

# 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...

Job well done to all of those who were involved with the Independence Day festivities on Friday, July 4th, at the Anna City Park.

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Reminder: Alliance of Churches member Faith Community Worship is hosting a "Feed the Kids in the Park" program from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays this summer at the Kiwanis pavilion at the Anna City Park. Free hot dogs and prepackaged snacks are provided for school-age children.

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The Anna Blue Dolphins swim team brought a "very sweet" thank you card to Anna City Hall. The Blue Dolphins swim at the Anna City Pool.

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Anna-Jonesboro Community High School is looking to hire a head coach for the girls' golf team.

\*\*\*

Anna-Jonesboro Community High Schools "official team store" is open until July 30.

\*\*\*

Additional names have been added to the Shawnee Veterans Wall Memorial. The memorial, which was dedicated in 2020, is located on the Shawnee School District 84 campus in Wolf Lake and features the names of more than 1,000 men and women, living and deceased, who have served the nation.

\*\*\*

Lick Creek School has scheduled registration for the 2025-2026 academic year from noon to 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, July 24-25.

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Illinois State Police Troop 10 shared on social media that this year's Team Illinois Youth Police Camp was held in early June. Zone 7 special agent Jeff Stroehlein was voted as "Top Cop" by the cadets at the camp.

\*\*\*

Young people participating in Stinson Memorial Public Library's summer reading program in Cobden got an up-close look at a Cobden Fire Department fire truck Monday morning.

\*\*\*

A "Student Success Saturday" event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 9, at Shawnee Community College's main campus near Ullin. The event is designed for the college's new and returning students and their families.

\*\*\*

New electrocardiography technician and patient care technician certificate programs are planned starting this fall at Shawnee Community College.

\*\*\*

A "Big Trash Clean Up" is underway this week in the City of Anna.

## 'Hidden gem': Growing number of visitors discovering Southern Illinois as travel destination

By Sonya Dymova, Maggie Dougherty  
Capitol News Illinois

WOLF LAKE, Ill. — Standing on the edge of a 300-foot limestone bluff in Southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forest, Machaela Sweeney could thank the perfect words she typed into ChatGPT for bringing her to the unexpected spot.

"I literally looked up lush, magical, fairytale areas," she recalled, looking over the edge of the forest's Inspiration Point Trail.

A 30-year-old social worker from Hopkinsville, Ky., Sweeney was looking for a destination to recover from burnout. The AI app recommended two destinations: North Carolina or Southern Illinois.

The first recommendation didn't surprise her. Sweeney said that many people in Kentucky go to the Great Smoky Mountains when they want to get away. But she had never heard anyone talk about the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois before.

"So this almost feels like a hidden gem," Sweeney said. "If somebody was going to the Smokies all the time and they were tired of it, I would say, 'Try mixing it up.'"

The forest stretches across the eastern and western parts of Southern Illinois, from Inspiration Point Trail overlooking the Mississippi River Valley here in the west to the popular Garden of the Gods wilderness area in Herod to the east.

Sweeney is among the growing number of visitors discovering Southern Illinois as a travel destination amid a recent effort to entice more people to visit for the summer season.

Carol Hoffman, executive director of the Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau, said the primary draws to Southern Illinois are the outdoor recreation activities in Shawnee National Forest, including hiking, cycling, rock climbing and ziplining, as well as another Illinois surprise linked to the unusual terrain: vineyards and five wine trails.

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### Inspiration Point

Machaela Sweeney enjoys the view at the top of Inspiration Point near the Mississippi River in Southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forest. Medill Illinois News Bureau photo by Maggie Dougherty.

The bureau has appealed to riders of the Chicago Transit Authority with a recent signage campaign that invited potential travelers to "go where the bus won't take you" and to "come see our skyscrapers."

In addition to plastering photos of lush greenery and rocky bluffs across Chicago buses and train stops, the bureau has paid to have promotional mailers, exhibits, shows and content creator posts that promote tourism to Illinois' southern region.

Southern tourism bureaus have been tapping into a trend of high visitor spending in Illinois in recent years, exceeding pre-pandemic numbers for the first time in 2023, according to the most recent available data from a 2024 report prepared for the Illinois Office of Tourism.

More Than \$80 billion in Economic Impact

In 2023, tourists spent over \$47 billion across Illinois, creating nearly 450,000 new jobs and generating over \$6.5 billion in state and local taxes, according to the 2024 Tourism Office report. The report estimated that tourism in that year generated over \$80 billion in



### Makanda Boardwalk

A peace sign flag hangs from the window of a storefront on the Makanda Boardwalk. Medill Illinois News Bureau photo by Sonya Dymova.

total economic impact for the state.

Travel tourism influencer Jessica Baine, 35, has worked on tourism promotions with the Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau and Jackson County's Southern Illinois Tourism bureau for more than two years.

Baine, a Carterville nurse

practitioner raised in Southern Illinois, said she regularly receives messages from viewers online who were surprised by the content she shared, telling her, "I had no idea that Southern Illinois looked like that."

Hoffman's group aims to connect with people within "an easy day's drive," typically those within a three- to

six-hour driving distance from the forest, such as those living in Central and Southern Illinois and in the St. Louis metro area.

The advertising campaign is just one in a series of projects seeking to boost tourism in the area in recent years. The industry has seen a more than

(continued on page 3)

## Dixon Springs State Park pool reopens

The public swimming pool at Dixon Springs State Park in Pope County reopened Tuesday, July 1, under the operation of Arrowleaf, a nonprofit human services organization based in Southern Illinois.

The pool and concession stand were scheduled to reopen at 11 a.m. on July 1. Hours are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Trained lifeguards will be on duty. Regular updates can be found on the pool's Facebook group, which can be found by searching for "Dixon Springs State Park Pool & Concession."

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, which operates Dixon Springs, and Arrowleaf entered into an emergency contract to operate the pool this summer after the department twice put the opportunity out for bid but neither drew any interest.

Admission to the pool is \$4 for children 5 and young-

er, \$6 for youth ages 6 to 12 and \$8 for swimmers 13 and older. Arrowleaf operates a small retail shop on site with sunscreen, goggles, sunglasses, arm floats, towels, swim diapers and baby wipes available for purchase. It also operates a concession stand with sandwiches, hot dogs, drinks, popcorn, pretzels, nachos, candy and more.

IDNR has invested about \$183,000 on the Dixon Springs pool during the past several years, including replacement of the pool slide, repairing the steel sand filter tanks, upgrading the chloring distribution system, and installation of a new pool cover, electrical supply boxes, flow meters, pressure gauges, and an aluminum fence between the pool and spectator area.

Dixon Springs State Park is on Illinois Route 146 near Golconda. In addition to swimming at the pool, the park offers camping, hiking, fishing and hunting.

## A-J students do very well in AP exams

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School is sharing some good news about Advanced Placement, AP, exam results for its students.

The school reported on social media "that A-J students are outperforming the national average in a big way!"

One hundred percent of the A-JCHS students who took the AP U.S. history exam earned a passing score.

Eighty-eight percent of the school's students who took the AP literature exam also passed with flying colors.

"To put that in perspective, the national average pass rate for both exams is just 72 percent. That means our Wildcats are ahead by at least 16 percent — an incredible achievement," the school shared.

AP is a rigorous academic program which is designed to sharpen critical thinking and problem-solving skills, two of the most in-demand qualities by employers across every industry, the school added.



### Veterans monument

A veterans monument near the four-way stop in the downtown Anna area was surrounded by American flags on Independence Day, which was Friday, July 4th.



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**Unsettled weather this week**

An unsettled weather pattern was in the forecast for this week in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah advised early Sunday morning, July 6, that daily chances for showers and storms were expected. Heavy rain was expected with any storms that occur. Slightly stronger storms were possible on Tuesday, July 8.

The Weather Service office issued a severe thunderstorm warning at around 1:56 p.m. Monday, July 7, for northwestern Cape Girardeau County in Southeast Missouri. At the time, a severe thunderstorm was located 12 miles north of Jackson, Mo. The storm was moving east at 10 miles per hour.

The Weather Service office issued a special weather statement at 3:32 p.m. Monday, July 7, and advised that a strong thunderstorm would impact Alexander County in Southern Illinois and west central Ballard County in Kentucky. Torrential rainfall and frequent ground to lightning were occurring with the

storm.

At 5:08 p.m. Monday, July 7, another special weather statement was issued which advised that strong thunderstorms would impact northeastern Pulaski County and Massac County, both in Southern Illinois, as well as northeastern Carlisle, Ballard, McCracken and northern Graves counties in Western Kentucky. Strong winds and torrential rain were occurring.

The Weather Service office also issued a special weather statement at 11:32 a.m. Sunday, July 6, for parts of Southern Illinois, including Union County, and Southeast Missouri. The statement advised that thunderstorms were expected to increase Sunday afternoon. Conditions were favorable for a few storms to produce gusty winds.

Portions of Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky were under a dense fog advisory early Tuesday morning. The advisory issued by the Weather Service office was in effect until 8 a.m. At the time, visibility was a quarter of a mile or less in dense fog.

**June warmer, wetter than normal in region**

The month of June was warmer and wetter than normal in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

**Temperatures**

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported in a climate review for the month that temperatures averaged above normal by 1.5 to 2.5 degrees.

Low temperatures were particularly mild, averaging 3 to 5 degrees above normal, which ranked in the top five warmest Junes for most locations. Several mornings during the first half of the month (1st, 2nd, 10th and 11th) featured lows falling into the 50s across portions of the region. Most locations only reached the 70s for highs on the 7th and northern stations reported several days with highs in the 70s during the first half of the month.

Most of the region didn't reach 90 degrees until the 20th or 21st. This was the third latest first 90 degree temperature of the season in Paducah and 2nd latest in Cape Girardeau. This was roughly three to four weeks later than normal.

Once the heat set in though, the region experienced a long duration of highs in the 90s, along with high humidity levels. Most areas observed seven straight days with a heat index reaching 100 degrees from the 21st through 27th. This was only the fourth time on record that Paducah observed this long of a stretch of consecutive days with heat index values above 100 in the month of June, and the first time since 2009.

Most locations peaked between 100 and 105 each day, but a few sites observed readings up to 110, including Mt.

Vernon in Southern Illinois and Murray, Ky.

