

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, July 24, 2025

Anna, Illinois

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News Notes

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

The Union County Sheriff's Office reported Monday morning on social media that Illinois Route 146 west at Illinois Route 127 north near Jonesboro was closed due to a vehicle accident. Motorists were being asked to seek alternate routes. The highway reopened to traffic at around midday Monday. Regional media reported that two persons were injured in the accident.

The City of Jonesboro is seeking a full-time police chief. Applications are available at Jonesboro City Hall and will be accepted until the position is filled.

The City of Anna is voicing appreciation to the DuPage County Health Department for the incredible support for a Protect Swimmers Day event which was held July 17 at the Anna City Pool. The support included giveaways for the kids to help promote water safety, as well as a grant which allowed the city to offer free swim lessons to 10 children ages 3 to 5.

The Cobden Lions Club is welcoming donations for a raffle which will be held during the upcoming Peach Festival, which is planned Aug. 8-9.

The Village of Cobden is moving forward with plans for a new well project.

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School is looking to hire a new band director/music teacher.

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

A "Back to School Bash" is planned from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Lick Creek School.

Lick Creek School yearbooks are in; they will be available to pick up during registration, first come, first served.

Anna School District 37 reminds students in grades 3 through 8 that they will need a clear backpack and a clear water bottle for the new school year.

Anna Junior High School softball tryouts are scheduled July 28-29.

Students and staff recently celebrated the last day of summer school in Anna School District 37 with a bounce house, dance party, pizza and ice cream. The district voiced pride for all of the extra work done by everyone involved in summer school.

Shawnee School District 84 is asking families to use school supply lists which appear on social media or on the district's website when purchasing supplies for the new school year.

(continued on page 2)

Extreme heat, humidity in forecast for region



Patch of blue sky

A patch of blue sky made an appearance in the clouds over Cobden last Saturday afternoon. At the time, heavy rain was falling in some parts of the region. A few brief showers, and the occasional rumble of thunder, accompanied the clouds.

Extreme heat and humidity were in the forecast for this week in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

As of Monday morning, July 21, an extreme heat warning remained in effect until 7 p.m. Thursday, today, for parts of the region, including Union, Jackson, Williamson, Johnson, Alexander, Pulaski and Massac counties in Southern Illinois.

Dangerously conditions were in the forecast, with heat index values from 105 to 110 degrees, the National Weather Service office in Paducah reported. High temperatures through Sunday in the region were forecast to be the 90s through Sunday. Heat index values as high as 111 degrees were in the forecast for Thursday, today, followed by 107 on Friday, 104 on Saturday and 108 on Sunday. The Weather Service advised that cloud cover and storm coverage may have an impact on the heat from Friday through Sunday.

Heat-related illnesses increase significantly during extreme heat and high humidity events, the Weather Service advised. Precautionary and preparedness actions shared by the Weather Service included:

Drink plenty of fluids, stay in an air-conditioned room, stay out of the sun and check up on relatives and neighbors.

Do not leave young children and pets in unattended vehicles. Car interiors will reach lethal temperatures in a matter of minutes.

Take extra precautions when

outside. Wear lightweight and loose fitting clothing. Try to limit strenuous activities to early morning or evening. Take action when you see symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

To reduce risk during outdoor work, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends scheduling frequent rest breaks in shaded or air conditioned environments. Anyone overcome by heat should be moved to a cool and shaded location. Heat stroke is an emergency: call 911.

The extreme heat and humidity could continue into next weekend over portions of the region. A chance of thunderstorms returns to portions of the region Friday through the weekend.

The National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Md., advised early Monday morning that a dangerous heat wave would be expanding across the Central Plains, Mississippi Valley and Southeast through the middle of the week.

The "Dog Days of Summer" were in full swing for most of the eastern two-thirds of the Lower 48 states. This was being brought about by a strengthening heat dome which was originating over the Deep South that was forecast to build in over the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys by the middle of the week.

Heat index readings between 100 and 110 degrees were expected each day, with some locations reaching as high as 115. Major heat risk impacts also were expected. Extreme heat warnings were in place for parts of the Central Plains and lower to middle Mississippi Valley.

Weather

High 94, low 70; 0.45 of an inch of rain

High temperatures generally were in the 90s during the period of July 15-21 in the Union County area. Lows each day were in the 70s.

Precipitation for the period totaled 0.45 of an inch of rain.

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

Tuesday, July 15: high 89, low 70. 0.29 of an inch of rain.

Wednesday, July 16: high 92, low 73.

Thursday, July 17: high 92, low 74.

Friday, July 18: high 91, low 72.

Saturday, July 19: high 94, low 73. 0.01 of an inch of rain.

Sunday, July 20: high 93, low 74.

Monday, July 21: high 93, low 74. 0.15 of an inch of rain.

Anna City Council honors firefighter for service



Certificate of recognition presented

The Anna City Council presented a certificate of recognition to Anna Fire & Rescue Department firefighter Todd Harris at the council's regular meeting on Tuesday evening, July 15. From left are city council members Torie Carter and Michael Bigler; Mayor Steve Hartline, who presented the certificate; Todd Harris; and city council members Martha Ann Webb and Kathy Bryan.

Recognition of a firefighter, the naming of an interim fire chief and employment of a police chief were on the agenda at last week's regular meeting of the Anna City Council. The meeting was Tuesday evening, July 15, at Anna City Hall.

First on the agenda for the meeting was recognition of Anna Fire & Rescue Department firefighter Todd Harris. Harris is stepping down after 10 years of service with the department. Harris also has served with other emergency services agencies in Union County. All together, he has 32 years of dedicated volunteer fire service.

Mayor Steve Hartline was joined by city council members Michael Bigler, Kathy Bryan, Torie Carter and Martha Ann Webb in the presentation of a certificate of recognition to Harris. The

certificate voiced "grateful appreciation" to Harris for his "outstanding dedication and service to the Anna Fire & Rescue Department."

The appointment of long-time firefighter Chris Clark as interim fire chief was approved at last week's council meeting. Clark has served for 23 years as a volunteer with the fire department. The appointment was effective immediately.

A resolution authorizing and approving an agreement to employ Brent Sims as the Anna Police Department's chief of police also was approved by the council. Sims has been serving with the police department and his appointment as chief was effective immediately.

In other business at the council's July 15 meeting:

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School cross coun-

ty team and track team head coach Matt Denny presented a request to the council to consider which would allow the Anna City Pool to remain open through the month of September. For many years, the pool has closed for the season in August. Denny said having the pool available would help to support the high school cross country team's training efforts. Community members and the Anna Blue Dolphins swim team also could continue to use the pool, he suggested.

Discussion about the request focused on such concerns as staffing and the cost of extending the operation of the pool for another month. "We'll look at it," Mayor Steve Hartline said about the council considering the request. "There's a lot to look at."

During his discussion, Denny also praised city officials for work which is being done on a number of improvements in the community.

Feedback will be sought regarding the city's plans for participation in the celebration of the nation's 250th birthday in 2026.

Reappointment of John Lloyd to the city's zoning board of appeals was approved.

Park usage applications for Anna School District 37 baseball from July 21 through Oct. 10 and Anna-Jonesboro Community High School cross country meets for Sept. 10 and Oct. 7 were approved.

Forest Discovery Series slated

The U.S. Forest Service is planning to present a "Forest Discovery Series" for young people at the Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro. Sessions in the series were scheduled to begin July 23 and continue on July 30, Aug. 6 and Aug. 13. All of the sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The Forest Service shared that the series is designed to give young adventurers and opportunity to learn what it takes to make a forest healthy through hands-on fun, exploration and guided discovery. Southern Illinois is home to the Shawnee Na-

tional Forest.

Programs are suitable for ages 7-12. Those who want to participate are asked to RSVP by calling the Forest Service's Mississippi Bluffs Ranger Station in Jonesboro at 618-833-8576, extension 0.

The schedule and topics for the remainder of the series follow:

Session 2: Bug Buddies: Learn about insects.

Session 3: Aug. 6: Waterway Wonders: What's up with watersheds.

Session 4: Aug. 13: Tree Trekkers: Getting to know the trees of the forest.



Anna to host SISL Championships

The Anna Blue Dolphins swim team will be hosting the Southern Illinois Swim League Championships on Saturday, July 26. Teams from Harrisburg, Marion, Herrin, Carbondale, DuQuoin and Salem will be competing in the end of year competition. The event will bring in over 200 swimmers from across the region to the Anna City Pool. The meet begins at 9 a.m. Pictured is the roster for the 2025 Anna Blue Dolphins swim team.



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Five men sentenced for poaching white-tailed deer in Southern Illinois

BENTON, Ill. — Five men from Mississippi have been sentenced in Southern Illinois federal court after admitting to using spotlights to illegally hunt white-tailed deer in Massac, Jefferson, Union, Pope and Clark counties. The sentencing were reported in a July 17 news release posted on the website for the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois.

Lee J. Johnson, 54, of Saucier, Miss., pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful transport of wildlife in violation of the Lacey Act and was sentenced to five years' probation and ordered to pay \$75,000 in restitution and a \$10,000 fine.

Steven J. Pique, 56, of Biloxi, Miss., pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act and was sentenced to five years' probation and ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution.

Gerald B. Moran, 40, of Saucier, Miss., pleaded guilty

to one count of unlawful transport of wildlife in violation of the Lacey Act and was sentenced to five years' probation and ordered to pay \$5,000 in restitution and a \$2,500 fine.

Joshua A. Marshall, 30, of Saucier, Miss., pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful transport of wildlife in violation of the Lacey Act and was sentenced to three years' probation and ordered to pay \$7,500 in restitution and a \$2,500 fine.

John M. Pritchard, 57, of Biloxi, Miss., pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful transport of wildlife in violation of the Lacey Act and was sentenced to five years' probation and ordered to pay \$10,000 in restitution and a \$5,000 fine.

According to court documents, between 2018 and 2022, the poachers would use spotlights to scout white-tailed deer in Massac, Jefferson, Union, Pope and Clark counties in Southern Illinois. Once a deer was located, members of the group would get a rifle, spotlight the deer again and then shoot to kill. They would later return to collect the carcass.

