

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

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Anna receives good report about FY2026 audit

The Anna City Council has received a report about the city’s Fiscal Year 2026 audit. The report was presented at a regular meeting of the city council which was held Tuesday evening, Aug. 18. The meeting was at Anna City Hall.

The audit was prepared by Kerber, Eck & Braeckel of Marion. The city’s fiscal year runs from May 1 through April 30. The FY2026 audit presented an overall good review of the Union County city’s financial records. The audit was accepted by the city council.

In other business at the Aug. 18 meeting:

The city is moving forward with a plan to purchase an electric-powered

squad car for the police department. The purchase is tied in with the city’s participation in Ameren Illinois’ Community Engagement Consultation program. The program helps eligible communities move forward with transportation electrification by providing guidance, customized Transportation Electrification Plans and financial support.

The city is looking to secure \$50,000 through the Ameren program. The funding would be utilized for the purchase of a slightly used electric-powered squad car which is available locally and for the installation of a fast charging power station for the vehicle. The used vehicle is available at a cost

of \$27,900. That is significantly lower than the cost of a new vehicle, which is in the range of \$63,900.

A resolution was approved for a contractual agreement with Delve Health Consulting, which will provide confidential police officer wellness consultation services when they are needed.

The city is addressing the collapse of a section of the sewer main on South Street. The line was one of the first to be installed in the city and is more than 100 years old.

The city continues to work on legal processes related to acting on nine public nuisance locations. Cleaning up the sites is part of an ongoing

beautification effort.

Resolutions were approved to move forward with seeking grant funding for storm water system and waste water plant improvement projects.

Plans are moving forward with design work for the development of a walking/biking path from Springfield Avenue to Leigh Avenue. Work on building the path is planned next year.

In response to concerns about parking along part of Green Street that were voiced by a resident, the police chief will look into the matter.

A resolution approving a concert performance agreement with Jacob Myers for the city’s ColorFest celebration in October was passed.

News Notes

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

The Union County Fair continues this week at the Anna City Park. Some of the highlights include a junior livestock auction, championship rodeo action and two demolition derbies.

A lunar eclipse will occur in the sky over the Union County Fair on Thursday night, Aug. 27. Fairgoers were able to experience a total solar eclipse back in August of 2017.

Tornado sirens were tested Monday afternoon, Aug. 17, in Union County. The Union County Sheriff’s Office shared on social media that the testing was needed to resolve to some technical issues.

Cobden School District 17 is voicing pride in teacher Holly Hurt, who was recognized Friday, Aug. 14, at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield as an inductee into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame.

An Aug. 20 update posted online by the U.S. Drought Monitor showed there were no drought conditions in Union, Jackson, Williamson, Johnson, Alexander, Pulaski and Massac counties.

A free Family Fun Day event is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Cobden Community Park. The community event hosted by Cobden American Legion Post 259 and the post’s Auxiliary will feature live music by Brian Pender starting at noon, kids’

(see Notes on page 10)



County animal control program highlighted

A recent event in Jonesboro highlighted community outreach efforts and the ongoing important role of volunteers who support the Union County animal control program.

The efforts of volunteers and the animal control program’s administrator were noted at the most recent regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners. The meeting was Friday morning, Aug. 14, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

County board vice chairman Kent Pitts frequently recognizes the work being done by those involved with the animal control program. He did so again at the Aug. 14 meeting, where he once again praised the work being done by the program, its administrator, staff and volunteers.

“We’ve got a great staff out there,” Pitts said. He said the program’s volunteers “are outstanding.”

Pitts made note of the work being done by the program’s administrator, Katelan Webb. He said Webb is working hard to boost community engagement for the program.

Dog Wash

One of those community engagement activities was held in early August. The animal control program hosted its first dog wash fund-raising event Aug. 8 on the square in Jonesboro. The event, which lasted four hours, offered a complete dog wash, nail trimming and microchipping of pets. The program shared a message on social media that the event raised \$960, which “greatly boosted” the medical fund for the animals at the county animal control shelter. The shelter is located along Kaolin Road between Anna and Cobden.

The program voiced appreciation to all of those who helped to support the dog wash, including the City of Jonesboro, volunteers, supporters and county commissioner Pitts, who brought pizza for lunch.



High school football season opens

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School football team opened its 2026 season at home Friday night, Aug. 21. The Wildcats, in blue uniforms, welcomed Harrisburg to The Pit. The visitors scored a win in the game. A-J is scheduled to play at Chester Friday night, Aug. 28.

Two area counties included in recent state disaster proclamation

Two Southern Illinois counties which border Union County have been included in a state disaster proclamation.

Gov. JB Pritzker on Aug. 18 issued a state disaster proclamation following weeks of severe and record-breaking weather throughout Illinois which resulted in widespread damage from torrential downpours, flash flooding, straight-line winds and several tornadoes.

As of the time the disaster proclamation was issued, Illinois was leading the nation with approximately 204 tornadoes verified by the National Weather Service, NWS, already this year.

The proclamation covers Illinois counties which have been impacted by severe weather. In Southern Illinois, those counties in Alexander and Pulaski. The two counties border Union County to the south. Severe weather on July 9-11 impacted Alexander and Pulaski counties. The disaster proclamation went into effect immediately.

Other Illinois counties included in the proclamation are Champaign, Cook, DuPage, Ford, Fulton, Kane, LaSalle, Lake, McLean, Marshall, Tazewell, Vermilion and Will.

The governor’s state proclamation makes additional state resources and personnel available to support continued local response efforts and recovery operations. The declaration was issued days after the governor visited Lansing, a village in Cook County where damage assessments have been underway by local, county and state emergency management officials to determine what additional resources are needed to assist communities with long-term recovery.

Since the storms, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security, IEMA-OHS, and other Illinois agencies have been on the ground supporting local and county officials with damage assessments, debris cleanup, power restoration and mutual aid assistance.

The proclamation directs state agencies to assist local governments as communities continue recovering from the devastating tornadoes and severe storms that have exhausted local resources and caused widespread damage across Illinois.

The Illinois Department

of Transportation, IDOT, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, DCEO, will assist local governments with continued response and recovery efforts as appropriate. All other state agencies are directed to collaborate with IEMA-OHS to identify and enable additional response and recovery capabilities if needed.

“The State of Illinois quickly mobilized resources for residents impacted by this latest round of severe weather, and today’s disaster proclamation will further unlock and accelerate additional state resources for continued assistance,” the governor said in a news release. “I know these storms have impacted countless Illinois families and requires we band together to help them recover. As this relentless and unprecedented weather continues to wreak havoc across our region, I remain committed to ensuring those impacted get the resources and help they need.”

In coordination with state and local partners, IEMA-OHS is continuing to deploy

resources and implement the State Emergency Operations Plan to support response and recovery efforts in the affected counties.

“Illinois has faced a history-making series of severe weather events this year, and IEMA-OHS has been on the ground since day one to support counties and municipalities with response efforts and damage assessments,” IEMA-OHS director Theodore Berger said. “This proclamation leverages additional support to the communities who need it most following recent severe weather events. We will continue working alongside our impacted communities every step of the way.”

The disaster proclamation makes additional state resources and personnel available to support response and recovery operations and can facilitate requests for state and federal disaster assistance. Governor Pritzker has also directed IEMA-OHS to continue coordinating with federal partners to evaluate available assistance and identify additional resources to help impacted communities recover and rebuild.

County Line News

BY SUZAN HARVEL

P.A.S.T. of Union County met at the Heritage House Museum to a hear Jane Mowery Patterson enlighten the packed house on The Great Wagon Road and other trails that brought our families to this area. This weekend we'll hear about Airplanes and the airport that used to be in Union County from Norm Bauer and Friends. Please consider joining us on Sunday, Aug. 30 for our last Sunday Talk, when Darrell Dexter will speak on Ferries and Steamships at 2 p.m. at 102 S. Main Street, Jonesboro. Come early for a good seat. Attendance is free, but donations are always welcome.

The Village of Mill Creek met on Tuesday, Aug. 18 for their monthly board meeting. Beyond the normal

finance report and meeting minutes, there was discussion on laying of the mulch in the park, re-investments, misuse of property owner's construction dirt, new board members, and plans for derelict buildings discussed. The next meeting will be held on Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.

I've had the occasion, recently, to visit via phone or in person with ladies I knew growing up: Bonnie Kohler and Lillie Stone, both from this area. It's always nice to share the stories of days gone by or to see what new endeavors they may be working on. Lillie composes poetry and Bonnie is working on family stories. I'm not alone in, as I get older, I work more on preserving those stories or attaching the stories to heirloom pieces so that

the next generations know what motivated or went into the creation, or purchase, of an item. Photos, yearbooks, letters, newspaper clippings, obituary and funeral cards, post cards, bank ledgers, Bibles, payment booklets on vehicles/property, passports, flight/jump logs, old pay stubs, school papers, family genealogy books, old phone/address books, etc ... these are all an integral part of our life's story. They chronicle not just the names and places but the weather, crops grown, prices paid, land ownership, hobbies, employment, changes in the country, fashions and fads, and give us an undeniable proof of life. We ARE, because they WERE. Never forget that.

Mill Creek Baptist Church was led in worship from John

14 on another portion of Bro. Bobby Richardson's sermons on the Holy Spirit. In these passages the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Truth. He will be with us, forever. He will guide us, comforts us in times of tribulations, and loves us enough to dwell in us when we ask Him in. He is the third part of the trinity ... God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Lean on him, ask of him, and most importantly, listen to him.

Please be in prayer for Brother Bobby Richardson, who has been sick this week. I've heard rumors of the passing of someone from the area, but am not posting it until I hear verification. Just know that our neighbors are in need of prayers for the loss of a loved one.

JONESBORO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

On August 16, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in our morning service. His message was titled, Who Are You? Only God knows the inner you, the real you, and the thoughts and motivations of your heart. He told the story of the Seven Sons of Sceva. You cannot borrow somebody else's relationship with God. You cannot borrow the authority of Jesus without actually knowing Jesus Christ. It's vital to make sure you are who you say you are. Is God calling you to be His child? Now is the time to accept the call. His text was found in the nineteenth chapter of the book of Acts in the New Testament.

Dee Rose, Music Director, led in worship, accompanied by Debbie York on the piano, and the Praise Team: Sharon Morgan, Larry Keller, Connor Benbrook. Dave Pedigo sang a special song.

Our service was sent via transmitter station 87.9 FM for those who want to listen via the radio. The service was also live streamed on Facebook, so if you missed it, you still have an opportunity to view

it. Please check our Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, for the latest videos and info on church events.

Our Children's program, "Dig-In," will resume on August 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. Children ages 3 through 6th grade are invited to attend.

Happy birthday to Avery Goines and Diane Wright, both born on August 16; Brandon Harvell, Walt Jackson, and Kinley Shadowens, all born on August 19; Darrell Pender, August 20; Connor Benbrook and Tom Wright, both born August 22; and Joyce Hill, August 23.