Somewhat cooler temperatures were observed from the 28th through 30th thanks to more abundant clouds and rain, although humidity levels remained above normal to close out the month.

Paducah had nine straight days with dew points reaching 75 degrees, which was the second longest streak on record in the month of June, which was a testament to just how unusually high the humidity was during the final 10 days of the month.

**Precipitation**

Precipitation averaged wetter than normal across the region, with most areas receiving between 4 to 9 inches. These amounts were roughly 1 to 5 inches above normal.

Localized higher amounts exceeded 10 inches, including 10.57 inches at the Fort Massac State Park COOP station in Massac County.

At the end of the month, portions of Western Kentucky had already received 45 to 50 inches for the year, including the Marshall County mesonet, which has received 50.99 inches. This is roughly the amount of rain typically seen in an entire year...and they received it in six months.

Several days featured amounts exceeding 2 inches in portions of the area, including the 5th, 6th, 13th, 16th and 28th. There were totals around 5 inches in parts of Southeast Missouri on the 5th and just over 4.5 inches in Hopkinsville, Ky., on the 28th.

here were only a handful of stations that received less than 4 inches for the month, including southern Todd County in Kentucky and parts of Jefferson County in Illinois.

**Audit urged for St. Louis Postal Distribution Center**

The U.S. Postal Service's Office of Inspector General has been urged in a June 25 letter from U.S. Rep. Mike Bost, R-Ill., to audit the St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center. Bost represents the 12th Congressional District in Southern Illinois.

Bost cited continued complaints from Southern Illinois constituents about chronic mail delays, misdirected deliveries and lost items. In his letter, Bost addressed problems that have persisted despite USPS management's promises to improve operations following a 2022 audit.

"When seniors fail to receive their medications on time or working families are hit with late fees for bills that never came, it's clear something is broken," Bost said in a news release.

"Southern Illinoisans depend on the Postal Service for timely and reliable mail delivery; if the system fails them, there must be accountability. While an audit was conducted in 2022 with assurances of future reforms, my constituents have not seen the improved level of service they deserve. Therefore, I believe a new top-down review of operations at the St. Louis facility is necessary."

The St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center is the primary mail processing hub for the Southern Illinois region. The 2022 audit revealed staffing shortages, scanning errors and thousands of late or canceled mail trips.

Bost requested that the inspector general investigate staffing levels, training, infrastructure and whether past recommendations have been properly implemented.

**Area libraries among those receiving grants**

The Illinois Secretary of State's office is awarding nearly \$20 million in grant funding to libraries across the state to ensure access to quality resources and programming for all Illinois residents.

Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulis announced the awarding of the grants on July 1. Libraries in the Southern Illinois area are among those receiving grant funding.

"A library is more than just a building with books, it's the epicenter of opportunity, discovery and community connection," Giannoulis said in a news release. "From early childhood education to workforce development, libraries empower individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Properly funding our libraries will ensure that they are able to continue generating an outsized impact in communities across Illinois."

News of the grants comes amid federal cuts to library budgets nationwide. In March, the Trump administration signed an executive order to eliminate and defund the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which issues \$180 million annually to libraries nationwide. Illinois receives nearly \$6 million annually, which is the sixth highest amount of any state.

"We're doing things differently in Illinois," Giannoulis added. "Instead of cutting funding that would limit learning and prove harmful to Illinois communities, we're fighting for Illinoisans to ensure they have the funding and resources to learn, grow and explore today and in the future."

Along with the new funding, Giannoulis' office also championed legislation in the spring to enable the Secretary of State's office to issue security grants for libraries throughout the state, ensuring their ability to provide a safe environment for patrons, employees and the community.

In 2023, the office spearheaded first-in-the-nation legislation designed to prevent book banning, which set a nationwide precedent in the fight against a rising tide of

ensorship and book bans across the country.

**Per-Capita Grants**

According to the Secretary of State's office, 639 public libraries statewide will receive nearly \$18 million in per-capita grants. Funding amounts were calculated according to a statutory formula based on the population of each community. Libraries may use the funds to support resources and services for their communities including books, e-books, online resources and internet access, personnel, public programming and capital expenditures.

Per-capita grant recipients in the region, and the amount of funding they are receiving, include:

Stinson Memorial Public Library District, \$20,324.03. Stinson's main library is in Anna; the district also has a branch library in Cobden.

Dongola Public Library District, \$2,626.98. Jonesboro Public Library, \$2,523.73.

Carbondale Public Library, \$32,239.08. Sallie Logan Public Library, Murphysboro,

\$10,462.18. Mounds Public Library, \$974.98. Dodge Memorial Public Library District, Olive Branch, \$1,736.08. Vienna Carnegie Public Library, \$1,980.93. Marion Carnegie Library, \$24,861.13.

Crab Orchard Public Library District, \$10,069.83. Anne West Lindsey District Library, Cartersville, \$16,974.30. Cairo Public Library, \$2,556.18.

**Technology Grants**

The office is issuing over \$1 million in new grants to public libraries in underserved communities with needed technology enhancements. Eight-eight public libraries are receiving a grant, totaling an amount of either \$27,500 or \$12,500, depending on the size of the population they serve.

Libraries can use the grants to help fund things such as adding hardware and software, expanding online collections and e-resources, purchasing digital devices and mobile apps, increasing Wi-Fi capacity and internet accessibility, assuring ADA compliance for library websites and purchasing adaptive technologies that accommodate service needs for persons with disabilities, and incorporating patron self-checkouts.

Technology grant recipients in the region, and the amount of funding they are receiving, include:

Metropolis Public Library, \$12,500. Dodge Memorial Public Library District, Olive Branch, \$12,500.

The Secretary of State's office also is awarding nearly \$1 million in grants to assist public libraries with construction costs at their facilities. Libraries can use these grants to begin new construction, make additions to existing buildings or remodel for accessibility.

**Weather**

High 92, low 63; .09 of an inch of rain

High temperatures ranged from a high of 92 degrees to a low of 63 during the period of July 1-7 in the Union County area. Precipitation was light, with .09 of an inch of rain recorded.

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

Tuesday, July 1: high 88, low 68.

Wednesday, July 2: high 87, low 63.

Thursday, July 3: high 90, low 65.

Friday, July 4: high 91, low 67.

Saturday, July 5: high 92, low 68.

Sunday, July 6: high 89, low 68.

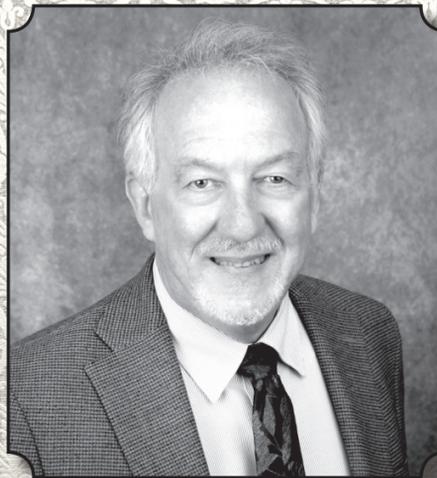
Monday, July 7: high 89, low 70. 0.09 of an inch of rain.



**American flag displayed**

The Anna Fire and Rescue Department displayed a large American flag for Independence Day on Friday, July 4th, at the Anna City Park. The flag was hung high for all to see from the department's Ladder 1160 unit.

Thank You!



Deaconess Illinois Union County Hospital  
extends their deepest gratitude to  
**Dr. M. Michael Cerny, MD** for dedicating  
**40 years to Family Medicine in Union County**  
and our surrounding communities.

# Anna Council hears updates about projects

Project updates, including a bid for roof replacement work, were among the topics of discussion at last week's regular meeting of the Anna City Council. The meeting was Tuesday evening, July 1, at Anna City Hall.

The council approved a low bid of \$95,698 from Perfect Pitch Roofing in Marion for the replacement of roofs at city hall, the public works garage and the electrical building at the city's waste water treatment plant. Work is scheduled to start during the week of July 21.

An update was shared about ongoing progress for an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, ITEP, project to construct a multi-use path along East Vienna Street (Illinois Route 146) in Anna. The city has received \$2,136,750 in funding for the project.

The project will construct a multi-use path starting at the intersection of Springfield Avenue and East Vienna Street. The path will be going east along East Vienna Street and will end at Walmart.

The City of Anna is one of 66 projects receiving funding statewide, with a total

of \$139.2 million awarded through the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT. Made possible by federal and state funds administered by IDOT, ITEP awards are focused on improving bike and pedestrian travel, as well as making other surface transportation improvements that promote alternative options for getting around the community.

Acting Police Chief Brent Sims reported that the Anna Police Department hosted its first community feedback public meeting recently. Sims said the meeting was a success and that good feedback was received from those who attended the event. Future meetings are planned. The police department also hosted a recent successful bike giveaway event.

The council approved the allocation of \$6,994.31 for the purchase of 12 additional trashcans which will be placed along Main, Lafayette and Davie streets.

Concerns were voiced about yard sale signs placed at the four-way stop in the downtown Anna area and then not removed.

## Feeding Kids in the Park



### Feeding kids

Cindy Dallas, Eli Null, Zoi Null, Marielena Brown and Julie White helped pass out food and drinks and brought games to play for Feeding Kids in the Park. The program is sponsored by the Union County Alliance of Churches and the City of Anna. The event takes place throughout the summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Anna City Park next to the Hadley's Haven. A special thanks to everyone who donates to Alliance of Churches.



### Free food and fun

Marielena Brown and Zoi Null holding signs they designed for Feeding the Kids in the Park this summer. Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., free hot dogs, chips and drinks are passed out to participating kids.

### Union County Alliance of Churches Recommendations

- 1 "Feeding Kids in the Park," (FREE) TUE & THUR, 1-3 pm, shelter near playground – Anna.
- 2 "The Closet" clothing for everyone at your price, next door to Dollar General – Anna.
- 3 "The Old Depot" 6 pm. Free dinner, live praise, fellowship, everyone welcome, come as you are.

Alliance of Churches (618)-614-2974

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# Southern Illinois Tourism

(continued from page 1)  
twofold increase in funding since 2023, with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, or DCEO, giving out over \$9 million in grants to boost tourism in the southern part of the state.