"This was not an isolated incident of unlawful hunting; rather, it was a calculated, multi-year operation that exploited Illinois's prized wildlife resources for personal gain," said Assistant Director Douglas Ault, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement. "Targeting trophy deer under the cover of night, across multiple counties, and transporting them across state lines reflects a deliberate disregard for wildlife laws and the ecological balance we work tirelessly to protect. Such organized violations undermine decades



White-tailed deer
A white-tailed deer was seen in a field along in a rural road in Union County. The photograph was taken in early July.

of conservation progress and diminish the integrity of fair-chase hunting traditions that responsible hunters value nationwide."

After collecting the carcass, the poachers would then transport the animal over state lines from Illinois back to Mississippi where they would harvest and process the deer. Typically, the poachers would mount the deer's head, antlers or other parts of its body.

The defendants' fines will go to the Lacey Act Reward Account through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and restitution will go to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

"This case sends a clear message: wildlife laws are not only about species protection, but they also uphold the principles of fair chase and ethical hunting. The Illinois Conservation Police, in partnership with our dedicated federal agencies, consistent-

ly demonstrate professionalism and commitment to enforcing these laws," said Jed Whitchurch, director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Office of Law Enforcement. "The complexity and scale of this case required multiagency coordination, and thanks to that teamwork, we've reinforced the stewardship values that define responsible hunting and the importance of natural resources law enforcement."

The case was investigated jointly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Illinois Conservation Police, with support from USFWS Federal Wildlife Officers, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi. Assistant U.S. Attorney David Sanders prosecuted the case.

Pageant contestant recognized for service to military community



Bryar Phillips

Bryar Phillips from Thebes was named the Diamond Distinction Award Ambassador at the Support Our Troops pageant on June 29 in Jackson, Mo. The title is given to a contestant who exemplifies leadership, heart and dedication to community impact.

The 3-year-old pageant contestant collected and donated over 600 individual care items for active-duty military members. Items collected ranged from hygiene products and snacks, to lolly pops and notes.

The Salute Our Troops pageants are hosted by One Love

Pageants, and are dedicated to honoring and respecting the brave men and women of the military, showing support for active service members and veterans.

"Our goal was to combine pageantry with purpose," said Jessi Clark Watson, co-director of One Love Pageants. "This wasn't just about celebrating beauty, it was about teaching young leaders the importance of respect, service, and love for those who serve our country."

"Hosting this yearly pageant is always an honor." Said Co-Director Mindy Licka.

News Notes

(continued from page 1)
Cobden School District 17 is again voicing its thanks to last year's sports program sponsors who helped to support the purchase of uniforms, paying of officials and providing student athletes with a wide range of opportunities. The school district is welcoming those who would like to be sponsors for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Cobden High School's cross country team recently did cross training at the Anna City Pool with the Anna Blue Dolphins swim team.

August is National Immunization Month. As part of this year's Illinois Department of Public Health Back-to-School vaccination campaign, Southern 7 Health Department is reminding families it's not too late to schedule a child's school shots and to make sure everyone in the family is up to date on routine vaccinations.

Auditions for "Shrek the Musical" are planned Aug. 22-23 at Shawnee Community College near Ullin. The auditions are open to those ages 8 and up. The musical will be presented in November by the college.

Shawnee Community College is welcoming Tara Huffman as an academic specialist for the TRiO Educational Talent Search program, Ender Schmidt as a data reporting specialist in the college's institutional effectiveness department and baseball team head coach Matt White and assistant coach Logan Bledsaw.

An emergency medical responder course is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. on Mondays starting Aug. 11 and continuing through Sept. 29 at Shawnee Community College's extension center in Anna.

Young people from throughout the region have enjoyed this summer's Saints Kids' Camps offered by Shawnee Community College. Recent camps have included a Safe Sitter program,

Esports, drones and board and card games.

In observance of National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month during July, the Illinois Department of Transportation shared the following tips for motorists: Park in well-lit areas. Close and lock all doors and windows. Hide valuables out of sight. Do not leave keys in the vehicle. Do not leave an unattended vehicle running.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is welcoming reports from the public about armadillo sightings in the state's central and northern counties. The department notes that there are documented cases of armadillos successfully breeding in Southern Illinois and that it is expected that armadillo population will slowly move north over time. Armadillo sightings are very common in Southern Illinois.

Flamm Orchards near Cobden has started a summer "Peach Tour" which is scheduled to include stops during July and August in Illinois, Indiana and Iowa.

Rendleman Orchards in Alto Pass plans to host a "Pollinator Pop-Up Event" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 19. A beekeeping demonstration, honey tasting education, vendors and other special activities are scheduled.

The Illinois Small Business Development Center, SBDC, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is celebrating 40 years of helping new and growing businesses. An anniversary celebration was planned July 16 at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center in Carbondale. The event was slated to include the recognition of four businesses, one for each decade, that represent the hundreds who have received assistance from SIU's SBDC. Two of the businesses were from the Union County area: Alto Vineyards in Alto Pass and Rolling Oak Alpaca Ranch near

Makanda. A grain bin rescue awareness event is planned starting at 8 a.m. Aug. 16 at the Pulaski-Alexander Farm Bureau in Mounds. The Farm Bureau is joining with the Illinois Fire Service Institute to present the program.

New student ambassadors are being recognized by Shawnee Community College. The ambassadors are graduates of high schools in the college district. They will events at the college and in area communities.

Shawnee Community College is celebrating its most recent certified nursing assistant graduates.

TRiO Educational Talent Search-Shawnee Community College is planning to host a Pathways to Success event Thursday, July 31, on the college's main campus near Ullin. The event is designed for parents of guardians with children in grades 6 through 12.

Summer construction work continues at Shawnee Community College, including replacement of windows, an HVAC project in cosmetology department and resurfacing and painting of parking lots.

A sun-up hike is planned from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. July 25 at Giant City State Park near Makanda.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that the heat index was 102 degrees at 2:52 p.m. Friday, July 11, at the Southern Illinois Airport near Carbondale. The air temperature at the time was 91 degrees and the humidity was 59 percent.

The Jonesboro Public Library is hosting a Back to School Drive on Saturday, August 2, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Free hot dogs, music, bounce houses and custom backpack charms.

New technology's goal: help to keep officers safe

The Union County Circuit Clerk's Office, in collaboration with the Union County Sheriff's Office, on July 15 announced the launch of the Quicket Solutions ECITATION software, which will be implemented in all law enforcement agency vehicles throughout the county. The innovative technology aims to enhance officer safety during traffic stops, a critical area of concern for law enforcement.

Traffic stops are statistically among the most perilous situations for police officers. Over the past decade, a staggering 123 police officers have lost their lives after being struck by vehicles while conducting roadside traffic stops.

State awards grants for fire station work

The State of Illinois has awarded \$5 million to 16 grant recipients in the inaugural Fire Station Construction and Rehabilitation Program. Those receiving grant funding are located throughout the state, including in Southern Illinois.

Gov. JB Pritzker joined the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, OSFM, in announcing the awarding of the grants on July 17. The funding will allow fire departments or fire protection districts to repair, rehabilitate, upgrade or construct new fire stations.

Southern Illinois area grant recipients included, by county:

- Union County: Ware-Wolf Lake Fire Protection District, \$349,789.
- Alexander County: Tamms Fire Department, \$71,011.
- Johnson County: Buncombe Fire Department, \$350,000. Vienna Fire Department, \$350,000.
- Gallatin County: Equality Fire Department, \$300,000. Shawneetown Fire Depart-

This alarming statistic underscores the urgent need for measures that will improve officer safety. By introducing the ECITATION system, law enforcement in Union County can significantly reduce the time officers spend outside their vehicles while issuing traffic citations, thereby minimizing exposure to potential hazards.

Deputy Circuit Clerk Britany Newman and Chief Deputy Anthony Pena of the Union County Sheriff's Office have diligently worked together to ensure the successful installation of the necessary equipment and software across all participating agencies in the county.

"Our goal is to provide law enforcement with valuable

tools that support their vital work in keeping our community safe," Union County Circuit Clerk Keri E. Clark said in a news release. "The availability of funds to initiate this project highlights our commitment to enhancing officer safety and operational efficiency within our law enforcement agencies."

The ECITATION software will streamline the citation process, allowing officers to focus more on their surroundings and the safety of both themselves and the public. This initiative represents a significant advancement in the use of technology to promote officer safety and improve overall law enforcement practices in Union County.

"This was the inaugural year of the grant program, established as part of the OSFM's ongoing commitment to assist the Illinois Fire Service in identifying and securing funding for critical resources that might otherwise be out of reach," Illinois State Fire Marshal Michele L. Pankow said. "I want to thank my predecessors for their hard work and dedication in securing this funding, which now allows departments like those receiving these grants the opportunity to construct or rebuild stations — ultimately helping to keep their communities and firefighters safer."

The Fire Station Construction and Rehabilitation Program recipients were selected through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity, NOFO, process that was opened to fire departments, fire protection districts and township fire departments. The program was established to provide grants of up to \$350,000 for the construction or rehabilitation of fire stations across the state.

Southern Seven mourns passing of Rhonda Andrews-Ray

Southern Seven Health Department and Head Start are mourning the passing of executive director/public health administrator Rhonda Andrews-Ray.

Southern Seven shared the following message about a friend and colleague who had "a life well lived" and will be deeply missed:

It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that we at Southern Seven Health Department and Head Start share the news of the passing of our colleague and executive director/public health administrator, Rhonda Andrews-Ray, who passed away on July 13, 2025, at the age of 57.

Rhonda was not only a dedicated leader but also a mentor, a friend and source of strength for our team. Her commitment to our mission, compassion for children and families and unwavering support of our staff left a lasting mark on our organization and in each of our hearts.

Graduating with a master's degree in biology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1995, Rhonda began her career in public health in 1994 as the public health administrator for Marion County Health Department in Salem, Illinois, where she served for six years.

She later went on to serve as public health administrator for Fayette County Health Department in Vandalia from 2008 to 2018, and completed her career as executive director/public health administrator for Southern Seven Health Department in Ullin from 2018 to 2025.

Throughout her years of leadership, Rhonda focused her attention on all aspects of public health, touching countless lives. At Southern



Rhonda Andrews-Ray

Seven, her commitment to helping others through vital, life-saving programs and services enabled her to oversee the largest geographical health department in Illinois and one of only a few Head Start programs in the nation administered by a local health department.

