

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk • Cobden Review • The Vienna Times • Serving Union County Since 1849 & Johnson County Since 1879

Thursday, August 6, 2026 Anna, Illinois \$1.00 Volume 179, Number 32

Death investigation underway in Anna

An investigation was underway last week into the circumstances surrounding the death of a local woman whose body was found in a public area in Anna. Union County Coroner Jon Shaffer said the woman was 59 years old and

was from Anna. The coroner said that an autopsy was held last Friday at the morgue in Franklin County. A preliminary report indicated that she may have experienced a medical event. A young woman who works at a fast food restaurant in the 1700 block of East

Vienna Street was reported to have found the body on a road at about 5:15 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, when she was going to work. The road is near the restaurant. The Anna Police Department initially was contacted regarding the incident.

The Anna Police Department, the Union County Ambulance Service, the coroner's office and Illinois State Police responded to the scene. Anna Police Department Chief JD Barter said an investigation into the matter was turned over to the Illinois State Police.

Peach Festival runs Friday, Saturday in Cobden

The annual Peach Festival will be celebrated in Cobden on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 7 and 8 at the Cobden Community Park on Locust Street. Most of the activities begin at 5 p.m. both days. The festival features a carnival, games, queen contest, delicious food, peach cobbler, bingo, raffle, and spin and win for peaches.

The musical entertainment for Friday will be Lone Howl, and on Saturday it will be Diamond Dog. The Cobden Runner's/Walker's Club will sponsor its annual Cobden Peach Festival 5K Run/Walk and 1-Mile Fun Run starting at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8. The event is scheduled to begin at the Cobden Community Park on Locust Street. For information on the run go to runsignup.com/Race/IL/Cobden/Cobden-PeachFestival5k. A Peach Festival parade is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 8 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The parade route will be through downtown Cobden. Entries are currently being accepted by the Village of Cobden (618-893-2425). For more information contact the Village of Cobden at 618-893-2425.



Chancellor Austin Lane, left, along with SIU Carbondale alumni Tony Burroughs (center) and Paul Purnell with the memorandum of understanding establishing the Black Archives Project at SIU.

SIU, Black alumni begin Black Archives

BY PETE ROSENBERY
SIU UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Heralded for its long-standing commitment to diversity that began when Southern Illinois University Carbondale was a teacher's college back in the 1870s, a project is underway to highlight the success and cultural history of SIU's Black alumni, faculty, staff and students. In serving "as a lasting testament to the significant role Black Salukis have played in shaping the university and society," the SIU Black Archives Project (BAP) will feature and preserve a collection of historical records, photographs, oral histories, artifacts and personal narratives, said Sherrica Hunt, assistant vice chancellor for affinity,

philanthropy and strategic initiatives and chief diversity officer with the SIU Foundation. "The Archives will provide opportunities for education, research, engagement, and reflection while honoring the legacy of those who have helped advance SIU's mission of excellence and opportunity," she said. Morris Library's Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) is developing the Black Archives with support from alumni, faculty, and community members. Along with SCRC's "Reclaiming the African American Heritage of Southern Illinois" project, the BAP will serve as a major resource for the Southern Illinois African American Heritage Center, Hunt

said. "Aligned with the goals of SIU's Imagine 2030 strategic plan, the Black Archives will also serve as a powerful recruitment and retention tool for students, faculty, and staff by showcasing SIU's longstanding tradition of leadership, achievement, inclusion, and impact," she said. William Walters, dean of Library Affairs, pointed out that both news media and archives have historically neglected important aspects of African American history and culture. "This project will help preserve those artifacts, records, and memories. It will provide future generations with at least a partial glimpse into the world as it existed for earlier cohorts of Salukis," Walters said.