That money was distributed to cities and tourism bureaus across the southern half of the state for the last fiscal year, from Alton and Mattoon down to Metropolis, the officially designated home of Superman, where fans can take photos with a 15-foot statue of the comic book hero.

Past Illinois tourism campaigns have paid major returns. In the 2023 fiscal year, every dollar invested in promoting tourism generated \$75 in direct visitor spending, according to the 2023-2024 Economic Impact of Tourism report by the DCEO Office of Tourism.

Grant funds are matched by local hotels and motels hoping to bring travelers in, according to Hoffman.

In some cases, lodging is the attraction itself. According to Lyle and Tammy Woodrum, the married innkeepers of the Davie School Inn in Anna, Illinois, a fifth of their guests come just for the experience of staying in a former schoolhouse.

Originally built in 1853 as a school, the Davie School Inn was repurposed as a bed and breakfast, but still looks in many ways like a school, with various rooms featuring desks, globes and chalkboards covered with messages from past guests.

Susan Hill traveled from her home in Memphis to stay at the Davie School Inn last month. She said she's done it a handful of times since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when she was looking for somewhere to stay where she could sit outside.

According to Hill, the novelty of staying in an old school was a draw. "It's like, heck yeah, come on," she said. "It's just really quaint. I feel safe there."

The Woodrums said most of their guests have come for the area's local attractions, primarily the Shawnee Hills Wine trail and outdoor activities in the Shawnee National Forest but also for family and college reunions.

### "Wine Just Likes Us"

Shawnee Hills Wine Trail is the largest of the state's five trails, comprising 12 wineries and 13 locations. It originated in the summer of 1995, when owners of the first three wineries in Southern Illinois, Alto Vineyards, Pomona Winery and Owl Creek Vineyard, worked with the Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau and the Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau to start the first wine trail in Illinois.

Maggie Pugh, assistant manager at Feather Hills Vineyard on Highway 51, said the campaign to attract tourists to the region has had a real effect on the winery. Recently, the company ran out of three of its best-selling, and most bottled, wines, which, to her, is an indicator of increased visitor flow.

"I think we are getting busier. I think the advertising has worked," she said. "I also know that the Wine Trail is doing quite a lot to try and bring more

people down, because part of the problem is, this area isn't taken seriously for wine – although it should be."

Illinois is the second-flattest state on the nation's mainland, seemingly perfect only for corn. But Pugh described the Shawnee Hills region, home to many of Illinois' highest elevations, as a "little golden nugget" in which "wine (is) just likes us, grapes enjoy our soil."

Since 2015, wineries on the trail have won over 30 medals in national and international wine competitions. Although the vineyards are geographically close together, scattered across an area of 40 miles, the trail boasts a wide range of wines, Pugh said.

"The coolest part about Southern Illinois is that even a winery that's only 20 minutes away from this location right here, our wine is going to taste vastly different, even if we made it the exact same way," she said. "Our grapes don't taste the same because of the elevation, and you get those slight hints that might make or break a wine for you."

### "Illinois' Most Hippie Town"

Award-winning wines and breathtaking vistas aren't the only unexpected finds in Southern Illinois.

Makanda, a short drive from the Southern Illinois University campus in Carbondale, features a boardwalk of shops by local artists. Artists sell jewelry, gemstones, sage for burning, paintings, intricate metalwork and more. The tiny village of fewer than 550 people, a short drive from SIU, proudly calls itself "Illinois's most hippie" town.

Nina Kovar is one of those artists. In her Visions Art Gallery, dream catchers are hung along the front window, inviting shoppers to come browse clothing, jewelry and handmade ceramics.

Kovar said she sees graduates coming back for homecoming again and again, as well as others who are discovering the town for the first time after hearing about its hippie reputation.

"There's a certain timeless element to it," Kovar said of Makanda. "The creativity that we have, that a lot of us are artists and artisans and crafters, that it's kind of nestled in nature; it's beautiful."

Kovar said she has seen a significant increase in tourism to Makanda since the COVID-19

pandemic, with people not flying as much, but also wanting to get out of the house and into the outdoors.

Makanda also made it onto the map, Kovar said, because of the total solar eclipse that took place on April 8, 2024. A few shops down from Kovar, artist Dave Dardis painted a line through his shop to represent the path of totality at the time.

Dardis is better known as the Rainmaker, a name he shares with his bronze art studio. A backdoor in Dardis' shop opens out to his secret garden, a poorly kept secret in Makanda.

The garden features lush greenery and natural elements interwoven with bronze sculptures. Sweeney, a self-described whimsical person, said her visit to Dardis' not-so-secret garden was the best part of her Southern Illinois experience.

"That's like walking into a literal fairy tale," Sweeney said. "He's like a hermit slash hippie slash, I don't know, man with wisdom," Sweeney added of Dardis. "He almost reminds me of a sage, like, you know those giant trees that talk?"

Having grown up in the area, tourism influencer Baine is well aware of the traditional

engines for local economies – whether that's coal mining or agriculture. But she sees a path for tourism to become an even bigger factor in time.

"There's coal mines and there's all these very blue-collar jobs, but tourism brings even more money to our region. Tourists are spending money at restaurants, at the wineries, and they can reinvest in our communities," Baine said.

"When you live and breathe Southern Illinois, and your kid goes to school here," she said, "you want these businesses to thrive."

Sonya Dymova and Maggie Dougherty are students in journalism with Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and fellows in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



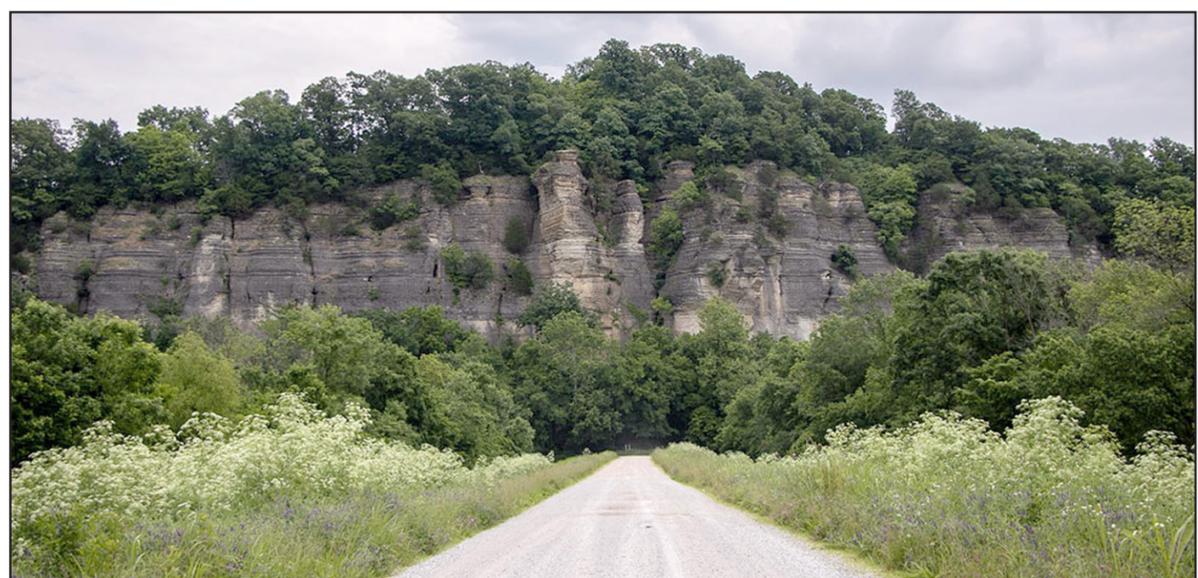
### Wine trail sign

A road sign points to attractions along the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail. Medill Illinois News Bureau photo by Sonya Dymova.



### Teacher-themed decorations

Open cabinet doors in a Davie School Inn guest room display globes and other teacher-themed decorations. Medill Illinois News Bureau photo by Sonya Dymova.



### Limestone bluff

A 300-foot limestone bluff at Inspiration Point in the LaRue Pine Hills area near Wolf Lake. Medill Illinois News Bureau photo by Sonya Dymova.

# Obituaries

## Jerry Roger Goodman

Jerry Roger Goodman, age 82, of Wolf Lake, passed away Sunday, June 29, 2025 at his home.

He was born on Jan. 21, 1943 in Mill Creek, the son of Oscar Ordell and Wanda (Barnhart) Goodman. He married Bonnie High on May 29, 1965. They have enjoyed over 60 years together.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Bonnie Goodman of Wolf Lake; children, Dana Allen of Jonesboro, Andrew (Lisa) Goodman of Jackson, Mo. and Jonathan (Kim) Goodman of St. Charles; grandchildren, Michael Gilliam, Brody, Lane and Luke Goodman and Deanne and TJ Allen; great-grandchild, Flynn Gilliam; siblings, Audrey Davis of Jonesboro, Joyce Anderson of Anna, Lloyd (Brenda) Goodman of Anna and Rosemary Perkins of Indianapolis, Ind.; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Candace Goodman and siblings, Dottie Lipe, Clara May Nehring and Harley Goodman.

Jerry retired from Union Pacific Railroad after over 34



years as a Maintenance of Way mechanic. He truly enjoyed his job on the railroad and his mechanical skills were very helpful to family and friends. He was always willing to lend a hand when needed. Jerry loved spending time outdoors, especially fishing and squirrel hunting.

Funeral services for Jerry Goodman were held on Sunday, July 6 at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro with Rev. Bobby Richardson officiating. Interment followed in St. John's Cemetery west of Dongola.

To visit Jerry's memorial page and leave online condolences for his family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at [rendlemanhilemanfh.com](http://rendlemanhilemanfh.com).

## Kenneth Buzbee

Kenneth Von Buzbee passed away on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife Betty (Hiller) Buzbee, son Brent (wife Stacey) and their three children Logan, Kelsey, and Andy; daughter Kendra Crews and her two children Cash Crews and Kylie (husband Trent) and their two children Trip and Beau.

Ken is preceded in death by his parents Dellis and Maude (Pender) Buzbee, son-in-law Chris Crews and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

After graduating from Anna-Jonesboro High School he led a full life that embraced his many talents and attributes.

Ken worked his way through college as a news director and announcer on commercial and public radio (1957-1961). He was one of seven students who put WSIU (then called WSRV) on the air.