A graveside service for Rhonda Andrews-Ray was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 19, with Mark Howe officiating, at Pleasant Grove Christian Church Cemetery in Cisne. Visitation was from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, July 18, at Collier Funeral Home in Benton, Ky.

Memorial contributions can take the form of donations made in memory of Rhonda Andrews-Ray to the Colon Cancer Foundation, 10 Midland Ave., Suite M-06, Port Chester, N.Y. 10573.

Rhonda will be deeply missed by all those that knew and loved her. For those who worked with her at Southern Seven Health Department and Head Start, her mission of caring, steadfastness and dedication to those she served throughout the lower seven counties in Illinois will forever be the purpose that guides us.

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship on July 20 with Pastor Perry leading our Opening Prayer.

Our Call to Worship was on Joy and Triumph "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." This was taken from 1 John.

Our Worship Team led us in our Worship music, "Here I am to Worship," "What a Beautiful Name It Is" and "Victory in Jesus."

In Pastor Lupe absence, Pastor Zach was our Preaching Minister. His sermon title was, "Get Out of the Boat" The Book of Jonah.

Highlights of his sermon included, How many times has God called us to do something that was according to His Will and we did not want to do it because we were afraid, etc. We need to "get out of the boat" and do God's Will, knowing God will be with us every step of the way.

Our people that went to Mexico on the Mission Trip

will share with everyone their experiences of the trip next week. It will be a blessing to hear of the blessings of how God used them in Mexico. You are invited to our Worship Service to share these experiences with us. Our service starts at 10:15 a.m.

Our Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. and is for all ages. Our Worship Service and Children's Church begins at 10:15 a.m. Our Prayer Time and Youth Program begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday evening for both of these. Our bus runs for all of these services and programs, please call our church office for more information about riding our bus.

We have other programs, please call and ask about other programs you may be interested in.

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

Check us out on Facebook. com/AnnaFirstBaptistChurch Email us fbcanna409@gmail. com.

Come by and visit us, we are here 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and we would love to tell you about our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Feel free to call us.

We pray God will bless you and your family always.

Remember, Jesus loves you and so do we.

Registration scheduled at A-J

In-person registration for the 2025-2026 academic year is scheduled Wednesday and Thursday, July 30-31, at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School.

The school has announced the following schedule for registration:

Wednesday, July 30: Seniors, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Juniors, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All grades, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, July 31: Freshmen, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sophomores, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The school also has announced that Southern 7 Health Department is scheduled to be on-site during in-person registration to provide required vaccinations.

More information about registration can be found on the school's website at <https://aj81.net/registration/>.



P.A.S.T. donation

The Daniel Chapman Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution awarded the P.A.S.T. (Promoting Appreciation of Structural Treasures) House in Jonesboro a \$500 grant for restoration repairs. The grant was made possible by the 2023-2025 State Regent Christina Bannon's State Regent's Project. Historic Preservation is one of the hallmarks of NSDAR.

Pictured are, from left, Marilyn Meiseinheimer, Julia Mowery, Daniel Chapman Chapter Regent Doda Starkey, P.A.S.T. House President Suzan Harvel, Daniel Chapman Chapter Treasurer Carolyn Tripp, Melodie Penrod, Martha Webb and Judy Neal. Photo by Stephen Burns.

'Dog Days of Summer' event set at Anna Pool

Man's best friends and their people are invited to be a part of an upcoming "Dog Days of Summer" event which is scheduled at the Anna City Pool. The City of Anna is planning to host the special event from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10.

Dogs and their people are invited to come to the pool for a swim. Dogs of similar sizes will be allowed in the pool by weight classes.

The city announced on social media that the weight classes and times "will shake out like this (pun intended):"

The light weight division, under 25 pounds, will swim from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The middle weight divi-

sion, 25 to 75 pounds, will swim from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The heavy weight division, over 75 pounds, will swim from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The city asks that all dogs be leashed and up to date on vaccinations. Admission is \$10 per dog and he/she can bring along two of their favorite human friends. All admission proceeds will go into a fund created for development of a future dog park in the City of Anna.

Lifeguards will be present and the concession stand will be open.

More information about the event is available by contacting Anna City Hall at 833-8528.

Record \$303 million in missing money returned by state treasurer

A record \$303.8 million in missing money was returned to nearly 312,000 residents, businesses and organizations through the I-CASH program during Fiscal Year 2025, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs has reported.

Frerichs marked the record-breaking total on July 15 by presenting a check for more than \$200,000 to the Orphans of the Storm animal shelter in Riverwoods. The money comes from a late Lake County woman who named the shelter as a beneficiary of her life insurance policy.

"We made common-sense changes to I-CASH to return more money to more folks, and we are proud to set records," Frerichs said in a news release. "But we're even more proud of helping people. One of my biggest fights was to take on insurance companies to make sure life insurance benefits rightfully end up with the people and organizations they were left to."

The July 15 gift represented a meaningful and impactful contribution to Orphans of the Storm and comes as the shelter approaches its 100th anniversary and is actively planning for the next century of compassionate animal care, the state treasurer said.

I-CASH is one of Illinois' oldest consumer protection initiatives. The Illinois State Treasurer's Office is tasked with safeguarding and returning unclaimed property, including the contents of overlooked safe deposit boxes, unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. The Illinois Treasurer is legally required to return unclaimed property to its owner or heirs, no matter how long it takes.

The record-setting \$303.8 million returned by the state treasurer's office in missing money broke last year's mark, which was \$301 million.

"It's not just people we return money to, but businesses and organizations as well," Frerichs said. "We encourage business owners and nonprofit groups to check the I-CASH site to see if we have money waiting for them to claim."

The Enhanced Money Match program is a key driver in this success, taking the "claim" out of unclaimed property by automatically returning money without the need to file a claim after some information is electronically verified. This summer, a record-breaking 600,000 people will receive \$45 million in money they didn't even know they had coming.

Most of the matched claims in this Enhanced Money Match round equal \$50 or less, though some people can have multiple claims and their checks will amount to much more. The state treasurer's office founded the Enhanced Money Match program in 2018 and has since returned more than \$130 million to more than 870,000 people.

All told, Frerichs has returned more than \$2.3 billion in missing money during his time in office. When Frerichs first became treasurer, there were 60,000 claims paid a year. Today, more than 300,000 claims are paid a year, owing in no small part to Frerichs' complete restructuring of the missing money process. The state treasurer's office added electronic claims and eliminated red tape that slowed small-money claims.

Frerichs also added a Friends and Family "share" feature. When visitors to the I-CASH website come across the name of someone they know, they can select the "share" icon and provide the email address of their friend or relative. Frerichs' office will notify the individual by sending an email that mentions the missing money along with the name of the friend or relative who spotted it. Then, that individual can start the process of retrieving their missing money.

Last year, the state treasurer's office unveiled a Spanish-language missing money website. The site works the same way as its English-language counterpart. People enter a name and city or ZIP code into the search box, and if there's a match, they can start filing a claim online.

When the treasurer's office's safe deposit boxes fill up, unclaimed items go up for auction after 10 years of private and public attempts to locate the owner or heirs. The next live unclaimed property auction is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 16, at 11 a.m. at the Lincoln Stage during the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, with a preview of items starting at 9 a.m. All auction proceeds are held in perpetuity for the rightful owners or their heirs.

Illinois is a national leader in the unclaimed property space and is frequently consulted by other states' leaders who are seeking to reform their unclaimed property laws, rules and procedures.

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office recommends that people check at least twice each year at icash.illinoistreasurer.gov to see if missing money is waiting for you.

Online training course offered for firefighters

The Illinois Department of Labor's, IDOL, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, IL OSHA, in partnership with the Illinois Fire Service Institute, IFSI, has launched an on-demand training course, "Defenses for Firefighters," to help firefighters navigate the challenge of balancing personal safety with effective emergency response.

The online training course delivers actionable guidance developed from real-world incidents and highlights the importance of continually assessing and controlling risk. Whether new to the firefighting or a seasoned chief officer, the course empowers learners with the mindset and strategies needed to identify hazards, defend against injury or death, and make risk-informed decisions.

"The entire course takes only fifteen minutes. I would encourage all fire departments in Illinois to put their staff through it and then continually reinforce the principles," IL OSHA chief Erik Kambarian said in a news

release. "The goal is clear: ensure every firefighter can walk away from a bad day."

The course, and an accompanying handout, highlights core defensive principles, such as:

Always buckle up: seat belts save lives. Stay visible and aware around traffic scenes. Never enter a structure fire without a radio and confirm that it works. Operate as a team. Enter together, stay together, exit together.

Recognize structural risks; expect buildings to collapse. Use your equipment. Know your equipment. "Walk the walk." Speak up if something doesn't seem right.

Participants are encouraged to adopt a disciplined, risk-aware mindset: assess the situation, follow standard operating procedures, SOPs, understand your limitations and avoid being 100 percent task-level oriented.

The "Defenses for Firefighters" course is available through the IFSI training platform, which can be found at fsi.illinois.edu.

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Union County Alliance of Churches
 Recommendations

- 1 "Feeding Kids in the Park," (FREE) TUE & THR, 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

Obituaries

Shaun Cristian Campbell

Shaun Cristian Campbell, age 47, of Dongola, passed away Thursday, July 10, 2025 at his home.

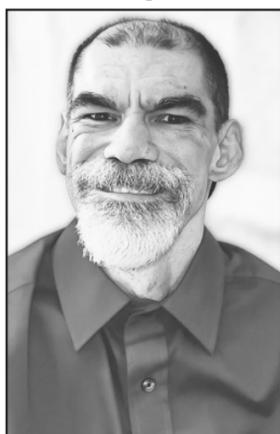
He was born on June 4, 1978 in Ft. Lewis, Wash., the son of Brian and Jolynne (Womack) Campbell.

Shaun is survived by his mother, Jolynne Campbell; nieces, Samantha and Brooke Stanton; aunts and uncles, Ralph and Linda Isom, Roger Womack, Bruce and Debbie Womack, Chip and Patty Young, Dave and Karen Parker, Pat and Jane Campbell and Mike and Sherri Campbell; many cousins and friends, including his special friend, Becky Neathery.

He was preceded in death by his father, Brian Campbell; sister, Amy Stanton; maternal grandparents, Bob and Lois Womack and paternal grandmother, Ellen Campbell.