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

ANNA FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

Anna First Baptist Church met for Worship on Aug. 23, with Perry Wright leading our Opening Prayer.

Our Call to Worship was on Testimony and was taken from the Book of Romans. "I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks both to the wise and the foolish. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written, "The righteous will live by faith."

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship."

Our Worship Team led in three songs, Nothing But the Blood, Lord, I Need You and Come Jesus Come.

Pastor Lupe's sermon title was "Elijah, Who Stood Before God, Pt 2."

Highlights included, Elijah was a fearless prophet of God who stood boldly for truth during a time when Israel had turned toward Baal and idolatry. God miraculously provided for Elijah in the wilderness, commanding ravens to bring him food during a devastating drought. On Mt. Carmel, Elijah challenged the profits of Baal and prayed as God answered with fire from Heaven, proving that the Lord alone is God. Yet Elijah also experienced exhaustion, fear and discouragement, reminding us that even great

men of faith are still human and dependent upon God. His life remains a powerful testimony that one person completely surrendered to God can stand against a culture that has turned away from Him.

Our Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. and is for all ages. Our Worship Service and Children's Worship begins at 10:15 a.m. Our Wednesday evening Bible Study begins at 6 p.m. Our bus runs for all of these services and programs. Please call our office and we will put you on a list to be picked up. We have other programs you may be interested in, just ask when you call.

Our church is located at 409 Morgan St. in Anna. Our phone number is 618-833-5416. Our email is fbcanna409@gmail.com.

CAMP GROUND CHURCH NEWS

This past Sunday, our focus was on our children and youth.

Due to vacations, ball games, etc. we had had to postpone our celebration of our graduates. After the announcements, gifts were presented to our May graduates: Addi Bonner, A-JCHS, Aldi and Vodra Gerard, and Tymber Roach who were 8th grade graduates.

Next, our youth returning to school came forward to be prayed over. They were also given a back-to-school gift.

Bro. Easton's sermon was "The Faithfulness of Our Youth!" with scripture from the New Testament letter to the Hebrews. Our musical selections were all "favorite hymns" of our youth.

Blessed are those children and youth who have been reared with a biblical foundation rooted on the love of God. In previous generations, school and its challenges were hard, but they are nothing compared to what students endure today.

Bro. Easton assured the youth that the congregation wants them to enjoy their growing years, but more importantly, the congregation wants them to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

As school begins, Bro. Easton challenged the congregation to pray for and encourage our youth. As adults, we have

already experienced school years. Therefore, we should be a living "cloud of witnesses" supporting and praying for our youth.

Kayton Crane rang the bell to begin Worship; Kayton and Rodney Miller took up the tithes and offerings.

Tony Gerard is our lead elder for August.

Best wishes this week go to LaDonna Jean Miller, whose birthday was the 18th.

We encourage the readers of this newspaper to support the youth exhibitors, local charities food stands, and all who have spent much time preparing for the 2026 Union County Fair.

Our congregation invites you to join us each Sunday for any or all of our services: coffee and fellowship at 9:15, classes for all ages at 9:30, and Morning Worship beginning at 10:30. We are located at the intersection of Camp Ground Road and Tunnel Lane east of Anna, north off Route 146.

PULASKI COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

The Board of Review for Pulaski County will convene Thursday August 27, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in the Pulaski County Assessor's Office, 500 Illinois Avenue, Mound City, Illinois. For more information, please contact the Supervisor of Assessments office at (618) 748-9321

Travis Rose, CIAO
Clerk of the Board of Review

“By Every Word”
Christ has “..purchased with his own blood” Acts 20:28; the church! It must bear his name. If it doesn’t, it doesn’t honor Him.
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**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 5:45 p.m., the Meridian CUSD 101 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on its 2026-27 budget pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/17-1. A copy of the tentative budget will be available for public inspection on the district's website and in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1401 Mounds Road, Mounds, Illinois, 62964. The Board of Education will take action to approve said budget at the Regular Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, immediately following the Public Hearing at 1401 Mounds Road, Mounds, Illinois, 62964. Kristin Kaufman, Secretary

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THE CAT'S MEOW

By Cobden Spay Neuter Coalition

Union County Fair, school starting, football season, the World Series, Union Co. Colorfest. Fall activities have begun! And we move on as well in our work of spaying and neutering cats to reduce the cat overpopulation problem in the county and to reduce suffering and abuse of feral and community cats.

We do it because we love cats, we are community conscious, and it's just the right thing to do. But we can't do it without you. We must have your support and assistance in the work we do, and we must have your donations. We receive no other regular funding. We also have some fun activities coming up to support our work. Stay tuned here and on our Facebook page to keep up-to-date.

Please visit our website,

cobdenspayneutercoalition.org, or our Facebook page to see what we're up to. You may drop off, call in, or send donations to our account at Meller-James & Associates, send your gift online through givebutter.com, or mail them to CSNC, P.O. Box 542, Cobden, IL 62920. If more convenient, you may also drop off donations for us at Kiki's in downtown Anna. CSNC is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible.

Spay/Neuter/Adopt companion animals. Meanwhile, if you see a companion animal in need, in trouble, or suffering, please, please call someone before it's too late for them. Call your local animal control office, the police, or the Sheriff's Dept. It IS your business if an innocent being who cannot speak for himself needs your help!

P.A.S.T. NEWS

Transportation highlighted in PAST series

The PAST organization of Union County has been hosting a series of presentations on Sunday afternoons in August about "Transportation That Transformed Union County." PAST stands for Promoting Appreciation of Structural Treasures.

The final presentation in the series, "Ferries & Steamboats," is set for 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30 at PAST's Heritage House, which is located at 102 S. Main St. in Jonesboro. The guest speaker

is scheduled to be local historian and author Darrel Dexter. Admission is free and open to the public.

Previous presentations scheduled in the series, and their speakers, included "Trains & Railroads" by Bart Hileman, "Automobiles & Local Dealerships" by Norm and Barb Bauer and Steve Burns, "Indian Trails & Wagon Trains" by Jane Mowery Patterson and "Airplanes & Aviation" by Norm Bauer and friends.

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OBITUARIES



Betty Jean Utley

Betty Jean Utley, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and cherished friend, passed away Sunday morning, Aug. 16, 2026, at 5:56 a.m. at St. Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Mo., leaving behind a life defined by kindness, devotion, unconditional love and quiet strength. At the time of her passing, Betty was surrounded by members of her loving family.

She was born on July 8, 1954, to the late Dean and Audrey Lois (Allbritten) Canupp. Betty grew up in Cypress and graduated from Vienna High School in 1972. After earning her bachelor's degree in accounting from Eastern Illinois University, she made her home in Anna, where she built her life and raised her family.

On Sept. 20, 1975, Betty married her childhood love, Bo Utley. Together, they shared a rich, beautiful life, balancing each other perfectly as the "Betty and Bo" duo — with Betty as the patient, gentle, quiet half. Just last year, she was deeply grateful to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by the people she

loved most.

For 45 years, Betty was a valued member of the finance department at Union County Hospital in Anna, where she formed lifelong friendships and left a lasting imprint on the hearts of many. She proudly continued her work with the Union County Hospital District right up until her passing.

A woman of faith, Betty was a member of the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Anna, where she found great joy and fellowship in her First EPC Women's Sunday School Class, Faith In Motion.

To know Betty was to experience pure kindness. Often described as kind, sweet and precious, she had a rare gift for making others feel heard as an exceptional, patient listener. But above all her accomplishments and community involvement, her heart belonged to her family. As a doting mother and Grammy, she was her family's biggest cheerleader — never missing a single sporting event, school play, dance recital, award ceremony or milestone moment for her daughters and grandchildren. She was an avid reader and is fondly remembered for her love of shopping and her talent of "always" selecting the perfect gift for every occasion. Betty loved Christmas and collected snowmen figurines to display throughout her home year round.

Betty Jean leaves behind her loving husband, Bo Utley of Anna, and her daughters: Kelly (Patrick) Kelley of Toledo, Ohio and Kacey (Mark) Channess of Anna. Her heart soared for her three cherished

grandchildren, Carson, Klaira and Karlee Jo, who brought immense pride and joy to her life. She also leaves behind an uncle, Pete Burnam of Vandalia; nieces, nephews and cousins; and her faithful, special friends: Rosie Whitnel, Steve and Debbie Haldeman, Ann York, and Sherry Moore alongside a community that loved her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her loving parents, Dean and Audrey Canupp.

A funeral service honoring the life of Betty Jean Utley was held Thursday morning, Aug. 20, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. Pastor Mark Kirk officiate. Burial was in the Cypress Cemetery.

Visitation was conducted Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. There was also be a time of visitation Thursday morning, Aug. 20, 2026, from 10 a.m. until the funeral hour at 11 a.m., also at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In honor of Betty's love of Christmas and in recognition of her being known as a thoughtful gift giver, donations will specifically be designated for the upcoming Operation Christmas Child gift drive. Please make checks payable to First E.P.C. — Anna and memo as "Betty Utley memorial."

To share a memory of Betty or to leave an online message of condolence for her family, please visit www.lbaileylfh.com

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.



Betty Loila (Vick) Carroll

Betty Loila (Vick) Carroll, age 85, of Tamms, formerly of Paducah, Ky., passed away on Friday, Aug. 14, 2026, at Integrity Healthcare in Anna.

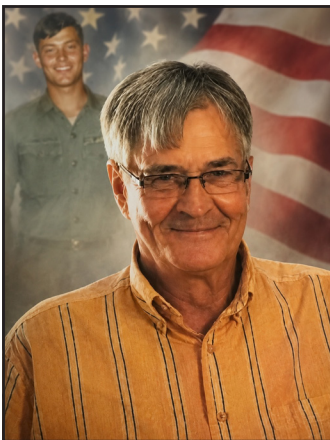
She was born on Aug. 4, 1941 to Roy U. Vick and Martha L. Vick in Tamms.

Betty graduated High School in Tamms and went to attend Southern Illinois University prior to her getting married. Betty and her husband, Billy, ran the Greyhound Bus Station in Paducah for many years. She and Billy were active members of the Eastern Star in Paducah.

Survivors include her son, Leroy Carroll of Paducah; two grandchildren, Pam (Scott) Gregory and Andrew Carroll, both of Paducah; four great-grandchildren, Angela (James) Roberts of Ballard, Ky., Alexander McDonald of Kevil, Ky., Alyssa McDonald of Paducah, and Kaitlyn Carroll of Paducah; one sister, Loretta (Charlie) Polston of Sesser; nephew Jason Pickett of St. Charles, Mo.; and two nieces Stephanie Pickett of Ellisville and Rachel Johnson of Tamms.

Along with her parents and her husband, Billy Joe Carroll, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Eva K. Carroll; and her brother, Ricky L. Vick.

A Private Family Memorial Service will be held at a later date.



Michael Robert Rainbolt

Michael Robert Rainbolt, 77, passed away on Aug. 13, 2026, in Illinois. He was born February 13, 1949, in Mound City to Henrietta Rainbolt Smith Meisenheimer.