He was President of the SIU Young Democrats. Also while in college, Ken met his wife Betty when they performed in the summer musical production of "South Pacific". The next time their paths crossed, Ken was MC for a contest on campus. He followed up on that encounter by asking her out- and the rest is history. They married in 1961 and celebrated their 63rd anniversary in 2024.

The officer and gentleman, Ken Buzbee, served in the United States Marine Corps on active duty (1961-1964) during which time he participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis Blockade. He loved the Marine Corps so much that after he finished active duty and moved back to Southern Illinois, he joined the Reserves for 23 more years and retired in 1988 as a Lt. Colonel.

The first job he took after active duty was as an insurance supervisor and agent. That lasted until he received a graduate assistantship teaching Political Science.

Besides the Marine Corps, the most rewarding job Ken ever had was serving 4 terms (12 years) in the Illinois Senate (1973-1985). His ability to lead enabled him to acquire many chairmanships, the most sought after being the Appropriations II Committee. No doubt that benefited SIU and all



of Southern Illinois. He also served as Chairman of the Energy Commission and was appointed by President Carter to the White House Council on Coal.

Finally, his career culminated in government as Director of the Department of Business Services and Illinois Secretary of State (10 years) where he began by updating the operational system of that department and getting all business up to date.

Semi-retired, Ken conducted an oral history project with some of his former colleagues for the Paul Simon Institute.

It wasn't all work, Ken had many interests: reading, fishing, public speaking, tennis, traveling, and bicycling which led to him becoming a member and President of the Mississippi River Trail Inc., a non-profit corporation promoting a recreational bicycle trail from the headwaters to the Gulf.

For 13 years, he was a member of the Board of Directors of Charter Bank. In addition, Ken was a member of the Lions Club and the Elks Club, and recently was extremely proud to serve on the SIU Alumni Board.

A Celebration of Ken's Life will be at 10:30am on Saturday, August 9, 2025 at First United Methodist Church at 214 W. Main St. in Carbondale with Rev. Jim Barnett officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Ken's name to SIU Athletics, Gum Drops, UMCOR or the First United Methodist Church Music Program.

Meredith Funeral Home in Carbondale assisted the family with arrangements. To read the full obituary visit [www.meredithfh.com](http://www.meredithfh.com).

## Sharon Kay Dover

Sharon Kay Dover, age 75, of Anna, died Sunday, June 29, 2025 surrounded by her family.

She was born Jan. 7, 1950 in Anna, the daughter of Ernest and Mildred (Newberry) Gibbons.

She married Wilson Dover June 30, 1992 in Paducah, Ky. He preceded her in death on Nov. 11, 2017.

Sharon is survived by her children, Bryan D. Harvell of Anna, Shannon R. Palmier of Anna and Carl W. (Judy) Dover of Hebron, Ky; grandchildren, Brett (Gina) Dover, Brandon Dover, Brianne (Kyle) Dover and Caleb E. Harvell; five great-grandchildren; sister, Judith (Gerald) Pitts of Wolf Lake, Dan (Beverly) Gibbons of Cobden, sister in law, Carla Sims of Anna and mother in law, Edna Eastwood of Anna; nieces and nephews; other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Wilson Dover.

Sharon worked as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor with the Fellowship House for many years until her retirement. In her younger days she enjoyed

helping her parents on their pro-



duce farm. She was a lifetime member of the Anna Moose Lodge 1346.

Memorial services will be 12 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with Bill Littrell officiating.

Interment will follow in the Casper Cemetery in Anna. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the service hour at the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, July 12 at the Anna Moose Lodge from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.

To view the obituary and leave online condolences for the family, visit [www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com](http://www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com).

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

## Anna VFW post hosts multiple events in July

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna is hosting a number of fundraising events throughout the month of July.

**Fish Fry Fundraiser**  
On Wednesday, July 11, from 4:30 to 7 p.m., the VFW will host an all-you-can-eat fish fry fundraiser at their post in Anna. Dine-in, carry-out and drive-thru options are available, with kids under 12 eating for free. Delivery is also available for orders of five or more meals.

Every person who attends will receive a ticket to nominate a local group or organization within Union County that is working to raise funds. This could be a local charity, school club (like the art club, Beta Club, student council, sports teams, PTO, etc.), church fundraising group, local fundraiser for medical needs, The Anna Arts Center roof project, the Boy Scouts or Girls Scouts, 4H, or any other cause in need.

At 7 p.m., a ticket will be drawn, and the winning group will receive 10% of the sales from the event, plus all the tips collected that night.

"We hope the various organizations will spread the word and bring people within their

groups," said Linda Jackson, a representative from the VFW. "The more people that nominates a group, the better their chances of winning."

For more details or to arrange drive thru or delivery orders, call Linda at 618-833-7737.

**Baked Potato and Salad Bar Dinner**

On Tuesday, July 15, from 5 to 7 p.m., the Anna VFW and its Auxiliary will host a baked potato and salad bar dinner. For a \$12 donation, attendees will receive a baked potato with all the fixings, sour cream, butter, cheese, and bacon bits, plus a fully stocked salad bar featuring toppings such as bacon bits, olives, onions, cucumbers, tomatoes, eggs, cheeses, broccoli and cauliflower. The event is open to the public, with both dine-in and carry-out options available.

**Glo Bingo**  
The VFW and the Delta Theta Tau Sorority for another round of Glo Bingo at the Anna VFW on Saturday, July 26. Tickets for Glo Bingo can be purchased by contacting Linda at 618-833-7737, any member of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority, or online through the Glo Bingo website.

## Summer Twilight Series event slated at ag center

More Illinois specialty crop growers are planting in high tunnels to extend their growing season, increase crop diversity, achieve higher yields and improve quality.

An opportunity to learn about high tunnel production and how research studies on biological insect control are benefiting both the agricultural community and the environment will be offered during a free program planned July 17 as part of University of Illinois Extension's Summer Twilight Series.

The program will take place at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center at Simpson, where participants can tour three commercial high tunnels, with one tunnel set up for hydroponic production and the other two utilizing permanent in-ground raised beds.

Since 2021, the on-site high tunnels have also served as a test site for research studies on biological insect control. Extension specialty crops entomologist Kacie Athey will discuss lessons learned from the four-year study, as well as insect identification and integrated pest management

options for insect pests in high tunnels.

Local foods and small farms educator Bronwyn Aly will share observations from three years of no-till cover cropping ahead of tomato and pepper transplanting in high tunnel production, along with basic high tunnel vegetable production practices. The campus farm robotics team will be onsite to demonstrate robotic harvesting and discuss other ways to use robotic technology in a controlled environment production system.

Participants are invited to meet Thursday, July 17, at 6 p.m. at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center at 354 Illinois Route 145 in Simpson. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. To register, visit [go.illinois.edu/twilightseries](http://go.illinois.edu/twilightseries) or call 618-695-2441.

Those who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the upcoming event can contact Bronwyn Aly at [baly@illinois.edu](mailto:baly@illinois.edu). Event organizers said that early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet the needs.

## County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

I'm hoping you and your family had a safe and wonderful fourth of July.

We had a crowd over the fourth. Our eldest and her family, my brother-in-law, his family and a guest, and the three of us totaled up to 23. We grilled and everyone brought either sides, desserts, or beverages and ice, and we had a feast.

Then the games began. Corn hole, baseball, kids with pop-it's and confetti poppers, girls were chased with frogs, or kids simply rolled down the hillside for the heck of it. There were lots of laughs, a few Band-Aids dispensed, and then there was watermelon and fireworks.

A bunch of grubby kids and adults went home exhausted but happy. I imagine it was that way in a lot of places. Folks in Elco, Mill Creek, Tamms, Anna, Dongola, Cobden and many others had similar situations going on. We heard many of the neighboring fireworks. Next year, as we celebrate our nations 250th birthday it will be even wilder.

Brother Bobby Richardson lead the congregation in the second of a series of sermons from the Book of Job. This week's sermons spoke of all that Job lost. All his possessions, all of his children, and his health suffered. Still, he worshipped the Lord. He re-

tained his faith through it all.

We are all given trials in life. How we choose to face them is up to us. Job knew and stated in verse 21 of chapter 1, that "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. Blessed is the name of the Lord." He also reminded us in chapter 2, verse 10: "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?"

Many are facing these same trials. Many have lost all they owned, many have lost their children and family, and many are facing serious health issues. Our prayers are lifted up for you. Our hearts and prayers also go out to those who lost loved ones in Texas during the flash flood this past week. It's unimaginable what they are going through. The folks in North Carolina are still dealing with what they went through not too long ago. May God grant them all peace, comfort, and strength for what comes next.

We also ask prayers for the family of Jerry "Bud" Goodman in his passing; Ginger Bowman who is to have ear surgery soon; Harold Richardson for health; Joyce Rowe for her broken hip; Dennis and Jonie Myers for health; and Tonya Marshall for unspoken needs. We also celebrate with the Jeremiah Johnson family on the reveal that they are to have a baby girl!

## Union County Fixin's

Chicken and Orzo Skillet Dinner

1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into bite size pieces

Cooking spray

8 cups water

12 oz package uncooked orzo pasta

2 cups chopped tomato

2 teaspoons tomato paste

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

3 cups baby spinach leaves, washed and stems pinched off

3 oz feta cheese, crumbled (optional)

Heat a non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Spray skillet lightly with cooking spray. Add chicken. Sauté 6 minutes,

turning to brown all sides. Remove chicken from pan, place, covered in microwave to keep warm. Keep skillet handy for later use.

Bring 8 cups of water to boil in large saucepan. Add orzo; cook 8 minutes. Drain in a colander over a bowl, reserving 1/4 cup of cooking liquid.

Add reserved cooking liquid, chopped tomatoes, tomato paste, and spices to skillet. Cook for about 2 minutes on medium-high heat. Add warm chicken, orzo pasta, and spinach leaves. Stir until spinach leaves wilt. Remove from heat and sprinkle with feta cheese.

(I don't care for feta, so I just don't add it. It's still a wonderful dish.)

## ANNA METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Sat. July 12 • 7am-Noon

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast



All Are Welcome!



"The Preaching Pen"  
And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Luke 6:46

I am sure you have heard of the term, "litmus test." It refers to a small piece of paper which changes color when it interacts with an unknown substance. If the paper turns blue, the unknown substance is a base substance, and if it turns red, the unknown is an acidic substance.