Shaun was a graduate of Dongola High School. He was a resident at Lincoln Square in Dongola, he enjoyed many activities with the staff and residents at the home.

He enjoyed bowling, movies and music. He loved to



sing and was always in good spirits with a welcoming smile on his face.

Shaun participated in Special Olympics and was an avid Dallas Cowboys and St. Louis Cardinals fan.

Graveside funeral services for Shaun Campbell were held on Monday, July 14 at the Jonesboro Cemetery. Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Special Olympics. To visit Shaun's memorial page and leave online condolences for his family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at rendleman-hilemanfh.com

Richard Paul Trexler

Richard Paul Trexler, age 56, of Thompsonville, passed away on Saturday, July 19, 2025 at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville, Ind.

He was born on Aug. 7, 1968 to Charles Eugene and Anna Lea (Turner) Trexler in Springfield, Ill.

He married Sharon Hughes on Sept. 3, 2005 and she survives.

Richard was a master carpenter, known for being a jack of all trades. He was a loving and caring family man. Richard was always there for anyone in need and would give you the shirt off his back if you were in need of it.

He enjoyed the outdoors partaking in hunting, fishing, and three wheeling.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon; Children, Richard Lee (Dane) Trexler and Jamie (David) Hostalek; siblings, Mark Semyek and Nancy (Christopher) Stewart; and grandchildren, Natalia Trexler, Gabbanelli Trexler, Luna azul Trexler, Richard Trexler Jr., LaKay Trexler, Cameron Hostalek, Lilliana Hostalek, Octavia Hostalek,

Sophia Hostalek, and Ivy



Hostalek; along with several nieces and nephews.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his Siblings, Darrell Trexler, Jessie Trexler, Linda Romero, Arthur Trexler, Joyce Rains, Charles Trexler, and Lee Trexler.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, July 25 at 1 p.m. at Crain Funeral Home in Anna.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. the day of service at the funeral home.

Interment will follow the service at Alto Pass Cemetery.

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

Crain Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.

Carolyn Elliott

Carolyn Elliott, age 69, of Karnak, Ill. passed away at 2:55 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at Mercy Health-Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, Ky.

Carolyn was born Nov. 23, 1955 in Anna, Ill.

She attended Century High School in Ullin. Carolyn attended the First Baptist Church in Karnak. She had retired from the Southgate Nursing Home in Metropolis.

Carolyn is survived by her husband, Tom Elliott of Karnak; one son, Donnie Rentfro of Joppa; one sister, Lisa Dunn of Karnak; eleven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Rose Roper; her parents, Alvia and Dolly Carter Dunn; her brother,



Larry Dunn.

Per the family's request cremation was accorded with private interment to be held at the Cypress Cemetery in Cypress, Illinois at a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wilson Funeral Home in Karnak.

Carmen Maxine (Cross) Coffman

Carmen Coffman, age 88 of Albuquerque, N.M., formerly of Jonesboro, passed away Saturday, July 12, 2025 in Albuquerque, N.M.

She was born Jan. 14, 1937 in Anna, the daughter of Francis and Carrie (Wiley) Cross.

She married Harlan Coffman on Nov. 16, 1957 in Corinth, Miss. He preceded her in death Feb. 4, 2019.

Carmen is survived by her son; Mark Coffman of Rio Rancho, N.M.; daughter, Jennifer (Scott) Love of Amarillo, Texas; grandchildren, Calvin and Carmella Love; sister, Shirley Casper of Carbondale; lifelong friend, Irma Brown of Jonesboro; other relatives and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Harlan Coffman; brother, Harold Cross, and sisters, Eva Lee Harman and Joyce Muldoon.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at the Jonesboro Cemetery with Pastor Perry Williams officiating. Interment followed. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church in Jonesboro.

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

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

John W. Cunningham

John W. Cunningham, age 80, of Buncombe, passed away on Friday, July 18, 2025 at his home.

He was born on Dec. 27, 1944 to Paul H. and Ondean (Karraker) Cunningham in Anna, Ill.

On Oct. 11, 1963, he married Joan Manus and have spent over 61 years together and she survives.

John had worked for nearly 50 years as an electrician. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 702 and Union Masonic Lodge #627 and enjoyed duck hunting.

Survivors include his wife, Joan; grandchildren, Crystal Duncan, Cassandra Cunningham, and Brent Duncan; one brother, Willard (Mary) Cunningham; along with nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his son, Jeffrey who passed away on Dec. 30, 2021 and

his sister, Martha (Tim) Holbach.

The family will hold a private Celebration of John's Life.

The family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to the Donor's Choice.

The cremation of John W. Cunningham will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

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

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News from

Anna Nazarene Church

Sunday, July 20

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on July 20. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team. The message "Learning To Love" from Matthew 22:37-40, John 14:15, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 was brought by Nate Ammon.

The Nazarene Missions International Night was held on July 20 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall with foods for the six world regions, which are USA-Canada, Africa, South America, MesoAmerica, Asia-Pacific and Eurasia being served. NMI President, Jessica Elkins shared statistics from all regions and information about one of the missionaries that serve in each region.

The Church of the Nazarene is a Protestant Christian Church in the Wesleyan-Holiness tra-



dition. Organized in 1908, the denomination is now home to about 2.5 million members worshipping in more than 30,000 congregations in 165 world areas.

Celebrating a birthday this week is: 21st Stanley Elkins

Sunday, July 27
Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service - 10:35 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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



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County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

What a busy week for the salvation of God's people! Three known to me have given their lives to God this past week. A child at our church, JoJo; my great niece, Kaylee; and my youngest grandson, Desmond. One has been baptized and we are awaiting the others. God is working among his people!

My youngest daughter and her husband sent photos of their trip to Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. They went for a visit with his mother for her birthday and to meet up and visit with more family and some friends. Beautiful scenery and seems like there were a lot of great places to visit.

I became a bit concerned when I saw an earthquake of 7.3 occurred off the coast of Alaska and that tsunami warnings had been issued. Tsunamis occur about twice every decade, so that's not too bad. I also learned that Alaska is the most earthquake prone state in the United States. I assumed that was California. Thankfully, this one came to nothing and was downgraded to an advisory. However, I feel it's comparable to flash flood, hurricane, tornado, and blizzard warnings...better safe, than sorry.

The Daniel Chapman Chapter, NSDAR had its annual planning meeting at the Vienna Library at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, July 14. The 2025-2026 yearbook is being finalized. Members are asked, if they have changes to their profiles, to please the chapter regent know as soon as possible as the books must be printed and available by the end of August. The first meeting of the year will be held September 8 at Fellowship Baptist Church in Vienna. This will be a dinner meeting with spouses and prospective members welcome to attend.

Later in the day, chapter members met at 3 p.m. with members of P.A.S.T. of Union County at the Heritage House in Jonesboro. The purpose of this meeting was to attend a reception awarding them a \$500 grant from the chapter. Those in attendance representing Daniel Chapman were Regent Doda Starkey; Vice Regent, Julia Mowery, Treasurer, Carolyn Tripp; Registrar Marilyn Meisenheimer, Corresponding Secretary, Melodie Penrod; and member Martha Ann Webb. P.A.S.T. Director, Suzan Harvel, also the incoming recording secretary for the chapter, received the check and P.A.S.T. members Judy Neal and Stephen Burns were also in attendance. Several members of the chapter are also members of the P.A.S.T. organization. The grant is to be used for repairs to the Heritage House.

P.A.S.T. of Union County will hold its monthly meeting at Heritage House on Tuesday, July 29 at 6 p.m. Planning and scheduling for fall and holiday events and fundraising are among some of the agenda for both Heritage House and St. Anne's. New members are welcome for a one-time \$20 fee.

Mill Creek Village Board met on Tuesday, July 15 at the Village Hall. A discussion was held about the attack by an unsecured dog to another resident's dog recently that also caused injuries to the dog attacked. This resulted in calls placed to the sheriff's office and animal control for this and other ordinance violations. A copy of these ordinances can be found on the county website. Water was donated for the deputies, along with a thank you card being sent, to the sheriff's office and animal control, for their services to the needs of the village.

New signage has been ordered for the south side of the village alerting drivers that small children are at play in the area. Concrete barricades are being moved to limit traffic in restricted areas. Park maintenance was tabled for next month, as mulch needs ordered and new signage created. Next month's meeting will be held on August 19 at 7 p.m.

My husband, mother-in-law,

and I met with David and Suzanne Carter this past Friday evening down at Tom's in Tamms for dinner. Everyone had fish but me...I'm not much of a fish person. I love seafood, but not fish so much. Anyway, we were pleased to run into Murda Davis and Lily Stone, who were also out for dinner. It was good to see them both, and Lily, especially as she'd been ill a while back. We all managed to get in and eat before the storm blew in, and it thankfully blew right back out by the time we were all done. These pop-up showers are annoying, and we won't even discuss the nasty heat.

Our garden is finally showing some progress. The tomatoes, not so much, but we snapped and canned 12 quarts of pole beans on Saturday. Of course, that was after calling and borrowing a canner from my sister-in-law, since our gasket wouldn't seal on ours. I spent an hour online ordering new ones. Whew, those things are expensive! I HAD to order for the canner but went ahead and ordered for two smaller pressure cookers that we are having issues with. The last ones ordered only lasted three years. They just don't make them like they use to...

Jr. and Lula Belle Tripp were driven up to Freeport to visit her brother, Jim Dillow and wife, Janice. Their daughter, Cookie Goodwin was the driver. Most recently they made a trip to the Grand Chain Lodge for dinner. Lula Belle was gifted with the congregation singing "Happy Birthday" to her in church this past Sunday. She stated she had a wonderful birthday.

A fellowship dinner was held after morning services this past Sunday at Mill Creek Baptist Church. I missed the sermon, as I was teaching children's church, but we did add several to the prayer list. Sue Starr, for health and her son, Jeff Starr, who is in the hospital and not doing very well at all; Tonya Marshall who had surgery; Gary Rider is doing well after his surgery; Dean Short is recovering from surgery; Otis Burris is home from the hospital and reportedly doing better; and Ginger Bowman will be having ear surgery on the 28th. We also had a praise report that Lester Wallace had good news about his throat cancer, it appears to be gone! Praise God indeed!