Michael was the oldest of five children. He was preceded in death by his mother, Henrietta, who passed away earlier this year, and by his four siblings, Paul Smith, Silas Smith, Tommy Smith and Karen Dover.

As a young man, Michael served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam era.

He spent most of his life in Illinois, but life eventually took him to Ashland, Ky., where he made his home for many years. In time, he found his way back to Illinois, where he was surrounded by the people and places that had been part of his life from the beginning.

Michael was happiest when he was working with his hands and creating something. He had a love for woodworking and enjoyed building things from wood

and drawing. He also had a lifelong appreciation for antique and classic cars and enjoyed admiring them. He had a creative mind and a talent for taking an idea and turning it into something with his own two hands.

Like all of us, Michael's life wasn't perfect, and he didn't always get everything right. But a person's life is made up of much more than their mistakes. Michael loved his family, and he leaves behind memories, stories and pieces of himself that will continue through the generations that follow him.

He is survived by his daughter, Tracy Rainbolt-Harris; his son, Nathan Rainbolt; his significant other, Carol Stokes Watkins; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his uncle, Ron Smith, along with surviving aunts and uncles, many nieces and nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Michael lived 77 years, but his story will continue with the family he leaves behind, in the things he created with his hands, and in the memories of the people who knew and loved him.

He was a son, a brother, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, a partner and a veteran.

He will be remembered. He will be missed. And he will always be Dad.

A Private Burial Will be held at McGinnis Cemetery. Crain Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.



Edward Alwyn Tolbert

Edward Alwyn Tolbert, age 74, of Tamms passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Mo.

He was born on July 5, 1952, to Ezra Tolbert and Dorothy Tolbert in Cairo, Illinois.

In 1975 Edward graduated with a Bachelor's of Science from Murray State University. Edward began his employment with the First Judicial Circuit as a Probation Officer in the Alexander County office on Nov. 25, 1985. Prior to becoming a Probation Officer, Edward had been an Investigator for six years with the Alexander County States Attorney's office from 1978 until 1984. Throughout his probation career, Edward supervised both adult and juvenile offenders. He was promoted to Supervisor of the Alexander County Probation Office on Feb. 5, 1990. When the First Judicial Circuit was divided into Eastern and Western Regions, he oversaw the operations of the Western Region as Regional Director, which consisted of Alexander, Jackson, Johnson, Pulaski and Union Counties. He was a certified DARE Officer and presented that program for many years to local schools and was involved with the program from 1990 until 2024. On June 13, 2011, Edward was promoted to the position of

Director of Probation and Court Services for the entire First Judicial Circuit. He remained in that position until his retirement on June 30, 2016. Throughout his career, there was consistent thread that was apparent in Edward's professional and personal life, and that was helping others improve their lives. And while his professional career was very important to him, Edward was also a devoted husband, father, grand-father, as well as a friend and mentor to many. He will be missed and remembered by all of those who knew him.

Edward had coached the Cairo girls' basketball team and the girls' basketball team at Camelot School. He was Associate Coach for the Cairo High School boy's tennis team.

He loved sports, especially the St. Louis Cardinals, trips to Las Vegas, playing cards, and playing casino games. Most of all he loved spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren and dog, Ozzie. He had many friends that meant a lot to him.

His faith and his church family at Mighty Rivers held a very special place in his heart. He loved being a part of the church and serving others through its ministries. At the request of Reverend Potts, he became the original Upward Basketball Director when Mighty Rivers began this ministry, a role he embraced with great passion and dedication. Upward Basketball was especially meaningful to him because he understood that the ministry

was about so much more than basketball — it was an opportunity to encourage, mentor, and positively influence the lives of young people. He believed deeply in the difference that caring adults could make in a child's life, and he was proud to help create a ministry where children could grow in confidence, character, faith and their love of the game. The impact he made through Upward Basketball and the relationships he built through Mighty Rivers will remain a lasting part of his legacy.

Survivors include his wife, Lisa Tolbert; children, Justin (Ashley) Hunter and Jessica (Derrick) Holmes; grandchildren, Madison, Aubrey, Gage, and Maxx; and one sister, Donna Holman.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Robert Tolbert and Jack Kepner; and his brother-in-law, John Holman.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026, at 1 p.m. with Rev. Larry Potts officiating at Mighty Rivers Regional Worship Center in Cairo. Visitation was held prior to the service from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the church.

Interment will follow the service at Green Lawn Memorial Gardens in Villa Ridge.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions may be made to Mighty Rivers Upward Basketball.

Crain Funeral Home in Tamms is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Children's Hospital, www.shrinerschildrens.org/en.

The cremation of Betty Loila (Vick) Carroll will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Crain Funeral Home in Tamms is in charge of arrangements.

Happy Heavenly Birthday Cordell Jr!

Tomorrow, August 28th would be your birthday. You are missed but never forgotten.

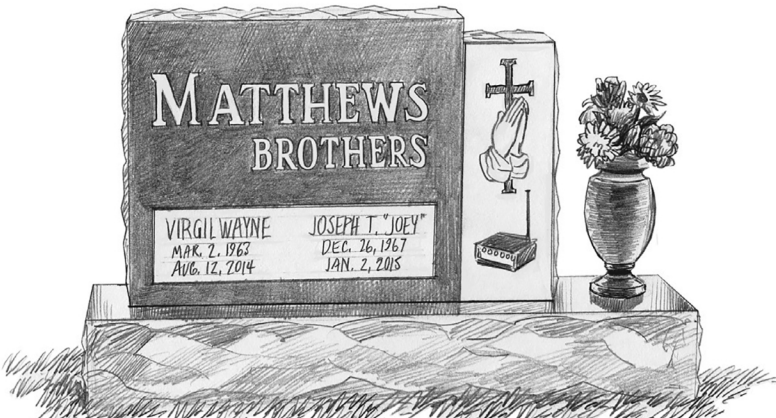
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NEWS FROM VIENNA, ILLINOIS



The Johnson County Courthouse Square, 1954

The accompanying photo shows the courthouse square in 1954, less than ten years after the close of World War II. The photo most likely was taken on a Saturday afternoon when, as it appears, not more than one narrow parking space remained. As can be seen, traffic around the Old Courthouse went in two directions, and parking likewise followed this pattern.

Saturday was the busiest day of the week for the Vienna merchants. Most people shopped locally; after all, there was hardly anything

that a person might need or desire that was not carried in the numerous busy stores.

Saturday was not only the busiest day of the week, but it was the longest day, with most stores remaining open until 9 p.m., well past the normal weekday closing time. Saturdays being so busy, the merchants needed some extra time off. The solution was the closing of all stores on Thursday afternoons to give the merchants and their employees a welcomed break.

Not only were the stores closed on Thursday

afternoons, there are reports that the Old Courthouse was also closed for business at this same time. The courthouse square was a lonely place on these afternoons. The only thing open was the doors to the public restrooms on the south side of the Old Courthouse.

When this practice of Thursday afternoon closings was initiated, or when it ended, has not been definitely determined, but it is known that the practice dominated the stores around the Old Courthouse sometime during the 1950s and 1960s.

Grant funds support library services, literacy programs

The awarding of a combined \$28.9 million in grants to support library services and literacy programs through Illinois have been announced by Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulias.

The grants include awards to regional library systems to enhance online catalogs at local libraries, support day-to-day operations and expand interlibrary loan programs. Funding also supports radio information services that provide local news and information to individuals who cannot read standard print materials. Literacy grants promote basic reading, math, writing and English language skills through adult, family and workplace literacy programs.

The grants are funded through a combination of state and federal resources, including funding appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly and federal Library Services and Technology Act funding administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Library service grant funding in the amount of \$22.2 million includes:

- \$50,000 to support

libraries at Illinois veterans' homes in Anna, Chicago, LaSalle, Manteno and Quincy, providing residents with books, magazines, computers, internet access and library programming.

\$18.4 million for the Chicago Public Library System, Illinois Heartland Library System and Reaching Across Illinois Library System to support library system operations and resource sharing, professional development, delivery services and shared online catalogs at libraries throughout the state.

\$3.3 million for technology and other statewide library initiatives, including cataloging services, technology infrastructure, trustee training and expedited delivery of library materials.

\$461,336 for nine Radio Information Service stations that provide news and information to Illinois residents who are unable to read standard print materials because of visual or physical limitations.

Nearly \$6.8 million in literacy grants will fund 104 programs serving adults and families throughout Illinois. The programs provide reading, writing, math and

English language instruction through three primary areas:

Adult Volunteer Literacy: One-on-one instruction provided by volunteer tutors to help adults improve their reading, writing, math and language skills.

Penny Severns Family Literacy: Programs that help parents and children build basic skills together and separately through partnerships among educational agencies, child-at-risk agencies and public libraries.

Workplace Skills Enhancement: Basic skills instruction provided to working adults through partnerships between educational agencies and businesses.

“Libraries are cornerstones of our communities, providing Illinoisans with access to information, technology, educational resources and opportunities to learn and grow,” Giannoulias said. “These grants strengthen our libraries and literacy programs and help protect the fundamental Right to Read, ensuring people of all ages and abilities can access the information and resources they need to succeed.”

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE *By Dixie Terry*

“Dog Days” continue — hot and muggy, with an occasional shower, which is welcomed. Bring on the lemonade and iced tea!

Those showers mean my daughters don’t have to come over and water my outdoor plants.

I just discovered this in my recipe file marked “Beverages.”

Dog Days Iced Tea
Ingredients include: 7 bags of black tea, such as Earl Grey; 2 tablespoons sugar; 1/2 cup mint leaves and sprigs, divided; 2 cups chilled orange juice; one orange, sliced thin crosswise; ice cubes. Brew a strong tea in about 10 cups of water. While still hot, add sugar and about a dozen mint leaves. Let cool. Remove tea bags and mint. Then, add orange juice, orange slices and ice. Serve over more ice; garnish with orange slices and mint sprigs in each tall glass. Enjoy!

Since I had a tooth extracted last week, I am on a liquid diet and am anticipating something chewy soon.

Thanks to my son, Jay, for taking me to the dentist.

Labor Day is just around the corner, coming up on Monday, Sept. 7, a day to not labor and to celebrate all our American workers. Labor Day was the idea of one Peter Maguire and his brother, Matthew, a Union leader, who in 1882 proposed a celebration honoring American workers. The first Labor Day parade occurred on Tuesday, Sep 5, in New York City. President Grover Cleveland signed the law making the first Monday of September a legal holiday. So, let’s celebrate!

Keep collecting the aluminum can tabs for the Johnson County HCE, who deliver them each March to the Ronald McDonald House in Nashville. There, they are recycled for a major fundraiser. Take the tabs

to the U. of I. Extension Office on East Main Street in Vienna. Thank you!