Luke 6:46 is a "litmus test" for Christians. During His ministry, people wanted to follow Jesus, Matthew 8:1 "great crowds followed," and Matthew 12:15 "many followed." However, many wished to determine their own pathway, Luke 7:30. Such is still the case today. It really becomes a case of loyalty. Matthew 16:24 expresses the terms of loyalty to Christ, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

I have heard it said before that the Christian must take up Christ's cross. But, Friend, that is an impossible task for man. Jesus took it up, carried it, died on it, shed his blood on it, and was removed from it. To be loyal to Jesus, we must work on our own crosses. Have you taken yours up? Your eternal life depends on it.

Ryan Thornsberry,  
Anna Church of Christ

News from

# Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship service with Pastor Perry leading in the opening prayer.

The Call to Worship was on the Lord's Supper, "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that

bread, and drink of that cup."

These verses we taken from 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy.

Our Worship Team led in three songs, "In the Garden," "I Speak Jesus" and "Graves into Gardens."

Pastor Lupe's sermon in keeping with the study in Revelation was titled "The Book of Revelation, Alpha and Omega."

Highlights of his sermon include Revelation chapters 20 - 22 depicting the final

judgment, the defeat of satan and the glorious renewal of all things. Satan is bound for a thousand years, and after a brief release, he is ultimately cast into the lake of fire. The great white throne judgment follows, where the dead are judged according to their deeds, and anyone not found in the Book of Life is also thrown into the lake of fire.

The new heaven and new earth, is where God dwells with His people in a holy city with no more death, sorrow, or pain. The book ends with a call to readiness, as Jesus promises, "Behold, I am

coming quickly."

This is our last study on the Book of Revelation, it has been a very interesting and moving study on the last Book of God's Word.

After our worship service, we, as a church family, worshiped our Lord and Savior, as we honored Him with the Lord's Supper.

Our Missionary's leave July 8 for Mexico Mission Trip. It will be a trip of telling lost people about a Savior who loves them, of helping a church in Durango Mexico as they serve our Lord. We ask you keep us in your prayers.

We thank you for donating and for shopping at our Yard Sales to help make this trip possible.

Our Sunday School starts at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning and is for all ages. Our Worship services and Children's worship begins at 10:15 a.m. Our Prayer Time is at 6 p.m. on Wednesday evening and our Youth Program is on Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to around 7:30 p.m.

Our bus runs for all of these services and programs, please call our church office to be put on a list to ride our bus.

Our church is located at 409 Morgan Street in Anna. Our office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Our phone number is 618.833.5416

Our Facebook.com/AnnaFirstBaptistChurch. Our email is fbcanna409@gmail.com.

If we can be of any help or if we can pray with you, please call or stop by our church. We would love to tell you about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray God will bless you and your family and that you are living everyday for Him.

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



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# GOD'S WAY



Do you ever wonder if God hears your requests? In our world, faster is better - we expect instant responses. But God's way does not always conform to our desires; He has His own timetable. "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day." (2 Peter 3.8) We must go about our daily life, trusting in God and His Word, for answers to our prayers may come in ways we do not understand. Learn more about God's way as you worship this week.

**Weekly Scripture Reading**

2 Cor.	Exodus	Exodus	Exodus	Numbers	Numbers	Psalm
2.5-17	2.11-25	3.1-22	5.22-6.13	20.1-13	21.1-20	32

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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10:30am

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Mike Jones, Manager

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Worship service at 10:45 a.m.  
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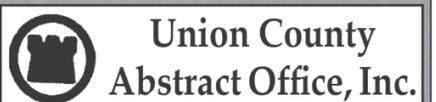
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To support your community Church Page, contact Meta for more details at 1-800-293-4709.

## The Gazette-Democrat Classified Section

Anna Office  
618-833-2158

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

### CLASSIFIED RATES

Classifieds .....35¢ per word  
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## FOR RENT

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urday July 11 & 12 417  
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7am - ?

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## LEGAL NOTICE

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

**ESTATE OF  
BONNIE VINES,  
DECEASED.  
NO. 2025-PR-10  
IN PROBATE**

### NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN  
to creditors of the death  
of BONNIE VINES, of  
Anna, Illinois. Letters  
of Office were issued on  
July 1, 2025, to JENNINE  
ELLEN BAGGOTT, of  
5470 State Road 191,  
Dodgeville, WI 53533,  
whose attorney is ELVIS  
C. CAMERON, 205B N.  
Main St., Anna, Illinois.

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

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

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

Claims against the es-  
tate may be filed in the  
Office of the Clerk of this  
court at the Union Coun-  
ty Courthouse, 309 W.  
Market St., Jonesboro,  
Illinois, or with the In-  
dependent Executor, or  
both, on or before January  
10, 2026, or if mailing or  
delivery of a notice from  
the Executor is required

by Section 5/18-3 of the  
Probate Act of the State  
of Illinois, the date stated  
in that notice. Any claim  
not filed on or before that  
date is barred. Copies of a  
claim filed with the Clerk  
must be mailed or deliv-  
ered by the claimant to the  
Executor and to the attor-  
neys within ten (10) days  
after it has been filed.

Dated: June 27, 2025.

JENNINE ELLEN  
BAGGOTT  
CAMERON LAW  
FIRM, LLC  
ELVIS C. CAMERON  
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DEPENDENT EXECU-  
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**General Notice  
Anna-Jonesboro Water  
Commission (Owner)  
is requesting Bids for  
the construction of the  
following  
Project:**

**Shawnee Valley Meter  
Replacement 22-7015**

Bids for the construc-  
tion of the Project will  
be received at the Water  
Treatment Plant located  
at 495 Water Plant Rd,  
Jonesboro, IL. 62952, un-  
til Friday, August 8, 2025  
at 2pm local time. At that  
time the Bids received  
will be publicly opened  
and read.

The Project includes the  
following Work:

Work included in the  
Project will consist of  
installation of approxi-  
mately 40 LF of water-  
main, one tapping sleeve  
connection to existing  
watermain, one direct  
connection to existing  
watermain, valves, meter  
vault, and appurtenant  
items.

Bids are requested for  
the following Contract:  
Shawnee Valley Meter  
Replacement

Obtaining the Bidding  
Documents

Information and Bid-  
ding Documents for the  
Project can be found at  
the following designated  
website:

www.klingnerplanroom.  
com

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

Instructions to Bidders.  
For all further require-  
ments regarding bid sub-  
mittal, qualifications,  
procedures, and contract

award, refer to the In-  
structions to Bidders that  
are included in the Bid-  
ding Documents.

American Iron and Steel  
Section 746 of Title VII  
of the Consolidated Ap-  
propriations Act of 2017  
(Division A - Agriculture,  
Rural Development, Food  
and Drug Administration,  
and Related Agencies Ap-  
propriations Act, 2017)  
and subsequent statutes  
mandating domestic pref-  
erence applies an Amer-  
ican Iron and Steel re-  
quirement to this project.  
All iron and steel products  
used in this project must  
be produced in the United  
States. The term "iron and  
steel products" means the  
following products made  
primarily of iron or steel:  
lined or unlined pipes and  
fittings, manhole cov-  
ers and other municipal  
castings, hydrants, tanks,  
flanges, pipe clamps and  
restraints, valves, struc-  
tural steel, reinforced pre-  
cast concrete, and Con-  
struction Materials.

This Advertisement is  
issued by:

Owner: Anna-Jonesboro  
Water Commission  
By: Casey Johnson  
Title: Superintendent  
Date: 06-30-25  
8221-955649

### ADVERTISEMENT

Clear Creek Levee and  
Drainage District, located  
in Union County, Illinois,  
is accepting sealed bids  
for mowing the levee's  
and is offering a one (1)  
year written Contract to  
be extended up to three  
(3) additional terms. For  
more specific bid spec-  
ifications, leave a mes-  
sage with an email and/  
or mailing address at  
618-833-3740. Sealed  
bids may be received by  
July 31, 2025, at the fol-  
lowing location: 4720 N.

State Rt. 3, Wolf Lake, Il-  
linois 62998. Sealed bids  
will be opened at 4720 N.  
State Rt. 3, Wolf Lake,  
Illinois 62998 on July 31,  
2025. Payment will be  
made by a half payment  
two (2) weeks after the  
start of mowing and the  
other half when the job is  
complete for each Spring  
and Fall season.  
8221-955650

### NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

**FOR PHASE I, II and  
III ENGINEERING  
SERVICES  
CITY OF ANNA,  
ILLINOIS  
JULY 3, 2025**

Notice is hereby given  
the City of Anna, an Il-  
linois Municipal Corpo-  
ration of Union County  
Illinois, is seeking State-  
ments Of Qualifications  
(SOQ) from qualified  
Consulting Engineering  
Firms to provide Phase  
I, II and III Engineering  
Services in connection  
with Federal Highway  
Transportation Projects.

The Statement of Quali-  
fications must be submit-  
ted in accordance with  
the Request for Quali-  
fications (RFQ) for Phase  
I, II and III Engineering  
Services On Call or In-  
definite Delivery Quanti-  
ty (IDIQ) dated June 20,  
2025. Copies of the RFQ  
may be obtained as fol-  
lows:

1. On the City's website  
at: [https://cityofanna.org/  
community-links/pub-  
lic-notices/](https://cityofanna.org/community-links/public-notices/)
2. Dori Bigler  
City Administrator  
City of Anna  
Anna, IL 62906  
dbigler@cityofanna.  
com

The Statement of Quali-  
fications (SOQ) should

be mailed, or hand deliv-  
ered in a sealed envelope  
marked "2025 RFQ For  
Phase I, II and III Engi-  
neering Services" to:

Dori Bigler  
City Administrator  
City of Anna  
Anna, IL 62906  
Please submit four (4)  
each hard copies and one  
(1) each digital copy of  
Statements of Qualifica-  
tions for services by  
12:00pm on Friday, Au-  
gust 1, 2025. The digital  
copy must be in PDF  
format on a flash drive. Post-  
marks and late submittals  
will not be considered.  
Facsimiles and electronic  
email submittals will not  
be accepted. There will be  
no formal opening of the  
SOQ. The City will not  
be responsible for errors  
or omissions occurring in  
the transmission or  
downloading of the RFQ  
document from the City  
website.