Union County Fixin's

Cuban Pork Roast

1 lime, squeezed to equal 3 Tablespoons
Orange juice, enough added to lime juice to measure ¼ cup total

1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon oregano
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 1/2 pound boneless center-cut pork loin

1 medium onion, sliced
Create a marinade using all ingredients except the pork loin and onion.

Pierce the pork loin multiple times with a knife and place in a gallon sized zip top bag or large bowl that has a lid that seals tight.

Pour sauce over the pork loin and refrigerate 12-24 hours. Turn occasionally.

Two hours before meal time, place the pork and sliced onions in a roasting pan. Pour about half of the marinade over the meat and onions. Reseal and reserve the rest of the marinade.

Roast pork at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Increase the heat to 425 degrees and pour remaining marinade over the meat. Roast for additional 30 minutes, or until meat browns and juice is reduced.

Remove from oven and allow to rest for 10 minutes before slicing.

Tax reminder shared about out-of-state vehicle purchases

The Illinois Department of Revenue, IDOR, is reminding residents that when they purchase a vehicle from another state, sales or use tax is generally due where the vehicle will be registered and used, not necessarily where it was purchased.

This issue often arises when Illinois residents buy vehicles from out-of-state dealerships that mistakenly charge their own state's sales tax, instead of properly documenting the exemption commonly available for

non-resident buyers. As a result, Illinois taxpayers may find themselves having paid tax to another state and still legally responsible for paying vehicle use tax in Illinois.

"Out-of-state dealerships may not always understand Illinois tax laws, and it is important for Illinois buyers who are purchasing a vehicle out-of-state to ensure the dealer knows the vehicle will be titled and registered in Illinois," IDOR director David Harris said in a news release. "The buyer should

ask about an exemption on any sales taxes levied at time of purchase to ensure they are not being charged tax in error."

Illinois law requires that vehicle use tax be paid in Illinois if the vehicle will be registered and primarily used in the state, regardless of where it was purchased. Most states offer a sales tax exemption for out-of-state buyers, but the proper paperwork must be completed at the time of sale to qualify. If this paperwork is not

completed, the dealership may incorrectly collect their own state's sales tax, and the buyer may still owe use tax in Illinois.

To avoid paying double or facing tax complications after a purchase, IDOR offers the following tips:

Tell the dealership upfront that the vehicle will be registered in Illinois. Ask if you qualify for a sales tax exemption as an out-of-state buyer. Make sure the proper exemption form is signed and keep a copy for your

records.

When you return to Illinois, file Form RUT-25 to report the purchase and pay any use tax owed. This form is required when registering a vehicle purchased from an out-of-state dealer. Form RUT-25 is available at IDOR offices, Secretary of State offices, or by calling IDOR's 24-hour Forms Order Hotline at 1-800-356-6302.

"Paying attention to the tax details before you finalize an out-of-state vehicle purchase can save you from

unexpected costs later," Harris said. "It's always best to clarify tax responsibilities upfront rather than be surprised when it's time to register your vehicle in Illinois."

Taxpayers who are considering purchasing a vehicle out of state and unsure about the tax implications are encouraged to contact IDOR before finalizing the sale. To receive assistance taxpayers may call 1-800-732-8866 or 217-782-3336 or visit IDOR's website at tax.illinois.gov.

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

Untangling the Web

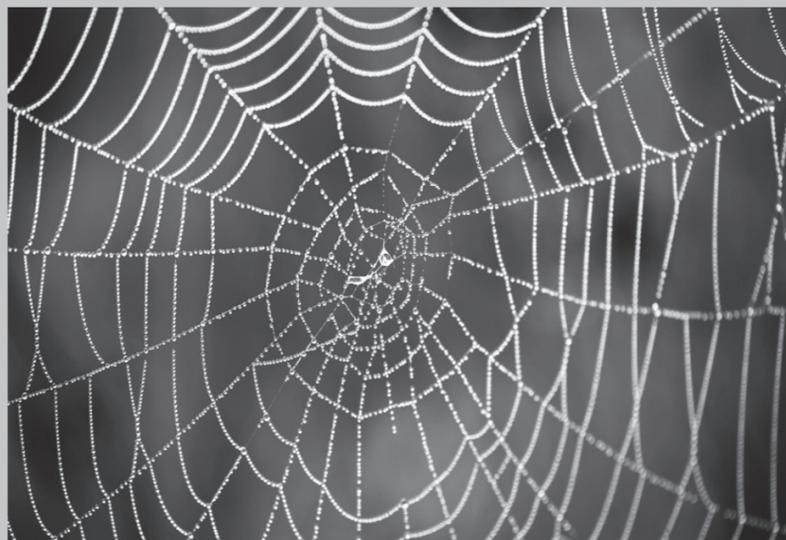


Photo Credit: Istockphoto.com/ImPerfectLazybones

Life moves fast and sometimes as we move along, we can quickly and unwittingly become entangled by our free will and human nature in a delicately woven gossamer net of deception. The web can be so captivating that by the time we realize we must free ourselves, we may feel helpless to do so. Together with God, we have the strength we need...all we need to do is ask for help. We can trust in the unconditional love of the Creator to escape a soul-strangling situation and begin anew. Worship this week break free from the web - discover a new beginning.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Lament.	Lament.	Lament.	Isaiah
31.1-22	31.23-40	33.1-26	3.1-24	3.25-57	5.1-22	38.1-20

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ILLINOIS FOR 2025-2026

A Public Hearing on the Tentative Annual Budget for the City of Jonesboro, Illinois, for 2025- 2026, will be held Monday, August 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in the chambers of Jonesboro City Hall, 1101 Public Square, Jonesboro, IL 62952.

After such hearing and the adjournment thereof, the Tentative Annual Budget, as presented and/or as revised, shall be passed and adopted without any further notice, hearing, or opportunity for inspection or change.

The Tentative Annual Budget will be posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Jonesboro City Hall, 1101 Public Square, Jonesboro, Illinois, and upon posting, will be available for public inspection during normal business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: July 10, 2025
Brandi Boyd
Jonesboro City Clerk
8221-955968

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

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

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before 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 delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: June 27, 2025.
JENNINE ELLEN BAGGOTT
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8221-955742

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 specifications, leave a message with an email and/or mailing address at 618-833-3740. Sealed bids may be received by July 31, 2025, at the following location: 4720 N. State Rt. 3, Wolf Lake, Illinois 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

Comptroller won't seek reelection

State comptroller will not seek another term in office

By Andrew Adams
Capitol News Illinois
CHICAGO – After almost a decade, Illinois State Comptroller Susana Mendoza will not seek another term as the state's chief financial officer.

Mendoza, who took office in December 2016 after beating an ally of Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner in a special election, has overseen the state's financial systems through both the COVID-19 pandemic and the worst budget crisis any state has faced in modern history.

At a news conference Wednesday, July 16, Mendoza said she's not running for reelection in the 2026 comptroller's race, so she will have time to decide her next career move.

"I'm going to figure out what the right move is for our family, for our city, our state, find out where I'm needed most, that next biggest challenge that I need to take on," Mendoza said.

Prior to taking statewide office, Mendoza was the first woman to be the Chicago city clerk. Mendoza previously spent a decade in the Illinois House of Representatives.

It's been widely speculated that Mendoza, who ran for Chicago mayor in 2019, is eyeing a run to unseat sitting Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson in 2027.

While she didn't commit to a run, she said she is "leaving the door open." Several U.S. House seats are up for grabs, along with Illinois' first open U.S. Senate seat since 2010.

But when asked whether she was interested in a position in Congress, Mendoza laughed.

"No thank you," she quickly said Thursday, July 17, before moving on to questions about a potential mayoral bid.

Comptroller Vacancy

The comptroller's office, traditionally a low-visibility role, became a high-stakes proxy battle between Democratic and Republican power brokers during the budget impasse of the mid-2010s.

Mendoza became the most vocal and high-profile statewide Democratic foil to Republicans at the height of the more than two-year budget impasse between Rauner and Democrats in the General Assembly. After Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka died in 2014, Rauner appointed Leslie Munger to the position. Mendoza beat Munger with 49.5 percent of the vote in a special election in 2016.

Mendoza gained statewide visibility for her frequent videos assailing Rauner and highlighting that the state was accruing a massive "bill backlog" driven by ongoing court-mandated expenditures amid dwindling revenue brought on by the impasse.

She won reelection in 2018 and 2022, routinely posting the widest margins of any statewide elected official.

No Republican, meanwhile, has won statewide office since Rauner in 2014, and few have come especially close. This puts the focus for replacing Mendoza on the Democratic primary process. The announcement creates an opportunity for a new Democrat to make a run for an open statewide office for the first time since 2018.

Mendoza said she wanted to make the announcement early enough for people interested in replacing her to "make their pitches" to party officials.

The Cook County Democratic Party — a powerhouse in statewide party politics — is holding its "slating" meetings this week to decide which candidates the party will endorse.

Rep. Margaret Croke, D-Chicago, is expected to appear at the slating for statewide candidates and make a formal announcement about her 2026 plans next week, according to sources close to the representative.

"With chaos unfolding at the national level, Illinoisans need steady state leadership and deserve a Comptroller who is prepared to lead with transparency, efficiency, and integrity," Croke said in a statement after Mendoza's announcement.

Lake County Treasurer Holly Kim is also expected to appear at the Cook County slating meeting, with an announcement about her plans in the coming weeks.

"Susana Mendoza raised the bar for transparency and accountability, and I intend to build on that legacy," Kim said.

Sen. Javier Cervantes, D-Chicago, is also scheduled to appear at the slating meeting to discuss a potential comptroller bid.

Mendoza said she hopes her replacement is committed to serving the entire state, noting that while she is a Chicagoan, she said she has a "very soft spot in

my heart for southern Illinois."

Mayoral ambitions While Mendoza did not commit to a run for mayor, she did speak at length about the needs of the city.

"Chicago is in dire need of competency, someone who understands the needs of the city, who understands how important the role of the city is to the good functioning of the whole state," Mendoza said. "And I think we've had two very unsuccessful mayors in a row."

Mendoza stressed public safety and Chicago's need for a growth-centered economic policy.

"It's not just our feathered friends that have flown south, it's the most important bird in Chicago: the crane," Mendoza said. "You can look at a city and gauge its financial health by the number of cranes that are in the sky. And, right now, you have an unobstructed, picture-perfect view of this city."