The collection of aluminum cans continues, sponsored by the Lake of Egypt Association of Property Owners (LEAPO) to be recycled and the funds donated to the Elks Club for their July fireworks display at the lake. Containers are scattered around several businesses at the lake and a trailer at the old fire station location on Lake of Egypt Road. Thank you!

Live music will be presented each weekend at the Shawnee National Forest KOA campground marina on the beautiful Lake of Egypt. Enjoy the following: Aug. 28 — Johny Collier. Aug. 29 — Miranda Bury. Sept. 4 — Logan Champman, all 5 to 8 p.m.; and on Sept. 5 — Backline from 4 to 8 p.m. Pay at the gate.

Volunteers at the Goreville Ministerial Alliance Thrift Shop on Aug. 25-27-29 will be members of the Friendship General Baptist Church of Goreville and McKinney Chapel Freewill Baptist Church of Lake of Egypt. Merchandise is added daily, at bargain prices.

Look for the “Full Sturgeon Moon” as it rises on Friday, Aug. 28, named by Native American tribes in the area of the Great Lakes. Other tribes called it “Full Black Cherries Moon” and “Full Flying Up Moon.”

Volunteers are needed for the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society Library and Research Center, located on the historic square.

The open hours are

Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Contact President David Oliver at 937-479-3246 for information.

The JCGHS is again sponsoring its “Fall Photo Contest” with an entry fee of \$5. Age categories are: Youth — 13-18 and adults 19 plus years. There are 3 categories: Old Structures; Old Cemetery Headstones; and Nature and Wildlife (no pets). Enclose entry fees with photos in an envelope marked “Photo Contest—2026” and mail to JCGHS, P.O. Box 1207, Vienna, IL 62995. Photos must be at least 5 X 7. Include full name, date of birth, age, address, phone and email.

The Vienna High School Class of 1986 will hold a reunion on Oct. 17, 6 to 9 p.m., at the Evergreen Coffee Shop in Paducah. The eatery is owned by a classmate, Jean Bowman Alford, who will be hosting the event.

Rep. Patrick Windhorst was recently presented a set of commemorative coins while visiting the Goreville Village Hall. The presentation was given by village clerk, Kaylee Chrisman and village trustee, Jim McNamara.

Vienna High School has earned the National Beta School of Distinction Recognition. The school Beta Club sponsor is Mrs. Leslie Bradley. Congratulations!

We welcome Johnson County and beyond newsy items for this column. Call 618-422-2086 or email to dixieterry85@yahoo.com.

Enjoy the remainder of the week and all that August has to offer.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Submit events to The Vienna Times office in writing, by mail, email or by dropping off at The Vienna Times office. Deadline for submission is **Monday at 3 P.M.** for Thursday paper.

A maximum of two weeks per event will be permitted. Be certain to include the location and time of the event. No rummage, garage or yard sales. **ALL activities must be open to the general public.** If not, you are welcome to place an advertisement.

AAA MEETING

Vienna Public Library
Community Room
401 Poplar Street, Vienna, IL
6:00 PM Every Thursday

Courtesy of

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ANNA JO GARDEN CLUB NEWS

At our most recent meeting in August 2026, two Anna Jo Garden Club Members were awarded VIP pins and certificates in absentia. The following is the supportive statement for VIP status for Donna Budelsky, of Cobden Illinois.

Donna Budelsky joined the Anna Jo Garden Club in 1993. She describes the club of the time as “a bunch of old ladies having tea parties, at each other’s homes.” She laughs when she says this, and means no offense. Flower shows and tea parties remain a part of garden club culture, and the Anna Jo Garden Club began with the founding mothers of Union County, and particularly Anna and Jonesboro, in 1952.

Donna and her late husband Carl, as well as Pat Abernathy and her husband Doc, were new retirees, in the early 1990s, with the energy and enthusiasm of the newly retired. Donna taught mathematics at Cobden School, and Carl was an SIU Forestry Department professor. Pat and Doc Abernathy were good friends, and together with other enthusiasts in AJGC and the community, joined forces with the city of Anna with a vision to transform a trashy lot into a park.

The lot is owned by the State of Illinois and is currently under a 100-year lease to the City of Anna. It had been utilized by ET Simonds during the construction of "New 51" for construction materials staging and storage. New 51 is the current state highway that passes north/south through the eastern edge of Anna and intersects State Hwy 146 which is the east/west transect of Anna and borders the AJGC park. ET Simonds is a local highway construction company, begun in

the 1950s with the development of the interstate highway system and continues as a major local employer.

Donna can tell stories of the support they garnered for their vision for a community park, and of her joy and satisfaction that the park continues to this day, being utilized by folks on lunch break, looking for shady shelter from summertime heat, and various AJCC events. The current park features a Butterfly Garden Habitat, is certified as a Monarch Waystation, and has memorial garden rooms and benches to honor several significant garden club members, including Pat Abernathy, and her husband Doc.

Carl researched the ownership of the property, and along with Doc Abernathy designed the initial layout of the park. Projects included the picnic shelter and pad, and later the sidewalks and Blue and Gold Star Memorial. Donna recounts that the McDonald's across the parking lot was so grateful that the lot was being transformed into a park that the owners at the time (the Short Family) promised all the workers (and there were many) free breakfasts on work days. ET Simonds donated materials and assistance (and were churchgoers with Donna and Carl at 1st Presbyterian in Cobden). The Anna Quarry donated the initial marker stone, and invited the ladies of the club to come down to the bottom of the quarry to pick it out. They declined to ride the back of a "mule" vehicle in the dust and heat!

Interestingly the property was the homeplace of the Hindman Family, and the first president of the Anna Jo Garden Club, serving from 1952 -1953, was Lawanda Hindman. One

marker stone beneath a pine tree within the park commemorates this family lineage.

Donna has been a member of our Anna Jo Garden Club since 1993. She was treasurer in those early park years, and remembers writing grants for funding, as well as contacting local businesses to solicit donations. She is the member who has been a member for the longest – 33 years. She shares a birthday with the next longest member, Lois Clutts, who joined just a couple of years later, and was also honored at AJGC' last meeting.

While Pat Abernathy went on in club leadership, including being elected as president of the club and to roles in district leadership, Donna was treasurer for a long while, and has remained a member who attends and contributes faithfully over 3 decades, including hosting club meetings, providing encouragement, wise counsel and hard work in the plantings over those many years.

She has watched the transformations of the AJGC Community Park, and of the Anna Jo Garden Club. She never has an ill word for anyone, and emphasizes that the club and the work ought to be fun. At 87 she is now one of the “old ladies” who enjoys the food, fellowship and bouquets of club meetings when she’s able to attend.

Anna Jo Garden Club no longer has tea parties at members' homes, yet holds monthly meetings at UMC in Anna on the second Tuesday of most months at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend for educational talks and garden club business, and new retirees and all who garden are welcome to join us and become new members.

Illinois 4-H program prepares young people for entry into workforce

Workforce readiness remains a growing concern nationwide. Many young people lack access to opportunities that help them build essential job skills, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. A New Hire Readiness Report 2025 from College Board and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation found that more than 80 percent of hiring managers believe recent high school graduates are not prepared for the workforce and are less ready than previous generations.

To help close this gap, Illinois 4-H offers a range of educational programs designed to strengthen workforce readiness and support career exploration among the state's young people.

“Workforce readiness starts long before a young person applies for their first job,” says Cindy Ogwal, 4-H youth development college and career readiness specialist for University of Illinois Extension. “Through Illinois 4-H, youth learn by doing, gaining experiences that help them build confidence, strengthen essential workplace skills and explore careers that match their interests.”

Ready4Work, a key Illinois 4-H initiative, focuses on helping young people develop practical, real-world job skills valued by employers, such as communication, professionalism, problem-solving and teamwork. Through hands-on workshops, young people

learn how to write resumes and cover letters, prepare for interviews, manage their time and communicate professionally at work.

In 2025, Ready4Work reached more than 900 Illinois young people in grades 6 through 12 across 30 sites statewide.

Survey results show the Ready4Work program is helping young people feel more confident about entering the workforce. Eighty-seven percent of the participants who were surveyed reported feeling more prepared to apply for a job and 76 percent reported gaining knowledge on how to act professionally. One participant was grateful for the opportunity to practice a real-world interview, further demonstrating the program's practical impact, organizers noted.

Young people can also earn industry-recognized certifications through Illinois 4-H. CPR and First Aid training certifications provide participants with tangible life skills before they enter the workforce. Illinois 4-H's Beyond Ready Food Service Industry Credential Program provides a career-connected learning pathway to industry-recognized credentials in the foodservice and hospitality industries.

In 2025, approximately 34 percent of graduating 4-H seniors reported completing at least one certification.

“Every 4-H experience, including the Ready4Work program, helps young people develop the skills and

confidence to lead and grow,” says Kevin Carey, assistant dean/program leader and director of 4-H Positive Youth Development for Illinois Extension. “They are ready for the future and prepared for what will come next as they enter the workforce.”

Through 4-H, young people can explore their interests and build new skills through more than 80 projects. Some even turn their projects into experiences that generate income. In a 4-H senior survey, 19 percent of respondents reported that their 4-H experiences inspired them to start a business.

Beyond individual outcomes, Illinois 4-H contributes to broader community development by supporting youth through career exploration and equipping them with skills they need for future success.

Membership in 4-H helps young people foster a sense of belonging and build confidence. Extension noted that with active 4-H clubs in all 102 Illinois counties, it is easy to get involved. Information is available through local 4-H offices or by visiting go.illinois.edu/discover4H.

