. Photos provided.