If she runs, Mendoza could be joined by several other prominent Illinois politicians in the race for mayor. Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is also rumored to be considering a run.

Mendoza made her announcement at Los Comales, a restaurant in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood that specializes in Mexico City-style tacos. Christina Gonzalez, the co-owner of the Los Comales chain and daughter of its founder, noted that Mendoza was from the neighborhood.

"She was always a customer here," Gonzalez said. "Her parents brought her here and she knew my dad — my dad loved her."

It's the same restaurant where she announced her first run for state representative more than 20 years ago and her ill-fated mayoral bid in 2019.

Gonzalez said the restaurant, which was mostly empty aside from Mendoza's supporters and reporters, has faced a significant slowdown in business recently, thanks to rumors about immigration enforcement.

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.

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

This past Sunday, July 20, Riven Ministry and Music from St. Louis ministered to us during the morning worship.

This week's activities include a Men's Bible Study at 6 p.m., Monday, July 21; and the Newsletter Team will meet on Thursday, July 24, at 9 a.m. to prepare the August newsletters for mailing. Next Sunday, July 27, will be our monthly Hospitality Sunday featuring a potluck held after

morning worship.

Recent birthdays: Evelyn Hileman and Martha McRaven, both born July 21; Lakelyn Merriman, July 22; Karmyn Wallemeyer, July 24; Bill Dillow, July 25; Leon Rendleman and José Tehandón, both born on July 26. Happy birthday to all!

Recent Anniversaries: Blake and Amy Aldridge married 22 years on July 22; and Levi and Molly Jones married 5 years on

July 25. Congratulations!

Currently, our regular schedule for worship at Jonesboro First Baptist includes Sunday School classes on Sundays at 9 a.m.; Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m.; Sunday evening worship at 6 p.m. Youth meet both at 6-7 p.m. on Sundays, and 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays. Our Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study also meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Team Illinois Youth Police Camp held

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

Camp counselors this year were sworn police officers from various agencies, including the Illinois State Police, the Carbondale Police Department, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, the Marion Police

Department, the Herrin Police Department and the Southern Illinois University Police Department.

Thirty-two cadets, ranging in age from 13 to 17 years old, attended the overnight week-long camp. Cadets participated in a wide range of activities, including discipline, structure, outdoor adventures, classroom instruction, paramilitary training, team-building exercises, physical fitness, life skills and more.

The cadets concluded their week with a graduation ceremony.



Happy birthday
Connie Harvel was honored for her 90th July birthday at the Little Egypt Red Hat Ladies dinner. Kay Johnson hosted. Photo by Martha Ann Webb.



Red Hat Ladies meet
Little Egypt Red Hat Ladies held their meeting and dinner at Yummy's Buffet in Carbondale. They honored God and our country and ended with everyone standing and singing God Bless America. Pictured are, front row, from left, Marla Saint Arbor, Carol Anderson, Shirley Page, guest Anitha Perez. Back row, Birthday girl Connie Harvel, Lillian Milam, hostess Kay Johnson, new member Sherri Annable, Martha Ann Webb, Queen Mom Kathy Jackson Milam, Mary Elkins, Cathy Ziegler and Brenda Lovelace. Not pictured Theresa Lister.

Fastest-charging EV stations to be installed on SIU campus

Southern Illinois University Carbondale on July 10 demonstrated its commitment to sustainability, with the SIU Board of Trustees' approval to install three public Level 3 electric vehicle charging stations.

Through a partnership with Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, EECA, stations that can charge multiple vehicles will be installed in the parking lot across from the SIU Student Center in

the fall and at the entrance to Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center near Carbondale and on the north side of the Glenn Poshard Transportation Education Center at the Southern Illinois Airport near Carbondale by summer 2026.

SIU's Imagine 2030 strategic plan calls for the university to become known as a forward-thinking, environmentally responsible institution that embraces

sustainability and reduces its carbon footprint, said Susan L. Simmers, vice chancellor for administration and finance.

"This project is part of our sustainability plan and fits well with the sustainability pillar of our strategic plan," Simmers said. "We are grateful for this opportunity with EECA."

Level 3 stations are the fastest, adding 100 to 250 miles of range in 30 to 45

minutes, much faster than Level 2 stations typically found in public spaces. The closest public Level 3 station is in Marion, near Interstate 57. The charging stations on the SIU campus will be accessible to the public 24/7, and each site will have a space accessible to people with disabilities.

"While drivers are charging their vehicles, they can get a bite to eat, if they are on the main campus or

at the airport, or take a walk and enjoy the surroundings," Simmers said.

Under the agreement, SIU will grant EECA a license to install and operate its charging equipment for at least five years. Users will pay EECA for charging and parking time. EECA received a grant through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Driving a Cleaner Illinois program to cover up to 80 percent of project costs.

Veterans Resource Fair slated

A Veterans Resource Fair is planned Friday, July 25, at the Du Quoin State Fair grounds in Du Quoin. Hours are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the 2nd Heat Annex on the fair grounds.

The event is being hosted by the Marion and St. Louis VA Health Care Systems.

Veterans will be able to enroll for VA health care, speak with VA service officers about benefit claims and learn about resources and programs which are available to veterans, their families and caregivers.

Television Listings

THURSDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	To Be Announced Info unavailable.	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	"Movie"	(:03) The Gilded Age	"Gifted" Chris Evans.	"Star Trek" (25) (HD)
7 PM :30	Family Feud (HD)	Big Brother (HD)	The 1% Club (HD)	The Hunting Party		Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	"Annabelle" Annabelle Wallis. (R)	★★★½ "Ghosts of Girlfriends" ('09)	★★★½ "Looper" ('12, Action) Bruce Willis. (HD)
8 PM :30	Press Your Luck (HD)	Marriage Ghosts	The Quiz with Balls	Law & Order: SVU	To Be Announced Info unavailable.	Bang (HD)	★★★½ "Jaws" ('75, Thriller) Roy Scheider. (PG)	Phineas	(:41) "Queer" (24, Drama) Daniel Craig. (R) (HD)	(:41) "Barbie" (23, Comedy) Margot Robbie.	Dexter: Resurrection
9 PM :30	Press Your Luck (HD)	(:01) Matlock "Claws"	Local Programs Local info.	Law & Order (HD)		Jokers Jokers		Jessie		(:36) "The Florida Project" ('17)	"Green Book" ('18) Viggo Mortensen. (HD)
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	★★★ "Game Night" ('18) Jason Bateman. (HD)		Jessie			
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)		Resident Alien (HD)	Bluey	"On Becoming a Guinea Fowl"		

JULY 24, 2025

FRIDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	To Be Announced Info unavailable.	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	"Jaws" Roy Scheider.	Big City	Billy Joel: And "Part 1"	(:46) "Warcraft" ('16)	"Lincoln Lawyer" (R)
7 PM :30	Celebrity Jeopardy!	Big Brother (HD)	The Fixer "Fluffology; Popinsanity"	Place Place		"We're the Millers" ('13, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston. (HD)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (Live) (HD)	"Movie"	Billy Joel: And So It Goes "Part 2"	★★★½ "Keeping Up with Jonases"	Dexter: Resurrection
8 PM :30	(:01) 20/20 Investigative news. (HD)	Fire Country (HD)		Dateline NBC Investigative news. (HD)	TBA			Phineas		(:46) "Jason Bourne" ('16) Matt Damon. (HD)	The Chi "Block Is Hot"
9 PM :30		NCIS: Sydney (HD)	Local Programs		To Be Announced Info unavailable.	"The Hangover Part II" ('11) Bradley Cooper.		Phineas	(:27) The Gilded Age		"The Comeback Trail" ('20) Robert De Niro.
10 PM :30	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local			9-1-1 Christmas Eve.	Jessie	Billy Joel: And So It Goes "Part 2"	★★ "Jonah Hex" ('10) Josh Brolin.	"Limitless" ('11) (HD)
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)		(:02) 9-1-1 (HD)	Big City			
11 PM :30	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night	Sports	"Hangover 3"		Big City			

JULY 25, 2025

SATURDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local	Local Programs	MLB Baseball "Regional Coverage-Teams TBA" (Live) (HD)	Local Programs	(5:00) To Be Announced Info unavailable.	"We're the Millers"	The Office	(5:15) "Movie"	"The Big Lebowski"	"Blood Father" ('16)	"Full Metal Jacket" ('87) Matthew Modine. (R)
7 PM :30	Family Feud (HD)	Elsbeth (HD)		The Wall (HD)		★★★½ "Just Go With It" ('11, Comedy) Adam Sandler. (HD)	The Office	Win Lose	"Death of a Unicorn" ('25) (R)	"American Ultra" ('15, Action) (R)	Dexter: Resurrection
8 PM :30	Family Feud (HD)	48 Hours (HD)		Dateline NBC Investigative news. (HD)	To Be Announced Info unavailable.		The Office	Kiff	(:50) The Gilded Age	★★★ "The Purge: Election Year" Frank Grillo.	"Jarhead" ('05, Drama) Jake Gyllenhaal. (HD)
9 PM :30	Family Feud (HD)	48 Hours (HD)	Local Programs			★★★½ "Miss Congeniality" ('00) Sandra Bullock.	The Office	Phineas	(:47) "Get Shorty" ('95) John Travolta. (R) (HD)	"The Curse of La Llorona" ('19)	Dexter: Resurrection
10 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	Next Level Chef (HD)	Local			Resident Alien (HD)	Wizards			
11 PM :30	Local Programs		Local Programs	Saturday Night Live (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	"Congenial."	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	"Funny"		

JULY 26, 2025

SUNDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	Secret Service (HD)	American Ninja Warrior "Semifinals 2" (HD)	MLB Baseball "Teams TBA" (HD)	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	"Zombies 4: Dawn" ('25)	(:57) The Gilded Age	(:02) The Knick (HD)	Dexter: Resurrection
7 PM :30	Videos	Big Brother (HD)	Simpsons			Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Electric	(:57) The Gilded Age	★★★ "State of Play" ('09) Russell Crowe. (HD)	Dexter: Resurrection
8 PM :30	(:33) "Father of the Bride" ('91, Comedy) Steve Martin.	Tracker (HD)	Animal Dutch	America's Got Talent "Golden Buzzer" (HD)		★★★ "Barbie" ('23, Comedy) Margot Robbie. (PG-13) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Electric	The Gilded Age (HD)		(:10) The Chi (HD)
9 PM :30		Watson	Local Programs		SportsCenter (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	ZOMBIES ZOMBIES	(:03) The Gilded Age	"The Watchers" Dakota Fanning.	Dexter: Resurrection
10 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	SportsCenter (HD)	★★★ "Barbie" ('23) Margot Robbie.	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	Last Week	(:50) "Love Lies Bleeding" ('24)	(:15) The Chi (HD)
11 PM :30		Local Programs	Local Programs		Sports		Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	Gilded Age		Dexter: Resurrection