The City of Anna re-  
serves the right to waive  
minor irregularities and  
nonconformities in any  
SOQ when it is in the  
best interest of the City  
and reserves the right to  
request more information  
and/or clarification from  
qualified Consulting Engi-  
neering Firms that sub-  
mit an SOQ. A Selection  
Committee of the City  
will score and rank En-  
gineering Firms based on  
the criteria set forth in the  
RFQ. If it is determined  
interviews are needed,  
then they will be done by  
the Selection Committee.  
The City will negotiate  
in good faith a contract  
with the highest ranked  
engineering firm consis-  
tent with provisions of  
the RFQ. If the City is  
unable to negotiate a con-  
tract with the firm which  
is preferred, negotiations  
with that firm shall be ter-

minated and negotiations  
shall begin with the firm  
which is next preferred.  
Any Contract for Engi-  
neering Services will be  
subject to the approval of  
the City of Anna corpo-  
rate authorities and IDOT.  
Dori Bigler, MAcc, CPA  
City Administrator  
City of Anna  
103 Market Street  
Anna, IL 62906  
(o)618-833-8528  
(c)618-697-2816  
8221-955725

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

**ESTATE OF  
ELIZABETH LANELL  
SMITH,  
DECEASED.  
NO. 2025-PR-9  
IN PROBATE**

### NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to  
creditors of the death of  
ELIZABETH LANELL  
SMITH, of Jonesboro,  
Illinois. Letters of Office  
were issued on May 29,  
2025, to TONY SMITH,  
9 Valley View, Jonesboro,  
IL 62952 as Independent  
Administrator, whose at-  
torney is Elle J. Basler,  
205B N. Main St., Anna,  
Illinois.

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

You also have the right,

under Section 5/8-1 of the  
Probate Act (755 ILCS  
5/8-1), to contest the va-  
lidity of the Will by filing  
a petition with the Court  
within six (6) months af-  
ter admission of the Will  
to probate.

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

Claims against the es-  
tate may be filed in the  
Office of the Clerk of this  
court at the Union Coun-  
ty Courthouse, 309 W.  
Market Street, Jones-  
boro, Illinois, or with the  
Independent Administra-  
tor, or both, on or before  
December 26, 2025, or if  
mailing or delivery of a  
notice from the Adminis-  
trator is required by Sec-  
tion 5/18-3 of the Probate  
Act of the State of Illinoi-  
s, the date stated in that  
notice. Any claim not filed  
on or before that date is  
barred. Copies of a claim  
filed with the Clerk must  
be mailed or delivered by  
the claimant to the Exec-  
utor and to the attorneys  
within ten (10) days after  
it has been filed.

Dated: June 18, 2025.

TONY SMITH, Admin-  
istrator  
CAMERON LAW  
FIRM, LLC  
ELLE J. BASLER  
ATTORNEY FOR IN-  
DEPENDENT ADMIN-  
ISTRATOR  
205B N. MAIN ST.  
ANNA, ILLINOIS  
62906  
PHONE: 618-833-2220  
ARDC# 6345436  
8221-955106

# State of Illinois ends fiscal year with record annual revenue

**By Ben Szalinski  
Capitol News Illinois**

Despite uncertainty  
over the economy and  
federal funding during  
the second half of fis-  
cal year 2025, the year  
closed on June 30 with  
the State of Illinois set-  
ting a record for annual  
revenue.

Numbers compiled by  
the independent Com-  
mission on Govern-  
ment Forecasting and  
Accountability show  
Fiscal Year 2025 con-  
cluded with \$54 billion  
in revenue, the most  
the state has ever re-  
ceived in a fiscal year.  
The state also brought  
in \$717 million more  
in revenue than law-  
makers originally bud-  
geted for when they  
passed a \$53.3 billion  
budget in May 2024.

All told, the final re-  
venue numbers track  
closely with projec-  
tions made in May by  
both COGFA and the  
Governor's Office of  
Management and Bud-  
get that formed the ba-  
sis of the FY26 budget.  
In other words, June  
revenues produced no  
surprises, and lawmak-  
ers aren't sitting on  
any substantial surplus  
as the new fiscal year  
begins.

The record revenues  
also don't alleviate  
any uncertainty for the  
current or future fiscal  
years as Congress con-  
siders drastic reduc-  
tions to the social safe-

ty net and aid to states.  
Causes of Revenue  
Growth

Strong personal in-  
come tax growth drove  
the revenue increase in  
FY25, largely thanks to  
a "true up" conducted  
by the Department of  
Revenue that reallocat-  
ed business related in-  
come tax revenue into  
the personal income  
tax category. Person-  
al income tax revenue  
was 10 percent higher  
than in FY24, but cor-  
porate income taxes  
declined by 9.5 per-  
cent.

Some other revenue  
sources also saw min-  
imal growth. Sales  
tax revenue grew by  
less than 1 percent,  
though COGFA noted  
it increased by nearly  
3 percent in the second  
half of FY25 after a  
weak start last summer  
as gas prices dropped  
and people cut back on  
large purchases amid  
growing economic un-  
certainty.

Federal income was  
also down 4.6 percent  
in FY25, even when  
excluding one-time  
pandemic relief funds  
the state received in  
FY24. But in a bright  
spot for the state,  
COGFA found that  
state revenue sources  
grew more than antici-  
pated to offset the \$178  
million decline in fed-  
eral revenue.

Despite solid revenue  
growth this year, ques-

tions remain about how  
well it will perform in  
FY26.

"Whether this record  
will be surpassed in  
FY 2026 remains to  
be seen, though the FY  
2026 enacted budget  
assumes revenues of  
\$55.297 billion - near-  
ly \$1.3 billion above  
the FY 2025 final to-  
tal," COGFA revenue  
manager Eric Noggle  
wrote.

Bills Paid, Money  
Left Over

The state also end-  
ed the fiscal year with  
\$1.9 billion of cash in  
the general revenue  
fund after all bills were  
paid, according to the  
Comptroller Susana  
Mendoza's office.

"We work hard each  
year to pay bills on  
time, build up the  
state's emergency re-  
serves and stress fis-  
cal discipline, even in  
these uncertain times,"  
Mendoza said in a  
statement. "My office  
will strive for contin-  
ued improvement in  
state finances and cred-  
it ratings in the new  
budget year."

Mendoza's office also  
put \$256 million into  
the "rainy day" fund,  
growing it to a bal-  
ance of \$2.5 billion.  
The fund is expected  
to grow at a slower rate  
in FY26, however, as  
lawmakers suspended  
a monthly transfer that  
will free up \$45 mil-  
lion.

With an extra cash  
balance to start the new  
fiscal year, Mendoza  
said she plans to pre-  
pay monthly pension  
payments for FY26.  
Lawmakers gave the  
comptroller authority  
last year to make pen-  
sion payments earlier  
in the year rather than  
on a monthly basis  
when extra money is  
available.

"This will enable the  
systems to plan ac-  
cordingly and keep ad-  
ditional dollars in their  
investment portfolios  
into the new budget  
year," Mendoza said.

Uncertain Future  
With good news con-  
cluding FY25, atten-  
tion turned to FY26,  
which began Tuesday,  
July 1, and the vast un-  
certainty the state faces  
from budget talks in  
Congress and the eco-  
nomic fallout of de-  
cisions by the Trump  
administration.

Gov. JB Pritzker  
signed a \$55.1 billion  
spending plan in mid-  
June that relies on  
\$55.3 billion in rev-  
enue. It's the largest  
budget in state history  
despite minimal dis-  
cretionary spending  
growth, and it relies  
on \$1.2 billion of tax  
increases or one-time  
revenues.

But state lawmak-  
ers have left the door  
open to the possibility  
that changes Congress  
makes to federal fund-

ing that requires states  
to cover greater por-  
tions of government  
programs and ceases  
funding in certain areas  
will require lawmakers  
to change the budget.

"The ability of the  
state to try to step in  
and try to mitigate the  
damage is somewhat  
limited, although we  
have the ability to do  
certain things and may  
have to in special ses-  
sion or we may have to  
in veto session," Pritz-  
ker told reporters in  
Peoria on July 1. "It's  
a little hard to tell yet.  
Some of the provisions  
of this terrible bill  
in Washington, D.C.  
don't go into effect  
until next year and so  
we'll have to evaluate  
what changes to make  
in order to deal with  
it."

Work requirements  
for health care and  
food assistance pro-  
grams, cuts to Med-  
icaid reimbursements  
and the elimination of  
clean energy tax cred-  
its could all require the  
state to take on more  
costs.

Capitol News Illinois  
is a nonprofit, non-  
partisan news service  
that distributes state  
government coverage  
to hundreds of news  
outlets statewide. It is  
funded primarily by  
the Illinois Press Foun-  
dation and the Robert  
R. McCormick Foun-  
dation.

# SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

LOCALITY

BUDY



**Music on Independence Day**

An Independence Day performance by Steve Hornbeak & The Mainstreet Players was among the festivities on Friday evening, July 4th, at the Anna City Park. Activities at the park on the nation's birthday concluded with a big fireworks display.