City of Anna
103 Market Street - Anna, IL 62906
Publication Report - GDC - As of 4/30/2026

Funds 00,01,02,03,07,10,15,24,50

Total Revenues \$16,479,806.29, ADMISSIONS/PASSES \$10,393.00, CANNABIS USE TAX \$6,467.91, CONCESSIONS \$5,560.33, CONNECTION FEES \$15,625.00, CONTRIBUTIONS 4TH OF JULY \$2,675.00, FINES \$23,789.16, FIRE FEES \$11,770.00, FIRE INSURANCE TAX \$18,428.69, FIRE PENSION TAX \$110,797.83, FRANCHISE FEES \$28,703.35, GRANT INCOME \$80,480.46, GRANT INCOME-SPECIAL PROJECTS \$2,439,443.38, GRAVE OPENINGS \$10,050.00, HOTEL OPERATORS OCCUPATION TAX \$18,092.02, INSUFFICIENT CHECK PROCESSING FEE \$250.00, INSUFFICIENT CHECK PROCESSING FEES \$(419.62), INTEREST EARNED-CHECKING \$408,597.37, INTEREST EARNED-INVESTMENTS \$120,333.57, LEASES/RENTS \$1,631.62, LESSONS \$2,040.00, LICENSES \$56,975.00, MUNICIPAL CANNABIS RETAILERS OCC \$65,507.87, OTHER INCOME \$104,668.00, PARTIES \$4,700.00, PERMITS \$4,483.50, POLICE PENSION TAX \$218,748.83, PROPERTY TAX \$532,906.02, REIMBURSEMENTS \$28,164.58, RETIRE INS CITY ALLOC/EMP CONTRI \$224,624.96, SALE OF CEMETERY LOTS \$7,800.00, SALE OF EQUIPMENT \$9,350.00, SALE OF MATERIALS \$750.00, SALE OF MATERIALS/SERVICES \$2,288.60, STATE INCOME TAX \$788,987.58, STATE REPLACEMENT TAX \$38,127.45, STATE SALES TAX \$2,641,555.42, TELECOMMUNICATIONS TAX \$50,268.87, TRANSFER FROM RESERVES \$598,808.54, UTILITY BILL LATE FEES-DISPOSAL \$6,873.88, UTILITY BILL LATE FEES-GARBAGE \$6,186.67, UTILITY BILL LATE FEES-GAS \$23,447.48, UTILITY BILL LATE FEES-WATER \$18,706.60, UTILITY SALES \$5,851,944.37, UTILITY SERVICE TAP FEES \$6,563.84, VIDEO GAMING TAX \$186,615.48

Compensation Summary: Total Compensation: \$2,154,663.84, UNDER \$25,000.00...ALSP, PAYTON M, BARNHART, SOPHIE S, BAUMAN, JONATHAN D, BIGLER, MICHAEL , BOWEN, ETHAN W, BOWEN, TIM , BRADLEY, TRENTON D, BRYAN, KATHY , BUSBY, SETH L, CALDWELL, THOMAS , CAPEL, GRANT L, CARTER, MYAN , CARTER, TORIE , CLARK, ADAM C, CLARK, CHRISTOPHER A, CLARK, MEGAN , COBB, CASSANDRA B, DAWSON, KAYMA , FASOLO, ALEXANDRIA , FAULKNER, JAMIE L, GIRTMAN, COLYN , GUEST, HOPE M, HALE, BOBBY J, HARRIS, GARY , HARTLINE, STEVEN C, HUGHEY, JOHN , INMAN, CLAYTON M, ISAACSON, MELISSA , KELLER, HAYDEN E, KELLEY, ADAM D, KELLEY, CORY W, KIRK, CALVIN A, KISAT, JAVED R, KLEIN, JARED , LAFOON, FRANK , LASLEY, LUCAS W, LASLEY, MATTHEW W, LLOYD, JOHN , LOPEZ, HOLLI , MILLER, BRYAN , MILLER, CORY R, MOSLEY, BROOKE F, PARRISH, LORI , PIERCEFIELD, MADDIE L, POULOS, ELLIOTT I, ROBERTS, JESSICA , SHEPPARD, EYEN R, SMITH, JAKOB O, STEARNS, QUENTIN , SULLENS, MICHAEL , TESKE, DRUE M, TRIPP, ADAM , VESBURGH, KYLE , WATKINS, BRYAN , WATKINS, BRYAN S, WEBB, MARTH A Between \$25,000.00 and \$49,999.99...ADERHOLT, BRADLEY, BARTHOLIC, WILLIAM BIBLE, JODI K, JONES, KOLTON J, KIRKMAN, ETHAN G, KOSTAL, JUSTICE S, LEWEY, AUSTINA, MCREYNOLDS, MELANIE OXFORD, NASH SMITH, TYLER R, STEARNS, STEPHEN J Between \$50,000.00 and \$74,999.99...BASS, AIDEN BRIMM, JACOB, BROWN, DARREN K, CLOVER, CALEB CLOVER, CALEB M, GROVES, RAYMOND LEWIS, LONNIE , LINTON, JACOB , LOVELESS, KEVIN , LOVELL JR., JERRY R, MEADOWS, DOUGLAS E, MYERS, HUNTER R, NIKEPHOROS, RACHEL, SADLER, TINA S, SANDERS, JACOB W, SHARP, BILLY SIMS, BRENTLEY STONE, SHAWN , WEBB, ANGELA M, WHITESIDE, DANIEL , WILLIAMS, TREVOR Between \$75,000.00 and \$99,999.99...CHAMNESS, JORDAN Between \$100,000.00 and \$124,999.99...BIGLER, DOROTHY I

Total Vendor Payments \$15,231,723.10, A and G AUTOMOTIVE, INC \$3,056.46, A-J WATER COMMISSION, INC. \$1,314,204.67, ADL ELECTRIC \$21,778.25, ALL BLOWN UP INFLATABLE RENTALS \$21,490.78, ALTEC INDUSTRIES, INC. \$1,211.15, AMEREN ILLINOIS \$4,106.19, ANNA MOOSE LODGE #1346 \$810.00, ANNA QUARRIES, INC. \$3,408.91, ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK-MISC. A.P. \$37,931.37, ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK-SS PRITEMS \$158,006.77, ANTHONY PENA \$600.00, APGA SECURITY AND INTEGRITY FOUNDATION \$1,512.11, AUTO TECH DIESEL AND AUTOMOTIVE \$7,892.32, AUTO TIRE AND PARTS, INC. \$6,722.16, AXON ENTERPRISE, INC \$1,415.03, B and D SIGNS, SP \$1,879.90, BASS FARMS \$1,320.00, BAYLISS MACHINE AND WELDING CO LLC \$6,063.51, BCBS ANCILLARY BILLING DEPARTMENT \$1,776.66, BIG RIVER MOTORSPORTS \$16,993.70, BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF ILLINOIS \$635,420.28, C AND C PUMPS and SUPPLY, INC \$1,210.00, CADY BUSINESS TECHNOLOGIES \$2,455.90, CAPE ELECTRICAL SUPPLY, INC. \$1,341.17, CAPITAL ONE \$54,835.01, CHARLIE'S FAST LUBE-ANNA \$694.57, CHEMSTREAM \$624.62, CIN-

	TIF	MOTOR FUEL T	GENERAL	WATER	DISPOSAL	GAS
Beginning Retained Earnings	\$234,053.34	\$609,746.98	\$6,400,101.90	\$3,614,403.87	\$4,632,604.86	\$3,490,345.35
Revenues	\$275,351.27	\$222,340.63	\$6,668,046.75	\$2,406,034.86	\$1,002,311.96	\$2,499,739.63
Expenditures	\$66,017.96	\$345.00	\$6,574,035.51	\$2,205,253.89	\$1,066,721.75	\$2,537,757.25
Sources	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Uses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Retained Earnings	\$443,386.65	\$831,742.61	\$7,059,458.38	\$4,012,261.04	\$4,782,265.44	\$3,546,982.01

	EMPLOYEE RET	SPECIAL PROJ	FOREIGN FIRE I
Beginning Retained Earnings	\$1,264,580.09	\$107,565.41	\$19,540.57
Revenues	\$270,422.45	\$3,117,130.05	\$18,428.69
Expenditures	\$243,556.91	\$3,223,643.39	\$150.00
Sources	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Uses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Retained Earnings	\$1,291,445.63	\$1,052.07	\$37,819.26

AS CORP \$1,612.66, CITY OF ANNA EMP RETIREMENT HEALTH INS. \$110,833.31, CITY OF CARBONDALE \$18,650.00, CITY OF JONESBORO \$2,613.19, CLARK CONCRETE LLC \$1,099.74, CLEARWAVE \$11,517.42, COAD CHEV.OLDS,CAD, INC. \$1,764.63, COAST TO COAST SOLUTIONS \$681.58, COBDEN SPAY AND NEUTER COALITION \$900.00, CODY A TAYLOR CONTRACTING INC. \$2,750.00, COMPASS MINERALS \$15,700.08, CUMMINS CROSSPOINT \$10,647.46, DAWSON, BRAD \$1,500.00, DELL MARKETING L.P. \$9,167.28, DELVE, LLC \$1,800.00, DUTCH HOLLOW SUPPLIES \$2,761.39, E.T SIMONDS CONSTRUCTION CO, INC. \$40,172.02, E.T. SIMONDS MATERIAL COMPANY \$3,717.90, EVRAARD-COMPANY INC. \$3,571,162.71, FASTANEL INDUSTRIAL and CONSTRUCTION, INC. \$1,912.40, FED-EX FREIGHT \$1,742.85, FISHER AUTO PARTS \$1,250.96, FLAGUSA.COM \$671.70, FOX'S TOWING and RECOVERY LLC \$1,075.00, FRONTIER \$3,268.00, GILBERT, HUFMAN, PROSSER, HEWSON and BARKE \$15,749.45, GL DOWNS, INC. \$1,986.45, GURLE and SON HEATING, INC. \$1,083.87, HAWKINS, INC. \$12,255.58, HEATH CONSULTANTS INC \$1,341.18, HERBERT MULTIMEDIA and MARKETING \$812.50, HOLCOMB FOUNDATION ENGINEERING CO., INC. \$20,692.42, HORNBEAK, STEVE \$2,000.00, HORNER and SHIFRIN, INC \$329,455.09, HOUSMAN'S LANDSCAPING \$3,998.57, ILLINI ASPHALT CORPORATION \$15,200.00, ILLINOIS COUNTIES RISK MANAGEMENT TRUST \$366,051.75, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE \$57,985.74, ILLINOIS E P A \$9,979.00, ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY \$70,263.58, ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND \$132,377.07, ILLINOIS POWER MARKETING \$298,265.22, ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOC., INC. \$693.00, IMCO UTILITY SUPPLY COMPANY, INC. \$725.36, INDUSTRIAL CHEM LABS \$714.27, JACOB MYERS \$1,000.00, JACOB WOLFSON \$850.00, JAMARR McZEKE \$2,320.00, JIM CARTER TIRE COMPANY SP \$8,710.62, JOHN A LOGAN COLLEGE \$1,950.00, JULIE, INC. \$3,081.30, KAREN CLARK \$1,000.00, KEN HALL ELECTRIC INC. \$1,541.00, KERBER, ECK and BRAECKEL LLP \$12,000.00, KOONS GAS MEASUREMENT \$23,014.37, KROGER STORE \$3,315.55, L D SUPPLY, P \$1,672.65, LITTLE CHINA \$7,700.00, LOCIS, INC. \$1,742.50, MAIER'S TIDY BOWL, INC \$11,460.00, MARTIN'S SHARP ALL SHOP, P \$2,665.75, McCANN and SONS HEATING and COOLING, SP \$10,350.00, MICK'S AUTO REPAIR \$894.00, MIDWEST METER, INC. \$15,967.00, MILLER'S WELDING, SP \$10,210.00, MOORE, BRIEN \$600.00, MORAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LLC \$775.00, MT.VALLEY WATER, INC. \$604.16, MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC. \$29,156.19, NALEE RAE'S \$39,375.00, NETTITE SOLUTIONS, LLC \$1,606.00, NEWMAN TRAFFIC SIGNS, INC. \$1,278.05, NOVA-COM INC \$3,244.94, O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE INC. \$3,772.83, PACE ANALYTICAL \$3,752.09, PIEDMONT PEST CONTROL \$1,800.00, PIVOT ENERGY \$1,799.43, PLAZA TIRE COMPANY, INC. \$3,128.14, PLOTT CONSTRUCTION \$67,749.55, PRECISION TINTING \$3,115.07, PRO-1 AUTO BODY and SERVICE CENTER \$1,598.00, QUADIENT \$29,360.06, RACHEL NIKEPHORUS \$659.06, RAY O'HERRON COMPANY, INC. \$11,135.26, READY-MIX SOLUTIONS LLC \$7,691.00, REPUBLIC SERVICES \$416,416.16, RON REEDER APPRAISAL SERVICE, INC. \$1,250.00, ROYAL PAPERS, INC. \$821.91, RURAL KING, INC. \$1,627.58, RUSTY'S HOME CENTER, INC. \$21,799.59, SANDNER ELECTRIC COMPANY \$17,487.66, SCHULTE SUPPLY, INC. \$794.95, SENTINEL EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS \$1,871.50, SHAWNEE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES \$112,655.68, SHAWNEE HILLS ART COUNCIL \$2,500.00, SHELIA ANN FRICK \$4,550.00, SHIPPING SAINT \$1,013.14, SHOP WITH A COP \$4,511.00, SI BUILDER SUPPLY LLC \$4,860.06, SIH WORKCARE/SIHMG \$6,295.50, SKUTA CONSTRUCTION INC. \$54,547.00, SOUTHERN F S, INC. \$59,777.44, SOUTHERN FIVE REGIONAL PLANNING NPO \$3,000.00, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE \$900.00, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE \$847.68, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS LOCAL MEDIA GROUP LLC \$2,173.35, SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE \$7,407.10, STATE CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS/STATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS \$1,009.48, STINSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY \$5,022.67, SULLIVAN PLUMBING \$18,800.00, SUMMIT INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, LLC \$5,005.00, SYMMETRY ENERGY SOLUTIONS LLC \$1,526,822.19, TERENCE WALSH \$21,902.00, THOMAS SECURITY \$4,037.00, TRANS UNION RISK and ALTERNATIVE DATA, INC \$600.00, TURNERS GARAGE \$2,421.62, ULINE \$2,989.43, UNCLE JOE'S BARBECUE \$1,600.00, UNION COUNTY CEO-STUDENT ACCOUNT \$1,900.00, UNION COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC. \$945.00, UNION COUNTY CLERK \$3,570.00, UNION COUNTY TREASURER / COLLECTOR \$150,112.04, UNITED LABORATORIES, INC. \$2,499.38, USA BLUEBOOK, P \$5,987.84, UTILITY MONEY MARKET FUND CITY OF ANNA \$31,296.14, UTILITY SAFETY and DESIGN, INC. \$138,080.13, VERIZON WIRELESS \$11,696.06, WAGNER, SCOTT \$14,400.00, WAL MART COMMUNITY BRC \$5,433.01, WARNING LITES OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, LLC \$832.50, WEBB'S EQUIPMENT SERVICE, INC \$18,766.29, WESLEY'S CUSTOM GRAPHICS \$725.00, WIGGS EXCAVATING, INC \$124,847.58, WRIGHTS BROTHERS LLC \$8,065.09, ZORO TOOLS, INC. \$1,811.44, All other Disbursements Less Than 600.00 \$19,455.78