JULY 27, 2025

MONDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	Sports Countdown	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(:19) Last Week (HD)	(5:05) "Imitation" ('14)	"Hunt for Red Oct."
7 PM :30	Bachelor in Paradise (HD)	Neighbor.	Lego Masters (HD)	American Ninja Warrior "Semifinals 3" (HD)	WNBA Basketball New York vs Dallas (Live)	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	The Gilded Age (HD)	"Love and Mercy" ('15, Drama) John Cusack.	Dexter: Resurrection
8 PM :30		FBI "Startup" (HD)	The Quiz with Balls			Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Electric	(:03) "Carol" ('14, Romance) Cate Blanchett.		(:10) The Chi (HD)
9 PM :30	(:02) Match Game	FBI: Most Wanted	Local Programs Local info.	Survival Mode	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	(:05) The Gilded Age	★★★ "St. Vincent" ('14) Bill Murray.	Dexter: Resurrection
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Dad (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Jessie	(:05) "Where the Crawdads Sing" ('22) (HD)	★★★ "Barbie" ('23) Margot Robbie.	"The Untouchables" ('87) Kevin Costner. (R)
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Dad (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey			

JULY 28, 2025

TUESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	Running With The Wolves "Episode 1" (HD)	MLB Baseball Tampa Bay Rays at New York Yankees (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	"I Love You" ('25)	"It Comes At Night"	"Gump"
7 PM :30	High Potential (HD)	NCIS "Out of Control"	The 1% Club (HD)	America's Got Talent "Auditions 8" (HD)		Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Kiff	"The Princess Bride" ('87) (HD)	"The Lighthouse" Willem Dafoe.	(:50) "Green Book" ('18, Drama) Viggo Mortensen. (HD)
8 PM :30	Will Trent (HD)	NCIS: Origins (HD)	(:02) The Snake		ESPN Films "30 for 30: Four Falls of Buffalo"		Law & Order: SVU	StuGo	(:40) The Gilded Age	(:50) ★★★ "The Devil's Rejects" ('05) Sid Haig.	Dexter: Resurrection
9 PM :30	Will Trent (HD)	NCIS: Sydney (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Destination X (HD)		MLB on TBS	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	(:42) "Father Stu" ('22) Mark Wahlberg. (HD)		(:10) "Faster" ('10, Action) Dwayne Johnson.
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Jessie		"Dream Scenario" Nicolas Cage.	
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey			

JULY 29, 2025

WEDNESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA Countdown (HD)	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	StuGo	"Opus" Ayo Edebiri.	"He's Not Into You"	(5:00) "Lost Ark" ('81)
7 PM :30	Who Wants to Be a	Big Brother Live Together. (HD)	MasterChef "Bid Off"	Chicago Med (HD)	WNBA Basketball New York vs Minnesota	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite	Law & Order: SVU	"Zombies 4: Dawn" ('25)	"Death of a Unicorn" ('25) (HD)	"Lady Bird" ('17) Saoirse Ronan.	"Temple of Doom" ('84) Harrison Ford. (HD)
8 PM :30	Match Game (HD)	Hollywood	(:02) Secret Service	Chicago Fire (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	Electric	(:50) "Get Out" ('17, Horror) Daniel Kaluuya.	(:34) "Love Lies Bleeding" ('24)	"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" ('89)
9 PM :30	Shark Tank (HD)	Elsbeth (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Chicago P.D. (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Electric			
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Jessie		(:18) "The Martian" ('15) Matt Damon. (HD)	
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey			"Crystal Skull" ('08)

JULY 30, 2025

THURSDAY

	8:00pm
USA Jaws ★★★½ (1975, Thriller) Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw. A small-town police chief is convinced that a series of deaths was the work of a gigantic shark, but has trouble getting others to believe him. PG TVPG	
8:41pm	
MAX Barbie ★★★ (2023, Comedy) Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling. A woman and her boyfriend from a colorful world get the chance to go to the real world, but they soon discover the joys and perils of living among humans. PG-13 (HD)	

FRIDAY

	7:00pm
NBC Happy's Place "Mama Drama" Isabella's mom Maritza arrives, and Bobbie discovers Maritza is holding a grudge against her; Emmett and Takoda want to know why Steve cannot return home. (HD)	
9:30pm	
TBS The Hangover Part II ★★★ (2011, Comedy) Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms. In an attempt to avoid an outbreak of shenanigans, four friends partake in a calm brunch and travel to Thailand before one gets married. R TV14 (HD)	

SATURDAY

	9:00pm
PARSHO Jarhead ★★★ (2005, Drama) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard. A Marine is chosen for a sniper squad that is sent to the Mideast during the first Gulf War, where he discovers the truth about modern warfare. R (HD)	
9:47pm	
HBO Get Shorty ★★★ (1995, Comedy) John Travolta, Gene Hackman. A tough guy sent to L.A. to retrieve a gambling debt from a film producer decides to turn his attentions to breaking into show business himself. R (HD)	

SUNDAY

	7:33pm
ABC Father of the Bride ★★★ (1991, Comedy) Steve Martin, Diane Keaton. An excitable man has a difficult time accepting the fact that his daughter is getting married and that he is paying for her elaborate wedding and reception. PG TVPG (HD)	
8:02pm	
FOX Animal Control "Goats, Snakes, and Dogs" Frank decides to ignore instructions and find a forever home for a lone dog; Victoria tries to teach Shred about breaking rules; Patel meets a therapy goat. TV14 (HD)	

MONDAY

	7:00pm
FOX Lego Masters "Hall of Fame Finale" Finalists are charged with creating masterpieces, with the best build winning the grand prize of \$100,000 and the title of Lego Master. TVPG (HD)	
8:03pm	
HBO Carol ★★★½ (2014, Romance) Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara. A young woman, dreaming of a different life, meets an alluring woman, and their instant connection and friendship soon develops into a deep love. R	

TUESDAY

	7:00pm
ABC High Potential "Hangover" Morgan and the team work to solve the murder of a high-profile medical technology startup's founder and CEO; Morgan takes special notice of a new co-worker. TV14 (HD)	
8:50pm	
MAX The Devil's Rejects ★★★ (2005, Horror) Sid Haig, Bill Moseley. A Southern sheriff intent on avenging his brother's brutal murder by a bloodthirsty family resorts to vigilantism to ensure the criminals do not go unpunished. R (HD)	

WEDNESDAY

	8:00pm
NBC Chicago Fire "A Beast Like This" Kidd tries to connect with a troubled teen interested in Girls on Fire; Violet and Novak attempt to figure out why a bodybuilder passed out at the gym. TV14 (HD)	
8:50pm	
HBO Get Out ★★★½ (2017, Horror) Daniel Kaluuya, Allison Williams. As the weekend passes, a man discovers that the truth concerning his girlfriend's parents' accommodations is worse than he ever imagined. R (HD)	

Opinion and Commentary

Peak mowing season underway along roads

With peak roadside mowing season underway, the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT, reminds the public to slow down, proceed with caution and pay extra attention when encountering equipment and personnel. In keeping with the recent practice of timing operations to preserve and promote pollinator habitat, the heaviest mowing period is scheduled to continue until Aug. 15.

"By strategically scheduling when and where mowing takes place, IDOT is doing its part to help the environment and Illinois businesses," IDOT Secretary Gia Biagi said in a news release. "We need your assistance as well. Please be alert for mowing crews who work hard up and down the state, slowing down and giving them plenty of extra distance."

During the summer, IDOT conducts two primary types of mowing. Safety mowing occurs directly adjacent to the road as needed. Maintenance mowing, which lasts for approximately six weeks and starts around July 1, includes areas next to culverts, ditches, traffic control devices and other structures, while following the Illinois Monarch Project Mowing Guidelines for Pollinators, protecting as much habitat and nectar resources as possible.

The mowing schedule helps to minimize the impact on the traveling public and encourage pollinator activity, which assists in the reproduction of flowers, fruits and vegetables that are essential to the state's ecosystem and agricultural economy. Reducing the amount of land maintained and growing pollinator habitat also protects the endangered rusty patched bumble bee and the monarch butterfly, the official state insect of Illinois.

In 2020, IDOT joined in the launch of the Illinois Monarch Action Plan as part of the Illinois Monarch Project, a collaborative effort with local and state partners to help ensure the survival and successful migration of monarchs by increasing and protecting habitat.

Plant ecologists work to restore biodiversity

Imagine a prairie. How many plant species do you see? Maybe you're picturing yellow coneflowers, some little bluestem, perhaps a few asters. But plant ecologists at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign say these ecosystems are much more diverse than many people realize.

Midwest plant ecology specialists Jeffrey Matthews, assistant professor in natural resources and environmental sciences, and Jack Zinnen of the Illinois Natural History Survey recently published a database of thousands of plant species found in historic prairies – and that's just one part of their comprehensive investigation of Midwest plant biodiversity.

Prairies are one of the most endangered native ecosystems in the region – only 1 percent of tallgrass prairie across Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin has survived. To build their database, called RELIX, the team gathered and centralized existing data from studies of remnants. Remnants are small patches of ecosystems that survive otherwise widespread destruction. In this case, the researchers studied prairie remnants that have stayed relatively undisturbed since the arrival of Europeans to the continent.

Like prairies, most native wetlands, savannahs and forests have also been degraded or destroyed. Their future depends on intentional plantings, whether that's in nature preserves, gardens, or nature strips along roads and highways. You might even see prairie nestled between fields of corn and soy, as farmers cultivate native plants for the Conservation Reserve Program.

Whether you're a landscaper, conservation manager, or farmer, you need to buy these plants from somewhere. This means the future of Midwestern plant ecosystems depends on seed and plant vendors. By analyzing the gaps between the plants you can get and the plants we used to have, Matthews and Zinnen hope to bring biodiversity back to the Midwest.