# Television Listings

**THURSDAY JULY 10, 2025**

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
<b>6 PM</b>	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	Home Run (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(5:58) The Gilded Age	"Role Models" (08)	"Godfather II" (74)
<b>7 PM</b>	Family Feud (HD)	Big Brother (HD)	Burgers	Transplant (HD)	NBA Summer League Basketball (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	"SuperMan: Christopher R."	"The Sitter" (11) Jonah Hill, (HD)	"Green Book" (18) Viggo Mortensen, (HD)
<b>8 PM</b>	Press Your Luck (HD)	Ghosts	Family Guy	Law & Order: SVU	Bang (HD)	Bang (HD)	★★★½ "Jurassic World Dominion" (22, Adventure) Chris Pratt.	StuGo	(48) "Movie"	(22) "Balls Out" (15) Jake Lacy.	(10) The Chi (HD)
<b>9 PM</b>	Press Your Luck (HD)	(01) Matlock (HD)	Local Programs	Law & Order (HD)	NBA Summer League Basketball (Live) (HD)	Jokers	Jokers	Miraculous	Wizards	"Mike and Dave Need Dates"	"Reservoir Dogs" Harvey Keitel.
<b>10 PM</b>	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	Local	"Ant-Man and the Wasp" (18) Paul Rudd.	(03) McBee Dynasty	Wizards	"Kong: Skull Island" (17) (HD)	"Warcraft"	"Godfather"
<b>11 PM</b>	Nightline	Midnight	Local Programs	Late Night	SportsCenter (HD)			Bluey			

**FRIDAY JULY 11, 2025**

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
<b>6 PM</b>	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA Summer League Basketball (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	(4:00) "Jurassic" (22)	Big City	(5:11) "Clash" (10)	"The Iron Claw" (23)	Dexter "Born Free"
<b>7 PM</b>	Celebrity Jeopardy!	Fire Country (HD)	The Snake	Place	"The Equalizer 2" (18, Action) Denzel Washington, (HD)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (Live) (HD)	"Movie"	Big City	★½ "Man of Steel" (13, Action) Henry Cavill, (PG-13) (HD)	"It Follows" (15) Maika Monroe.	The Chi (HD)
<b>8 PM</b>	(01) 20/20 Investigative news, (HD)	Fire Country (HD)	The 1% Club (HD)	Dateline NBC Investigative news, (HD)	NBA Summer League Basketball (Live) (HD)	"The Equalizer" (14, Action) Denzel Washington, (R) (HD)	Resident Alien (HD)	Kiff	(25) The Gilded Age	"Love Lies Bleeding" Anna Baryshnikov, (R)	"Full Metal Jacket" (87) Matthew Modine, (R)
<b>9 PM</b>	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	"The Equalizer" (14, Action) Denzel Washington, (R) (HD)	Resident Alien	Hamster	(02) Resident Alien	(26) "Valerian and the City" (17)	(25) "3 from Hell" (19) Sid Haig.
<b>10 PM</b>	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	(02) Resident Alien	Hamster	Hamster	(04) Resident Alien	Big City	"The Hunt for Red October" Sean Connery.
<b>11 PM</b>	Nightline	Midnight	Local Programs	Late Night	SportsCenter (HD)	(04) Resident Alien	Big City	Big City			

**SATURDAY JULY 12, 2025**

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
<b>6 PM</b>	Local	Local Programs	Indycar	Local Programs	UFC Fight Night Prelims "Lewis vs. Teixeira" (Live)	"Ocean's 8" (18) (HD)	The Office	Big City	(5:18) "Cleaner" (25)	"Mortal" Joel McHale.	"Yuma County" (24)
<b>7 PM</b>	The Pyramid (HD)	FBI: International	MLB Baseball "Regional Coverage-Teams TBA" (Live) (HD)	Saturday Night's Main Event (Live)	UFC Fight Night Prelims "Lewis vs. Teixeira" (Live)	★★★½ "Ocean's Eleven" (01, Crime) George Clooney, (HD)	The Office	Chiverse	"Movie"	"Blood Father" (16) Mel Gibson.	"The Nice Guys" (16) Ryan Gosling, (R) (HD)
<b>8 PM</b>	The Pyramid (HD)	48 Hours (HD)	Local	The Wall (HD)	UFC Fight Night "Lewis vs. Teixeira" (Live)	★★½ "Ocean's Twelve" (04, Crime) George Clooney, (HD)	The Office	Miraculous	(45) "Get Out" (17, Horror) Daniel Kaluuya.	(29) "Independence Day: Resurgence" (16)	"The Comeback Trail" (20) Robert De Niro.
<b>9 PM</b>	Pyramid (HD)	48 Hours (HD)	Local	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	"Talladega Nights: Ballad" (06) Will Ferrell.	The Office	Miraculous	(31) The Gilded Age	★★½ "Jason Bourne" Matt Damon.	The Chi (HD)
<b>10 PM</b>	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs		Local Programs	Local Programs			
<b>11 PM</b>	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs		Local Programs	Local Programs			

**SUNDAY JULY 13, 2025**

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
<b>6 PM</b>	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	Secret Service (HD)	American Ninja Warrior "Qualifiers 6" (HD)	(5:00) 2025 MLB Draft (Live)	(5:00) "Ocean's Thirteen" (07)	Law & Order: SVU	"Zombies 4: Dawn" (25)	(5:59) The Gilded Age	(03) The Knick (HD)	Dexter: New Blood
<b>7 PM</b>	(02) Home Videos	Big Brother Live together, (HD)	Simpsons	America's Got Talent "Auditions 6" (HD)	E60 (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Electric	(53) The Gilded Age	"X-Men: Apocalypse" (16, Action) James McAvoy, (HD)	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>8 PM</b>	(03) "The Sandlot" (93, Family) Art LaFleur.	Ghosts	Animal	Talent "Auditions 6" (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	The Gilded Age	(25) ★★★ "Warcraft" (16) Travis Fimmel, (HD)	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>9 PM</b>	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	"The Mask" (94, Comedy) Jim Carrey, (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	(02) The Gilded Age	(25) ★★★ "Warcraft" (16) Travis Fimmel, (HD)	The Chi (HD)
<b>10 PM</b>	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	Dad (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	(04) The Gilded Age	★★ "The Boss" Melissa McCarthy.	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>11 PM</b>	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Dad (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	(06) The Gilded Age	"Jonah Hex"	Dexter: Resurrection

**MONDAY JULY 14, 2025**

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
<b>6 PM</b>	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Baseball Tonight (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	"A Private War" (18)	"The Martian" (15)	"Gladiator" (00) (HD)
<b>7 PM</b>	Bachelor in Paradise (HD)	Neighbor.	Lego Masters (HD)	American Ninja Warrior "Semifinals 7" (HD)	2025 MLB All Star Home Run Derby (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	(54) The Gilded Age	"Gifted" (17) Chris Evans, (HD)	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>8 PM</b>	FBI "Blkpill" (HD)	The Quiz with Balls	Survival Mode	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	(56) "This Means War" (12) (HD)	(42) "St. Vincent" (14, Comedy) Bill Murray.	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>9 PM</b>	(02) Family Feud (HD)	FBI: Most Wanted	Local Programs	Survival Mode	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	(45) To Be Announced	(36) ★★½ "Valentine's Day" (10) Jessica Alba.	The Chi (HD)
<b>10 PM</b>	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Dad (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	(08) "Napoleon Dynamite" (04)	★★ "The Boss" Melissa McCarthy.	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>11 PM</b>	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Dad (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	Gilded Age		Dexter: Resurrection

**TUESDAY JULY 15, 2025**

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
<b>6 PM</b>	Local Programs	Local Programs	FOX Pregame (Live)	Local Programs	Baseball Countdown	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	★★★ "Get Shorty" (95)	★★★ "American Ultra"	"Untouchables" (87)
<b>7 PM</b>	Bachelor in Paradise (HD)	NCIS (HD)	MLB Baseball from Truist Park - Atlanta, Georgia (Live) (HD)	America's Got Talent "Auditions 6" (HD)	WNBA Basketball Indiana vs Connecticut	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	(05) "Movie"	"The Alto Knights" (25) Robert De Niro, (HD)	"The Untouchables" (87)
<b>8 PM</b>	FBI "Blkpill" (HD)	NCIS: Origins (HD)	The Quiz with Balls	America's Got Talent "Auditions 6" (HD)	NBA Summer League (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	(05) "Movie"	"Enter the Warriors Gate" (16) Mark Chao.	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>9 PM</b>	(02) Will Trent (HD)	NCIS: Sydney (HD)	Destination X (HD)	Local	Local	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	(08) "Napoleon Dynamite" (04)	"The Kill Team" (19) Nat Wolff.	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>10 PM</b>	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	Local	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	(50) TBA	"Will Be Blood" (08)	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>11 PM</b>	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	Local	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	"Minecraft"		Dexter: Resurrection

**WEDNESDAY JULY 16, 2025**

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
<b>6 PM</b>	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	ESPY Preview	Bang (HD)	(4:30) "Movie"	Big City	"A Different Man" (R)	"The Light-house"	"The Godfather Code: Death" Al Pacino, (R)
<b>7 PM</b>	The 2025 ESPYs (HD)	Big Brother Live together, (HD)	MasterChef (HD)	Chicago Med (HD)	NBA Summer League Dallas vs Philadelphia	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite	"Movie"	Big City	"Opus" (25, Thriller) Ayo Edebiri.	"Scream" (96, Horror) David Arquette, (HD)	★★★★ "The Godfather" (72, Crime) Marlon Brando, (R) (HD)
<b>8 PM</b>	Hollywood	(02) Secret Service	Chicago Fire (HD)	Chicago P.D. (HD)	NBA Summer League Washington vs Utah	Jokers	Family	Kiff	"The Silence of the Lambs" Jodie Foster.	(52) "Scream 2" (97, Horror) David Arquette.	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>9 PM</b>	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	Local	Family	Family	ZOMBIES	(45) The Gilded Age	(53) "Scream 3" (00)	Dexter: Resurrection
<b>10 PM</b>	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	Local	Family	Family	Miraculous	"Parthenope"		Dexter: Resurrection
<b>11 PM</b>	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	Local	Family	Family	Bluey			Dexter: Resurrection

**Event features items from Anna-Jo Garden Club**

## Free horticulture and botanical arts expo comes to marion

The District VII Garden Clubs of Illinois will present "Eye of the Beholder," a National Garden Club horticulture specialty flower show and expo, at St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall at 600 N. Russell St. in Marion.

The event is free and open to the public and is scheduled for Friday, July 11 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, July 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The juried Show consists of competitions within horticulture, educational, and botanical arts divisions.

The horticulture division showcases fresh horticulture specimens of plants that grow well locally.

The educational division will feature exhibits of African violets, information on native plants and butterflies, and information on taking closeup photos of flowers.

The botanical arts division will feature a photography competition on the theme "Eye of the Beholder."

## University of Illinois Extension presents 'Discovering Dragonflies'

Master naturalists, Beckie Wisdom and Patti Powell, standing next to the common green darner dragonfly (Anax Junius) they created to show kids an up-close look at the parts of dragonflies.



This summer, University of Illinois Extension and local libraries are inviting youth to dive into the fascinating world of dragonflies through its engaging "Discovering Dragonflies" summer library program.

Designed for children ages 6 to 12, this hands-on experience encourages learning through storytelling, educational activities and creative crafting.