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Proverbs 21

21.1 In the Lord's hand the king's heart is a stream of water that he channels toward all who please him.
2 A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.
3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.
4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart- the unplowed field of the wicked-produce sin.
5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.
6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.[1]
7 The violence of the wicked will drag them away, for they refuse to do what is right.
8 The way of the guilty is devious, but the conduct of the innocent is upright.
9 Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
10 The wicked crave evil; their neighbors get no mercy from them.
11 When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom; by paying attention to the wise they get knowledge.
12 The Righteous One[2] takes note of the house of the wicked and brings the wicked to ruin.
13 Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.
14 A gift given in secret soothes anger, and a bribe concealed in the cloak pacifies great wrath.
15 When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.
16 Whoever strays from the path of prudence comes to rest in the company of the dead.
17 Whoever loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and olive oil will never be rich.
18 The wicked become a ransom for the righteous, and the unfaithful for the upright.
19 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.
20 The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down.
21 Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity[3] and honor.
22 One who is wise can go up against the city of the mighty and pull down the stronghold in which they trust.
23 Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity.
24 The proud and arrogant person-"Mocker" is his name- behaves with insolent fury.
25 The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work.
26 All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.
27 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable- how much more so when brought with evil intent!
28 A false witness will perish, but a careful listener will testify successfully.
29 The wicked put up a bold front, but the upright give thought to their ways.
30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord.
31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord.

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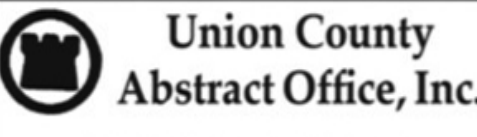


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UNION COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE

Thursday, Aug. 27

Thursday is Veteran’s Day at the fair.
All veterans are admitted free.

- 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Exhibit building open.
- 6 p.m. Junior livestock auction, junior show arena. Free admission.

- 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Carnival open.
- 7:30 p.m. Championship Rodeo, presented by Whippoorwill Rodeo. General admission tickets: Adults \$10, children \$5.

Friday, Aug. 28

- 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Exhibit building open.
- 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Carnival open.
- 7:30 p.m. Demolition derby, in front of grandstands. General admission tickets available: \$20 for adults, \$10 for children.

Saturday, Aug. 29

- 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Exhibit building open.
- 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Carnival open.
- 7:30 p.m. Demolition derby, in front of grandstands. General admission tickets available: \$20 for adults, \$10 for children.

Sunday, Aug. 30

- 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Exhibits to be claimed in exhibit building.
- 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Exhibitor checks available in fair office.

Union County Fair continues this week

The Union County Fair continues this week at the Anna City Park. The 145th Union County Fair start Aug. 21 and continues through Aug. 29.

Admission to fair

Admission prices to the fair include: Per vehicle, \$5 (no additional charge per person). Per person walking in, \$1. Children under 3 are free. (No charge on Aug. 21-24).

No bicycles are allowed on the fairgrounds during the fair. No pets are allowed. Service animals are welcome.

More information about the fair can be found in this year’s fair book, on the fair’s website at www.unioncountyfair.net and on the fair’s Facebook page.

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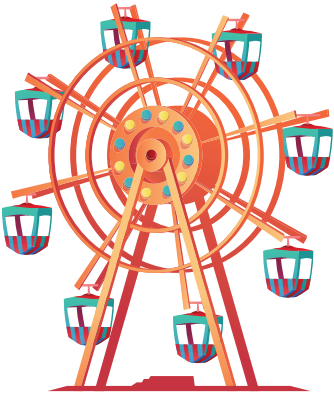
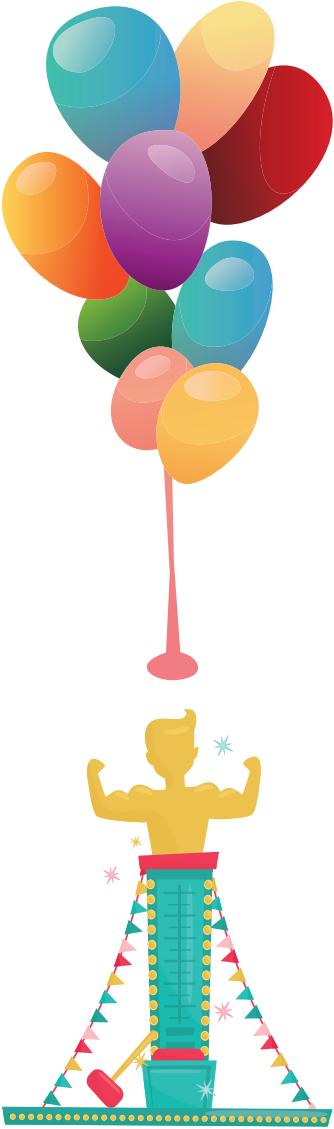
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Have Fun At
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Queen pageant held at Union County Fair
The 2026 Union County Fair got underway Friday, Aug. 21, at the Anna City Park. Opening night at the fair featured the Miss Union County Fair queen pageant. As the pageant began, Brooklynn Eastman, the 2025 fair queen, appeared on stage. The fair is scheduled to continue through Saturday, Aug. 29, with a wide range of events for the whole family.

See You At The FAIR!



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LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE 1ST
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF UNION
IN RE THE ESTATE OF:
CAROL JOYCE BEARDEN,
Deceased.**
**Case No. 2026 PR 13
CLAIM NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given of the death of CAROL JOYCE BEARDEN, Letters Testamentary were issued on August 7, 2026, to AMANDA KAUS, who is the Executor of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Mason S. Crosby, Crosby & Crosby LLP, 3815 North Mulford Road, Suite 4, Rockford, Illinois 61114.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before February 27, 2027, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act of 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date as stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Union County Circuit Clerk's Office at 309 West Market Street., Room 108 Jonesboro, Illinois 62952, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten (10) days of filing.

Crosby & Crosby LLP,
BY: Mason S. Crosby,
Attorney for Executor
CROSBY & CROSBY LLP
Attorney for Executor
Mason S. Crosby
ARDC: 6333778
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**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE FIRST
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PULASKI COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of
GERALD D. THURSTON,
Deceased**
**No. 2026-PR-10
CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Gerald D. Thurston of Pulaski, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on August 17, 2026, to Wendy Ice, 4173 Chapel Hill Road, Pulaski, IL 62976, whose attorney is Mark S. Johnson, Johnson, Schneider & Ferrell, L.L.C., 212 North Main Street, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Pulaski County Courthouse, 500 Illinois Avenue, Mound City, IL 62963, or with the representative, or both, by February 27, 2027, or three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of a personal claim notice, whichever date is later, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

STEPHANIE L. CRAIN
Pulaski County Circuit Clerk
8221-968468

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE FIRST
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the
Estate of Joseph W. Melvin,
Deceased.**
2026PR15

West of the Third Principal Meridian, on the North line of said Quarter-Quarter section; thence continuing East along said North line a distance of 150.00 feet to an iron pin; thence deflecting right 126°43'25" a distance of 345.56 feet to an iron pin in the North right-of-way line of the Dongola to Cypress Blacktop Road; thence deflecting right 97°31'00" a distance of 150.00 feet along the said North right-of-way line to an iron pin; thence deflecting right 78°51'53" a distance of 455.82 feet to the point of beginning. Situated in Union County, Illinois.

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

Permanent Index Numbers: 06-24-04-732 and 06-24-04-728-B.

D. A description of the improvements on the real estate is commercial property.

E. The time and place of the sale are: Public sale at 9:00 a.m. on September 23, 2026, at the Courthouse in Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois.

F. The terms of the sale are: Cash or certified check or the equivalent thereof at the time of sale. This property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

G. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate.