"Seed mixes are enormously valuable, even if they're flawed or not very diverse," Zinnen said. "But progress can be made by getting some more of these species in."

Illinois' First Wine Trail Turns 30 Years Old

What started with just three wineries in 1995 has grown to 12 individual wineries showcasing a variety of award-winning wine styles and unique experiences.

Surrounded by the Shawnee National Forest in Jackson and Union Counties, each winery is located just a few minutes from the others, making the trail ideal for a day trip or long weekend getaway.

To celebrate the trail's 30th anniversary, wine connoisseurs can get a free digital pass to check in at all 12 wineries during 2025 to earn \$5 in "wine bucks" to use at a member winery.

Making History

In the summer of 1995, the owners of the first three wineries in Southern Illinois, Alto Vineyards, Pomona Winery and Owl Creek Vineyard, recognized that their wineries had untapped tourism potential and formed what was the first wine trail in Illinois.

But it all started in 1984, when Guy Renzaglia established Alto Vineyards by planting five acres of then unheard of grape varieties: Chancellor, Chambourcin and Vidal and Villard Blanc, varieties that are now widely accepted by Midwestern wine drinkers.

Word got out, curiosity grew, and by the time the winery was built and the first wine released in 1987, people were standing in line waiting to buy this new Illinois wine as fast as the crew could label it.

Renzaglia's success was noted by another pair of would-be winery owners, George Majka and Jane Payne. Majka and Payne had been making wines from apples and other local fruits for over a decade.

In 1989, they broke ground for the Pomona Winery, became licensed in 1991 and released their first two apple wines in 1993.

Another piece of the puzzle

Please read this...

Faster than a speeding bullet...and some other stuff...

Faster than a speeding bullet... Bob, one of our "indoor" cats, made a break for it Monday morning. He does such things occasionally. He lurks in the shadows...and when one of us makes just the tiniest, itty bittiest mistake...and leaves a door just open a teeny, tiny bit...ZOOM...off he goes for an adventure in the great big world out there...

Trouble is, Bob likes to stay comfortable. And once he got outside Monday, he quickly determined that it was hot... humid...and pretty much not very nice for a creature with a fur coat that cannot be discarded.

Guess that's why his big adventure did not last for very long. Soon, he was back inside. He spent the rest of Monday napping...with an occasional snack... Napping, after all, is hard work...

Meanwhile...

At about the time I decided to for a daily walk last Sunday afternoon, the air temperature in our little corner of the world was a toasty 90 degrees. Combined with a humidity reading of 67 percent and a dew point of 77 degrees, the heat index was a rather uncomfortable 104 degrees. At least it was not snowing...

Last Saturday evening, as we were getting ready for dinner, The Other Half showed me some rather interesting information she had found online.

She had come across a posting on the internet which showed that the temperature at the time in our hometown was...um...zero degrees. As in 32 degrees below freezing. Of course, we questioned such a temperature on the 19th day of July. I looked out the kitchen window on the west side of our humble abode, expecting to see a scene from "The Day After Tomorrow." Nope. Everything was still green. And I do not think the temperature was zero. Which was too bad, 'cause there might not have been any mosquitoes.

I'm guessing there certainly were not any mosquitoes at the South Pole last Saturday. Mainly because the temperature was something like 54 degrees below zero. And a "cold wave" is expected this week. How can there be a "cold wave" when it's already 54 degrees below.

There might have a mosquito or two buzzing around in North Pole, Alaska, where it was a balmy 73 degrees last Saturday afternoon. Go figure that one. I wonder if Santa Claus was wearing shorts and a t-shirt...

Mosquitoes probably were not buzzing around on the planet Mars, either. On July 16 (the most recent date I could find), the high temperature on the planet which is home to those nasty Critters in "The War of the Worlds" was a nippy 9 degrees below zero. The low was 114 degrees below zero. Don't know if a cold wave was expected.

By the way...I found the temperatures for the South Pole, North Pole, Alaska, and the planet Mars on the internet... the same place where we saw it was zero degrees in our hometown last Saturday evening...

Meanwhile...

Last Saturday morning, yours truly attempted to actually do some work outside in the July heat and humidity. I even used a couple of tools, including one with a whole bunch of sharp teeth. However, the tool with the sharp teeth seemed to be somewhat hesitant about cutting through a very seasoned 2 by 4. That was actually a good thing. Dull teeth on a saw meant that I was less likely to hurt myself...or anybody within a 100 miles of where I was doing the work.

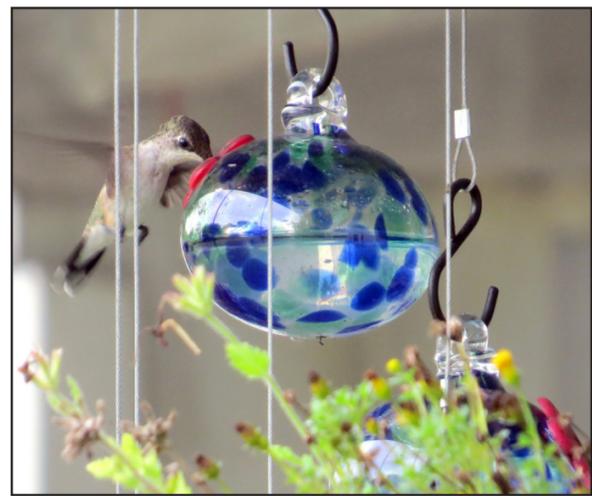
While the wood was being "cut," I was joined by a little bug. The bug looked like a Critter which, for many years, I thought was a "sweat bee." Turned out I have probably been wrong for many years...

Apparently, the bug was a hover fly. Not a bee. Sweat bees are actual bees. Hover flies hang around. And hover.

In the interest of learning about the bug that had joined me last Saturday morning, I did a little bit of "research" on the internet and stumbled across an article headlined "3 things you never knew about hover flies." The article, dated August 6, 2021, was written by University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator Kelly Alsup. To be honest, until that moment in time, I did not even know there was a Critter called a hover fly.

So...let's learn "3 things you never knew about hover flies" together...

They are annoying, pesky, and won't leave you alone. They look like little bees. Most people think they are sweat bees because of their black and yellow stripes but they don't sting despite their extremely offensive behavior during the latter part of the summer. Regardless of their interactions



A hummingbird made a stop for a snack at a feeder in Union County.



Looked out a window...and saw a butterfly just kind of hanging around.

with us, it is the covert interactions with the environment that make them stand out insects in Illinois. Here are three things you didn't know about Hover Flies:

- Hover flies just want to lick your sweat. They land on us to drink our sweat. They cannot sting or bite but lick with and probe with their tongue. Hover flies are attracted to us because of the water from sweat and the salt on our skin. These late summer visitors have crashed our late summer activities leaving us swatting at flies. However, before you kill the hover flies know that they provide some great ecosystem services.

- Hover flies are prolific pollinators. Hover flies come in second to bees during pollination studies. Although they may not be prolific, they may be more efficient pollinators than bees. Bees collect pollen that is fed to their larvae and they are limited to their home ranges. Hover flies can carry pollen much further than bees. They also visit a greater diversity of flowers than the pickier bees.

- Hover fly larvae control aphids in crops and our backyard gardens. The female hover fly will usually lay her eggs on or near aphid colonies and in two to three days the larvae will hatch. The larva, technically a maggot, is muted green to brown, legless, worm-like and can be found on the undersides of leaves eating aphids, thrips, scale, caterpillars and mealy bugs. These larvae are great garden warriors and can be put in the same category as ladybugs and lacewing larvae in terms of their effectiveness in demolishing an aphid population. The larvae grasp the prey with their jaws, hold them up in the air, suck out their body contents and toss the exoskeleton aside.

According to Cornell University, the larvae can eat up to 400 aphids. The larvae feed for about seven to ten days before they pupate. Therefore, if you see an aphid infestation in your garden, be sure to turn over the leaves to look for these beneficial maggots before you spray.

Enough for now...we will call a hover fly, along with a hummingbird or two and some butterflies our Critter Sightings for the week...



tasting room has a gift shop and art gallery that displays a collection of photographs and mosaics by local artists.

Many days you can also spy bison grazing across the road at Bison Bluff Farms.

The trail is peppered with antique shops and orchards, and lodging is available at Blue Sky, the Peach Barn Winery, Von Jakob Winery & Brewery as well as several other inns, cottages and cabin rentals.

During the first weekends of August and November, locals and visitors alike celebrate Wine & Food Pairing Weekend, when all 12 win-

eries of the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail team up to create a weekend of savory wine and food pairings.

A progressive tasting along the trail is available, offering a variety of wines paired with delicious samples.

A "Meet the Winemaker" dinner is scheduled for The Sept. 26, combining local wines and a dinner menu, along with a look at the grape-to-glass process.

For trip planning assistance contact the Southernmost IL Tourism Bureau at 618-833-9928 or visit www.southernmostillinois.com.

zle fell into place when Owl Creek Vineyard released its first wine in 1995.

Its then owner, Ted Wichmann, planted the vineyard in 1980 and had worked as Alto Vineyards' first winemaker. Now owned and operated by the Genung family, Owl Creek Vineyard and Winery produces dry, barrel-aged wines, lighter sweet wines, and dessert wines made from grapes grown in their vineyards and in those of local family growers.

The Experience

Whether you start the trail at one end, the other, or jump on somewhere in the middle, you can sip your way along and discover truly surprising and authentic wine culture on the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail.

The Shawnee National Forest provides some of the most beautiful scenery in the Midwest, with rolling hills and picturesque vistas serving as the backdrop to the experience.

While several of the wineries serve everything from sandwiches to full meals, most also offer areas for you to bring your own picnic to enjoy with an award-winning Southern Illinois wine.

Many also host live music and special events on the weekends.

At Blue Sky Vineyards, several wine festivals and other events are scheduled every year. Visitors can also meet with alpacas at nearby Rolling Oak Alpaca Ranch.

Alto Vineyards also offers picnic baskets, gift baskets, wine accessories, T-shirts, gourmet food items, local crafts and much more.

In addition to their wide selection of wines, enjoy the vistas of the Illinois Shawnee National Forest under the shadow of the 110-foot tall Bald Knob Cross of Peace.

The deck at StarView Vineyard boasts views of the vineyards, hills and a pond filled with koi and turtles that you can feed; and the