Young learners across Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulkaski and Union Counties have the opportunity to explore insect life cycles, habitats and fun dragonfly facts while making memories and a dragonfly craft to take home.

The team presenting this summer library series are dedicated master naturalists who have committed their time all summer long to bring this experience to life by designing the crafts, building dragonfly models, sharing stories, and showing educational videos throughout southernmost libraries in Illinois.

All are welcome. To ensure enough space and craft materials, please call the library you plan to attend to register in advance.

For more information about upcoming events or to get involved, contact your local county Extension office or visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/ajmpu>.

## News from Camp Ground Church, Community

Sunday's sermon was "Treasure Hunt" based upon Matthew 6,19-21. Wanting "stuff" starts early in life: babies reach for anything that takes their eye.

What do we value most in life? Money? Family? Time? Things?

We strive to keep track of our check book, credit cards and phones. We are careful to lock up our cars, houses, barns and other things we value.

Satan tempts us to trade eternal rewards for earthly, fleeting "treasures."

Jesus wants us to focus on eternal rather than material things; He taught to seek first the kingdom of God and our necessities will be provided. As believers, we must strive to be content with our circumstances and allow the Holy Spirit control our lives.

In the day of the Lord, everything will be destroyed, but in keeping with His promise, God will ransom those who are prepared for Eternity.

Addi Bonner rang the bell to commence Worship. Reed and Kayton Cranes received the tithes and offerings Sunday.

Birthday greetings to Donnie Jones and Ashley Roach, both yesterday, the 9th.

Congratulations to Dwight and Sandra Boaz who celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary this past Tuesday, the 8th.

We invite you to join us each Sunday, beginning with fellowship and coffee at 9:15 a.m., Bible study for all ages at 9:30 a.m. followed by Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

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

# Opinion and Commentary

## Food safety tips for summer events

In Illinois, it is estimated that as many as 250,000 cases of food-borne illness may occur each year, with many leading to serious complications and even death. If you're planning a food event with family and friends this summer, Southern 7 Health Department encourages you to follow some food-safety tips from the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health to keep your guests illness free.

The number one rule in food safety is keep it clean. Germs that cause food poisoning can survive in many places and spread throughout your cooking area. Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before, during and after preparing food and before eating. Wash utensils, cutting boards and plates for raw meat, poultry, seafood, fruits and vegetables between use or have separate items available for each food. Kitchen towels, sponges and cloths can harbor bacteria. Wash them often and replace sponges every few weeks.

Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running water. Keep all foods separate when shopping and in the refrigerator. Thaw frozen food safely in the refrigerator, in cold water or in the microwave. Never thaw foods on the counter because bacteria multiply quickly in the parts of the food that reach room temperature.

When it's time to serve your food, cook to the right temperature. Food is safely cooked when the internal temperature gets high enough to kill germs that can make you sick. The only way to tell if food is safely cooked is to use a food thermometer. You can't tell if food is safely cooked by checking its color and texture, except for seafood. Use a food thermometer to ensure foods are cooked to a safe internal temperature. For details visit [cdc.gov/food-safety/prevention/](http://cdc.gov/food-safety/prevention/).

Carry picnic food in an insulated cooler with a cold pack. Try to keep the cooler in the shade and do not open the lid any more than is necessary. Bacteria can multiply rapidly if left at room temperature so refrigerate leftovers within two hours. Divide warm foods into several clean, shallow containers so they will chill faster. If the food is exposed to temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, like a hot car or picnic, refrigerate it within one hour.

More information about summer food safety is available by contacting Southern 7 Health Department environmental health director Miranda Adams at 618-634-2297, extension 973114, or by visiting [dph.illinois.gov](http://dph.illinois.gov) or [cdc.gov/food-safety](http://cdc.gov/food-safety).

## Please read this...

### Lesson for this week...moles have sharp teeth...

By Geof Skinner

It was a dark and stormy afternoon...as a matter of fact, it was getting darker in the great outdoors as this was being crafted at 4:32 p.m. on a Monday...thunder was rumbling overhead, as it had been doing for more than an hour...rain started to fall...

...and not all that many hours before...it was a dark and stormy night...

Either way...the only sensible things to do were to go for a walk...or to go outside and sit on the front porch...

Before the rain started to fall Monday afternoon, I decided to get in a daily walk. The Other Half suggested that I might want to take a look at the weather radar before heading out. So, I did. The radar on the website for the National Weather Service office in Paducah showed the color green over Union County. Such an image suggested that it was raining outside. I looked outside. It was not raining. I headed out for a walk.

Off to the south, the sky was dark. An occasional flash of lightning appeared. Thunder continued to rumble. Rain still was not falling.

As it turned out, going for a walk gave me an opportunity for a brand new experience on The Journey Through Life.

As I was walking on the sidewalk along one of the main thoroughfares in our hometown, I happened to notice some sort of Critter making its way across the street. At first glance, I thought the Critter was a rather large woolly worm caterpillar. In all of

my years of walking, I have never seen a mole. Well, not one that was alive. Certainly not one crossing the street. And the Critter was moving fast, too.

Turned out the Critter was a mole. Why was the mole crossing the street? That was not determined. I do not speak mole, and, during our brief encounter, the Critter did not utter any words in English.

As our encounter continued, for the first time on The Journey Through Life, I did some mole herding. Instead of being a cowboy, I suppose I became a moleboy. Yes, you can go wherever you want with that. I just did not want to see the little Critter flattened by a few thousand pounds of metal on wheels.

At one point, I attempted to pick up the mole. The mole was not impressed. So, I herded the mole to what I hoped was a safe place with my feet.

When I got home, I shared the story of my short stint as a moleboy with The Other Half. When I told her about trying to pick up the Critter, she made what was probably an obvious sort of observation: Moles just might bite.

With a quick visit to the internet, and thanks to an "AI Overview" (which, I assume, means an "Artificial Intelligence Overview"), I learned that "Yes, moles can bite, but it's rare for them to bite humans." Turns out that moles have "small, sharp teeth." Furthermore, moles "may bite if they feel they need to defend themselves."

"While mole bites are not common, it's still wise to be cautious and avoid handling moles if you encounter one" the "AI Overview" advised. Great. When it comes to encounters with moles, AI apparently is wiser than your writer, who is, perhaps, blessed with genuine intelligence, albeit in a rather limited quantity.

I suppose that if the Critter had bitten its wannabe rescuer, I might have acquired the super powers of a mole. Such as being able to burrow super fast into the ground and enjoying a diet of grubs, worms and other such delicacies. Now that would make a great movie...

The "AI Overview" also shared that "Moles spend most of their time underground, so encounters with humans are infrequent." Except maybe for a Monday afternoon in July...

Oh...just to be clear...the mole did not bite its "rescuer." Meanwhile...

Another thunderstorm made a brief, but dramatic, appearance in our little corner of the world at about 9:30 last



A rabbit appeared to be playing peekaboo behind a tree stump on a recent sunny afternoon.



Uber for a bug? A grasshopper hitched a ride from Anna to Cobden last Friday evening in the photographer's car.

Sunday night. Since a storm was coming, it was a good time to go outside and watch. The storm seemed to take its sweet time about arriving. When it finally did arrive, after about half an hour or so of anticipation, we had some heavy rain...some lightning and thunder...some strong wind gusts...and then it was over.

Meanwhile...

Other than a mole, recent Critter Sightings included...

A grasshopper...about an inch long or so...green...with a brown stripe on its back. The Critter showed up last Friday evening on the front windshield inside my car. At the time, I was in Anna. For some reason, I let the Critter stay put. The grasshopper did not move at all as I drove home. When I did get home,

I assisted the Critter in getting out of the car. I wonder how the Critter felt after it woke up in Anna last Friday morning and then ended up in Cobden that evening.

The usual squirrel...or two...they continue to be taking it easy when your writer is out for a walk. Or, as The Other Half has observed, the squirrels may be smarter than the guy who decides to go for a walk during the afternoon on a hot, humid and sunny July afternoon.

A heron...and two egrets...at a pond and in a adjacent field...along Kaolin Road.

All kinds of dragonflies, in all kinds of colors, in all kinds of places.

A rabbit, attempting to hide behind a tree stump.

Three white-tailed deer...all last Sunday evening when yours truly decided to go on a short ride out in the country...one of the Critters was crossing Mountain Glen Road...one was in a field where corn stalks were growing, sort of...and one was along Route 127 as I was heading north between Mountain Glen Road and Aldridge Road. Thankfully, the deer stayed put.

Well...we're going to wrap this up...the thunder is still rumbling...the rain is still falling...

## CrossPointe Church set to reopen

Campus Pastors Larry and Tedra Crow have announced that CrossPointe Church of God will be reopening on Sunday, July 13.

The first service is set for 10:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts served before the service.

The church is located at 409 S. Green St. in Anna. For more information, call 618-791-4004.

## Campaign promotes organ donor awareness

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias recently launched a public awareness campaign encouraging Illinoisans to spark a lifesaving "ripple effect" by becoming organ donors.

A campaign ad, which is the first in a series building on the positive ripple effects of organ donation, began running in mid-June on broadcast television, digital and social media platforms across the state.

"Some 4,000 Illinois residents are in need of a transplant, including many whose lives hang in the balance waiting for the availability of a suitable organ," Giannoulias said in a news release. "By choosing to become an organ donor, Illinoisans can catalyze a cascade of positive action, empowering recipients to pay the gift forward by helping those around them."

In the ad's narrative, a firefighter who was granted the gift of life through organ donation saves a tutor at the scene of an accident, who in turn helps a young student earn admission into college.

The story is rooted in real-world accounts of organ recipients starting a chain reaction of positive change with their second chance at life.

Illinois has one of the largest registries in the nation, averaging over 20,000 sign-ups per month across DMV facilities, with around 6.5 million total current registrants. A single donor can save or improve the lives of up to 25 people.

Approximately 4,000 people are on the transplant waiting list and about 300 die waiting for a transplant every year.

To become a donor, Illinoisans can register with the Secretary of State's Organ and Tissue Donor Registry by visiting LifeGoesOn.com, calling 800-210-2106 or signing up at the DMV.



## Independence Day fireworks in Anna

Independence Day fireworks were presented Friday night, July 4th, at the Anna City Park. The pyrotechnics display was presented by Brad Dawson for a big and appreciative audience at the park in Anna.