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

Dated: August 10, 2026
LAWLER BROWN LAW FIRM

By: /s/ Zachary S. Walston
LAWLER BROWN LAW FIRM

Adam B. Lawler #6283341
David W. Lawler #6303793
Nick Brown #6302494
Zachary S. Walston #6331559
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**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE 1ST
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
PULASKI COUNTY,
MOUND CITY, ILLINOIS
Mortgage Research Center,
LLC d/b/a Veterans
United Home Loans
PLAINTIFF
Vs.**

**Jeremy Anderson; et. al.
DEFENDANTS
No. 2025FC3**

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE**
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 04/23/2026, the Sheriff of Pulaski County, Illinois will on September 29, 2026 at the hour of 10:30 AM at Pulaski County Courthouse 500 Illinois Avenue Mound City, IL 62963, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Pulaski and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

A TRACT OF LAND IN THE EAST HALF (E 1/2) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW1/4) OF SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, RANGE 2 EAST OF THE 3RD PM, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A CONCRETE RIGHT OF WAY MARKER ON THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF FAS ROUTE NO. 937, ALSO KNOWN AS THE JOPPA-GRAND CHAIN ROAD, 39 FEET NORTH OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF A TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO DAVID LEON SHUMAKER AND BETTY LOU SHUMAKER, BY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 129, PAGE 834, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF PULASKI COUNTY, ILLINOIS. THENCE RUNNING NORTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 48 FEET TO A CONCRETE HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY MARKER, THENCE CONTINUING IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF AN OLD PUBLIC TOWN ROAD A DISTANCE OF 188 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF A TRACT OF LAND IN SAID EAST HALF (E 1/2) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW1/4) CONVEYED TO CLAYTON F. RICHARDSON AND KATHRYN L. RICHARDSON BY DEED RECORDED

IN BOOK 129, PAGES 832 AND 917, THENCE RUNNING EAST 172 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF A TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO INA MAE HUEBOTTER BY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 118, PAGE 112, THENCE RUNNING SOUTH 198 FEET, THENCE WEST 35 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 27 FEET, THENCE WEST 127 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. ALL AS SHOWN ON A SURVEY BY SCI SURVEYORS, INC. JEFFREY K. CLARK, IL, PLS #3088, DATED APRIL 23, 1996, RECORDED MAY 26, 1999, DOCUMENT #12102, IN PLATS, PAGE 224, PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MOUND CITY, ILLINOIS.
PIN 03-32-300-036

Improved with Single Family Home

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
785 S Main St
Grand Chain, IL 62941

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgageor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-25-01388. 13292480
8221-968153

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE FIRST
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
PULASKI COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of
GAIL PARKER,
Deceased**
**No. 2026-PR-4
CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Gail Parker of Villa Ridge, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on July 22, 2026, to Rebecca Parker Robertson, whose attorney is John R. Schneider of Johnson, Schneider & Ferrell, L.L.C., 212 North Main Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 63701.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Pulaski County Courthouse, 500 Illinois Avenue, Mound City, Illinois, 62963, or with the representative, or both, by February 20, 2026, or three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of a personal claim notice, whichever date is later, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Stephanie Crain
PULASKI COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK
8221-968126

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE FIRST**

**JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
CLAYTON RAY
BRADISH JR.,
Deceased.**
**No. 2026PR14
CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Clayton Ray Bradish Jr., deceased, a resident of Dongola, Union County, Illinois. A Petition for Letters of Independent Administration and for Letters of Office were filed with the Circuit Clerk on July 29, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on the 3rd day of August, 2026, to Clayton Bradish III, of 135 Amarillo Dr., Carpentersville, IL 60110.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk at the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before February 20, 2027, at which time a hearing date will be set in Circuit Court of Union County. Failure to file any claim within that period does not deprive the claimant of their right to enforce their claim in any other manner provided by law. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Keri E. Clark
Circuit Clerk of Union County
Alan W. McIntyre
Attorney at Law
412 Court Street
P.O. Box 515 Vienna, Illinois 62995
(618) 658-9497
ARDC# 6237658
Email: alan@amcintyrelaw.com
8221-968145

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Proposed
Tariff Changes
Gas Service Schedule
Ill. C. C. No. 2
To the Gas Patrons of
Ameren Illinois Company
d/b/a Ameren Illinois:**

Ameren Illinois (or Company) hereby gives notice to the public that on August 14, 2026, it filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC or Commission) evidence (direct testimony) regarding the reconciliation of revenues collected from its gas customers under the Company's Gas Energy Efficiency and Demand Response Cost Recovery (GER) Rider, with actual and prudent associated costs from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. This reconciliation may result in changes to the Company's rates and charges with respect to gas delivery services in the Company's service area in Illinois. The changes in rates and charges will take effect after hearings and after the Commission issues its final Order.

The Commission docketed the filing as Docket No. 25-0964. A copy of the evidence may be inspected at Ameren Illinois' offices located at 300 Liberty Street, Peoria, Illinois or online at www.icc.illinois.gov/e-docket/.

All parties interested in this matter may obtain information with respect thereto either directly from Ameren Illinois or by addressing the Chief Clerk of the Illinois Commerce Commission, 527 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

AMEREN ILLINOIS COMPANY

d/b/a Ameren Illinois
By: Patrick Smith, President
8221-968276

**ASSUMED NAME
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON AUGUST 13, 2026 A CERTIFICATE WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER ROBIN HARPER-WHITEHEAD OF JOHNSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SETTING FORTH THE NAMES, POST OFFICES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL OF THE PERSONS OWNING, CONDUCTING AND TRANSACTING THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS:

TROVER RENTALS LLC
LOCATED AT:
10875 US HWY 45 NORTH
TUNNEL HILL, IL 62972
Robin Harper-Whitehead
Johnson County CLERK/RECORDER
8221-968226

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE
CERTIFICATE
NUMBER 2022-00089
To: JOE J SMITH AND/OR
UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS
OFFICER FOR FIFTH
THIRD BANK NA
UNION COUNTY CLERK**

, and all unknown owners, occupants, beneficiaries, heirs, devisees or parties interested. A Petition for a Tax Deed on the premise described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, as Case Number 2026TX22. On 12/16/2026 at 11:00 AM, Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 980 2593 9529, No Passcode, the Petitioner will make an application to such court in Union County, Illinois, for an Order on the Petition that a Tax Deed be issued if the real estate is not redeemed from the sale. The real estate is described

as follows, to wit:
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: S23 T12 R2W PT SE SE
PERMANENT INDEX NUMBER: 08-23-06-017-A1
and was sold on 2/7/2024 for general taxes for the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on 12/4/2026.
RAVEN SECURITIES INC
PETITIONER
8221-967845

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE
CERTIFICATE
NUMBER 2022-00143
To: MICHAEL JEROLDS
AND/OR UNKNOWN
OCCUPANTS
CT CORPORATION
SYSTEM AGENT FOR
TOWER LOAN OF
ILLINOIS DBA TOWER
LOAN OF MARION
UNION COUNTY CLERK**

, and all unknown owners, occupants, beneficiaries, heirs, devisees or parties interested. A Petition for a Tax Deed on the premise described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, as Case Number 2026TX23. On 12/16/2026 at 11:00 AM, Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 980 2593 9529, No Passcode, the Petitioner will make an application to such court in Union County, Illinois, for an Order on the Petition that a Tax Deed be issued if the real estate is not redeemed from the sale. The real estate is described as follows, to wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 19 BLK 1 FOREST PLACE ADD. 55' X 150'
PERMANENT INDEX NUMBER: 14-00-09-172-
and was sold on 2/7/2024 for general taxes for the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on 12/4/2026.
RAVEN SECURITIES INC
PETITIONER
8221-967846

**Assumed Name
Publication Notice**

Public Notice is hereby given that on Monday, August 3, 2026, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of UNION County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting, and transacting the business known as:

THE BARRELS OF UNION COUNTY
170 N COUNTY LINE RD
COBDEN IL 62920
Dated this 3rd day of August, 2026.

Stephanie L. Cox
COUNTY CLERK
No. ABN2026-7922
8221-967838

REAL ESTATE

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE FIRST
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
LEGENGE BANK, AN
ILLINOIS BANKING
INSTITUTION,
Plaintiff,
v.**

**CURTS CLASSICS, LLC,
an Illinois Limited Liability
Company, ROY CURTIS
WALKER, NATIONAL
LOAN INVESTORS, L.P.,
SAMSON MCA LLC, a
New York Limited Liability
Company, UNKNOWN
OWNERS AND NON-
RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.**

**Case No.: 2025FC19
NOTICE OF SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of the above court entered in the above entitled cause on June 22, 2026, the following described real estate will on the 23rd day of September, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., at the Union County Courthouse, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, IL 62952, be offered for sale and sold at public venue.

A. The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Lawler Brown Law Firm, 1600 West Main Street, PO Box 1148, Marion, IL 62959, telephone (618) 993-2222.

B. The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is 460 NE Front Street, Dongola, IL 62926.

C. The description of the real estate is as follows:

Permanent Index Numbers: 06-24-04-732 and 06-24-04-728-B.

D. A description of the improvements on the real estate is commercial property.

E. The time and place of the sale are: Public sale at 9:00 a.m. on September 23, 2026, at the Courthouse in Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois.

F. The terms of the sale are: Cash or certified check or the equivalent thereof at the time of sale. This property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by

the court. Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

G. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate.

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

Dated: August 10, 2026
LAWLER BROWN LAW FIRM

By: /s/ Zachary S. Walston
LAWLER BROWN LAW FIRM

Adam B. Lawler #6283341
David W. Lawler #6303793
Nick Brown #6302494
Zachary S. Walston #6331559
Evan W. Taylor #6305093
Jarrod Wiggs #6350317
1600 W. Main St/P.O. Box 1148
Marion, Illinois 62959
Telephone: (618) 993-2222
Facsimile: (618) 731-4141
Service Email: service@lbf.com
8221-968131

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE 1ST
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
PULASKI COUNTY,
MOUND CITY, ILLINOIS
Mortgage Research Center,
LLC d/b/a Veterans
United Home Loans
PLAINTIFF
Vs.**

**Jeremy Anderson; et. al.
DEFENDANTS
No. 2025FC3**

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 04/23/2026, the Sheriff of Pulaski County, Illinois will on September 29, 2026 at the hour of 10:30 AM at Pulaski County Courthouse 500 Illinois Avenue Mound City, IL 62963, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Pulaski and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

PIN 03-32-300-036

Improved with Single Family Home

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

785 S Main St
Grand Chain, IL 62941

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgageor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-25-01388. 13292480
8221-968153

Send Classified Ads

& Legal Notices to

classifieds@annanews.com

Please read this...

Vultures ... a bald eagle ... and state symbols, too ...

Our recent adventures on The Journey Through Life included a fun trip to Carbondale last Friday morning. As we were heading out of town, a sight in the bright blue sky over new U.S. Route 51 caught my eye ... about a dozen or so vultures were circling overhead. I asked The Other Half if that might be a bad omen ...

A little farther down the road, another, not so ominous sight in the bright blue sky also caught my attention. This time it was a lone bald eagle soaring high above. The bright white feathers on the majestic bird's head and tail really stood out in the late morning sunshine.

In spite of the vultures, we made it safely to Carbondale and back home again. That could not be said for the armadillo which we saw existing in the past tense along the side of the highway ... a potential delicacy just waiting for some vultures ...

Meanwhile...
Speaking of delicacies ... and just in case you might be interested ...

The giant cabbage been named as the official state vegetable of Alaska. That blockbusting news item appeared in the August 19 issue of USA TODAY.

The designation of a new state vegetable got me to wondering and thinking about a couple of things. First of all: are there groundhogs in Alaska? The question had never crossed my mind. Well, according to the internet, there are no groundhogs in Alaska. That would be good news for folks in the Land of the Midnight Sun who like to garden.

Groundhogs, you see, apparently do like cabbage. My good friend "Search Assist" shared that groundhogs "are particularly fond of vegetables in the cabbage family. They often consume a variety of garden plants, including cabbage, broccoli, and other leafy greens." And whatever else The Other Half is growing in her garden this summer. Groundhogs do not seem to be very picky about their diet. I'm thinking we might figure out how to buy our groundhog a plane ticket to Alaska.

The news about Alaska's new state vegetable also got me to wondering if Illinois has an official state vegetable. And, yes, of course it does.

"Sweet corn was designated as the State Vegetable in 2015. Elementary school students from Chatham worked with a local legislator to propose this category for a vote in the General Assembly." That information was shared by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on its website.

Illinois actually has all kinds of "official" state



This well-fed groundhog could be a nominee for the honor of "official" Backyard Critter. The well-fed fur ball seems to really enjoy the goodies The Other Half is growing in her garden.



Fungus? Yes. State fungus? No. As mentioned in the past, the photographer is not a fungus expert, unless it happens to involve a can of mushrooms which need to be opened for dinner. This fungus was seen at the Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro.

symbols. I think I have taken a look at this exciting topic in the past. Maybe we'll just call this kind of a refresher course.

You may be familiar with some of the state symbols of Illinois. Some you may have in your own backyard. Like a groundhog. Some might even be eating the goodies growing in your garden. Like a groundhog.

In keeping with an edibles theme, corn was named the official Illinois state grain as of January 1, 2018. Agricultural commodities generate more than \$19 billion annually for Illinois, and corn accounts for 54 percent of that total, according to the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

The GoldRush apple was named the Illinois state fruit in 2007. Elementary students from Woodlawn lobbied for the inclusion of this category.

In some fairly recent news, the soybean has been officially designated as the state bean. The designation was formalized through the Illinois legislature's passage of HB 4439 on Jan. 6, 2025.

In 2015, a law was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor naming "pumpkin pie" as the state pie. It honors the pumpkin industry in the state that is prevalent in the Morton area.

Reading about corn and soybeans and apples and pumpkin pie offered a reminder that harvest time is right around the corner ... along with a chance enjoy a Union County apple and, very soon, some pumpkin custard. Can't wait.

In the somewhat-related-to-edibles category, the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) was selected by school children as the Illinois state animal in 1980. And, if I am not mistaken, white-tailed deer like to munch on a couple of state symbols: corn and soybeans. Matter of fact, I saw two or three deer enjoying some Illinois soybeans one afternoon last week while on a drive through the country not far from metropolitan Mountain Glen.

Also in that same category would be the bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), which was elected as the state fish in 1986 by Illinois school children. Its name refers to the bright blue gill covers found on many males of this species.

In the category of it's a fungus but it really, really would not be a good idea to eat it, the giant puffball (*Calvatia gigantea*) was selected as the state fungus in 2024.

Given the amount of time yours truly spends wandering

By Geof Skinner

around in the outdoors looking for treasures from long, long, long ago, mention needs to be made of Tully's common monster (*Tullimonstrum gregarium*), also known as the Tully monster, was selected as Illinois' state fossil in 1989. The Tully monster is, as far as I know, not related to the Big Muddy Monster.

The first Tully monster fossil was discovered in 1958 by Francis Tully. Fossils of the Tully monster have been found only in Illinois. Just not in the places where this writer looks for such things.

The Tully monster was a soft-bodied animal. Its fossils are found in ironstone concretions, which are red-brown, rounded stones commonly found in rock removed from coal mines. This strange creature lived about 300 million years ago during the Pennsylvanian Period. It swam in the tropical ocean that covered Illinois at that time. Its sleek, tapered body and large tail fins imply that it was an active swimmer, perhaps a carnivore (meat-eater). Its segmented body was flexible and round or oval in shape. The body was about one foot in length.

The Tully monster had two eyelike projections on stalks. At the front of the body was an "arm" that ended in a mouthlike structure with eight to 14 sharp projections. The "arm" and projections may have been used for catching prey and bringing it to the mouth.

This animal is a mystery. Scientists don't really know exactly what kind of animal it was. It may be related to snails, slugs and other mollusks, or it may have been a simple vertebrate. Researchers are continuing to search for the answer.

Finally, there are shelter dogs and shelter cats that are residing in, or have been adopted from, a shelter or rescue facility in Illinois, which were named as the official state pet of the State of Illinois. The law became effective on August 25, 2017. That would mean that our two "indoor" cats are official state pets. I have not informed Bob about this special honor ...

Illinois has a number of other state symbols. Perhaps we will share their stories some other time ...

Thanks, again, to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for sharing the information about our state symbols.

Meanwhile ...
Did you know there is going to be a lunar eclipse starting Thursday night, as in tonight, and continuing into early Friday morning? If Mother Nature cooperates with a nice, clear sky, yours truly will be out in the dark attempting to shoot the moon, so to speak ...

Notes

From page 1

activities, corn hole play, a scavenger hunt and food. Donations will be accepted.

A n n a - J o n e s b o r o Community High School is accepting orders online through Sept. 11 for 2026 homecoming shirts. Orders will help to support the school's new Bridge Classroom. Students in the classroom will be folding, packaging and labeling each shirt.

A-JCHS is welcoming the submission of photographs from the school's games, meets, matches and other school activities. The Union County school shared on social media that it especially is in need of additional photos from cross country and golf, but welcomes photos from all sports and school events.

The Anna Junior High School softball team earned a consolation champions title at the recent Marion Invitational tournament. The team's 3-1 tournament record included wins over Massac County, Carmi and Johnston City and a lone loss to Carterville.

Four-legged special guests Eddie and Poncho were on hoof to welcome Shawnee School District 84 students as they started the new school year. The district shared on social media that the visitors brought "lots of smiles and laughter."

Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna is planning to host a book signing with author Mel Watkin, whose new book is titled "the Notebook of Notes." The book signing is set for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. Copies of the book will be available for purchase, with 100 percent of the proceeds being donated to the library.

The Cobden Spay and Neuter Coalition is inviting the community to follow it on Facebook and to share the coalition's posts. The coalition works to reduce the number of unwanted cats in Union County through humane methods.

Severe weather in region Aug. 19-20

Severe weather was reported in parts of the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky during the night of Aug. 19-20.

Union County was included in a flood watch was issued by the National Weather Service office in Paducah Wednesday night, Aug. 19. The watch was in effect until 7 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, and included parts of Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky.

Training thunderstorms were forecast to produce a swath of very heavy rainfall across portions of the region from late Wednesday evening, Aug. 19, and continuing through the overnight hours. Rainfall rates of at least 2 inches per hour were possible.

Parts of the region also were under a severe thunderstorm watch during the nighttime hours of Aug. 19-20. The watch included Union, Alexander, Johnson, Massac and Pulaski counties in Southern Illinois.

At 10:35 p.m. Aug. 19, the Weather Service office issued a severe thunderstorm warning for Union County. At the time the warning was issued, a severe thunderstorm was located over the Trail of Tears State Park in Southeast Missouri.

Aug. 14 was Dr. Tim Taylor's final day as Shawnee Community College's president after six years of service. His new job is as chancellor of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. Shawnee Community College's faculty, staff and board of trustees members gathered Aug. 14 to wish Taylor well. Dr. Melanie Pecord is serving as Shawnee's interim president while the board of trustees searches for Taylor's successor.

Shawnee Community College is inviting the community members to share stories about how the college has impacted their life in a positive way. Details can be found on the college's Facebook page.

Student athletes at Shawnee Community College had an orientation day last week. The college encourages the public to follow Shawnee Community College Athletics on Facebook.

Giant City State Park near Makanda will be celebrating 100 years as a state park in 2027.

The Henry N. Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center shared on social media that it is scheduled to be open seven days a week through the fall. The center's hour are slated from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

University of Illinois Extension is inviting those who are passionate about gardening to consider signing up for a Master Gardener's program fall hybrid training course. Details can be found online at extension.illinois.edu/ajmpu/master-gardeners.

The Anna VFW and its Auxiliary will be hosting a fundraiser at The Villa-Pizza Villa on Monday, Aug. 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. All tips will be donated to the Veterans Honor Flight to take local Veterans to Washington, D.C. to see the memorials. Mark your calendar and come out for a great meal and donate to a worthy cause.

U of I Extension to offer Climate Stewards training

From a spring full of tornadoes to summers with extreme heat and flooding, Illinois communities are already living through the impacts of climate change. Community members are invited to be a part of the solution by turning their concerns into collective action by taking the University of Illinois Extension Climate Stewards training this fall.

The Climate Stewards program is a four-week, interactive short course that equips community members with the tools they need to communicate effectively about climate change, activate local collective solutions, and motivate others to join in.

"Most people are aware of climate change and its global impacts and want to know what they can do at home to help,"

Extension climate resilience specialist Jessica Rudnick said in a news release. "Through the Illinois Climate Stewards program, we are empowering individuals to develop the skills and partnerships they need to build communities and ecosystems that are resilient to the changing climate in Illinois and beyond."

Local training sessions are scheduled from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays from Oct. 14 to Nov. 4 and are available through five Extension offices throughout Illinois in Vienna, Quincy, the Chicago area, Champaign and Naperville.

The training sessions are scheduled to include conversations with local leaders, real-world scenarios, peer relationship building, hands-on learning opportunities and a field trip

to see local climate solutions in action.

After graduating as Illinois Climate Stewards, participants will be equipped to get involved with community science projects, land and water stewardship efforts and education and interpretation activities in their communities.

More information and sign up for local training by Sept. 30 are available online at go.illinois.edu/ClimateStewards. The program cost varies. The standard course fee is \$80. For those who can pay more and support someone else taking the course, the suggested fee is \$120.

Those who may need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the information session can contact Jessica at jrudnick@illinois.edu. For

the local training sessions, contact the program host .whose information is available through the registration. Extension advised that early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet access needs.

The Climate Stewards program is offered through Illinois Extension's natural resources, environment and energy team, which provides research-based education for awareness and action to sustain healthy environments and ecosystems that support quality living and resilient communities.

Extension staff empower people across Illinois to make a difference through the Master Naturalist, Climate Steward, and Master Watershed Steward volunteer and training programs.