Paul Purnell, a two-degree SIU graduate and member of the Black Alumni committee that helped guide and establish the effort, said he hopes the project will document the history of engagement and contributions of people of African descent at the university, stand as a proud representation of SIU culture and serve as a recruiting tool for prospective students. "This history is compelling and is not widely known. I hope this history will serve as a motivator for all students at SIU, and that they will be encouraged to keep the university's great legacy alive," Purnell said. "There is much to learn from our triumphs and struggles. The archive can

(see Archives on page 10)

Record-setting dew points; heat index reaches 126.9

Extreme heat and humidity at the end of July set a record, the National Weather Service office in Paducah reports. The Weather Service reported that humidity levels reached record levels on Sunday, July 26, in the region which the Paducah office serves. The region includes Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri, Western Kentucky and southwest Indiana. Dew point temperatures on July 26 reached the low to mid 80s, which tied or broke all-time records at several locations in the region. "Certainly was next level gross out there!" the Weather Service office posted on its website. A record-setting dew point of 85 degrees was recorded in Cape Girardeau. The previous record was 83 degrees, which had been seen numerous times. A dew point of 82 degrees was recorded in Paducah. That tied for first. Previous occurrences were recorded on

Aug. 23, 2014, and Aug. 29, 1989. 126.9 Heat Index in Union County On the same day that the Weather Service was reporting high dew points, the heat index reached nearly 127 degrees in Union County. Local weather observer Dana Cross recorded a heat index near Jonesboro of 126.9 degrees at 4:30 p.m. on July 26. The air temperature at the time was 95.3 degrees. Cross said the heat index reached 100 degrees by 9 a.m. and continued to rise throughout the day. Readings of 105, 118, 119, 121, 122 and 123 degrees were seen. The heat index was still 95.2 degrees at 9 p.m. The Weather Service reported that at 2:52 p.m. on July 26, the air temperature was 95 degrees, the dew point point was 81 degrees and the heat index was 116 degrees at the Southern Illinois Airport near Murphysboro. Similar readings were recorded at 4:52 p.m.

More Extreme Conditions

The region experienced more extreme heat and humidity on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, July 26-28. An extreme heat warning was in effect for parts of Southeast Missouri, Western Kentucky and Southern Illinois, including Union County. The warning was in effect through 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 28. The Weather Service warned that dangerously hot conditions were expected, with heat index values up to 111 degrees.

Lack of 90-Degree Days

Tuesday, July 28, was only the 16th day when the temperature reached 90 degrees in Paducah. That was the fewest such days through the end of July since 2013 – and 11 fewer than any of

the past 12 years. However, July 28 also was the 11th day when the heat index reached 105 degrees or higher. That was the second most such days over the past 12 years. The average is five days. The average number of 90-degree days through July 31 is 30 days. The Weather Service noted that it actually has been cooler than normal this summer, but "when it has been hot it has been extreme." Showers, Thunderstorms Milder conditions arrived in the region as July came to an end. High temperatures in the 80s were in the forecast starting Wednesday, July 29. The Weather Service was calling for less humid conditions heading into last weekend. A low pressure system was expected to pass through the region, bringing scattered showers and thunderstorms.

News Notes

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

Make plans to attend the upcoming Cobden Peach Festival. The long-standing community tradition once again is sponsored by the Cobden Lions Club.

*** In keeping with tradition... we will mention that the weather forecast for this weekend in the Union County area is looking peachy.

*** A July 30 update from the U.S. Drought Monitor showed that all of Union, Johnson, Alexander, Pulas-ki and Massac counties, as well as most of Jackson and Williamson counties, were experiencing no drought conditions. Conditions remained abnormally dry in a small part of northeastern Jackson County and in part of northern Williamson County.

*** The National Weather Service office in Paducah was calling for the possibility of severe storms last Friday night. Parts of the Southeast Missouri, Western Kentucky and Southern Illinois region, including Union County, faced a moderate to slight risk for severe weather. Torrential downpours were a concern. Strong storms also were possible Saturday, but primarily to the east of the region.

*** Members of the Delta Regional Authority's 2026 Delta Leadership Institute Executive Academy paid a successful whirlwind visit to Anna on Wednesday, Ju-

(see Notes on page 10)



County Line News

by Suzan Harvel

Brother Bobby Richardson led the congregation in a message from 1 Corinthians 12. These passages talk about spiritual gifts. We, as Christians, need to find out what ours is, so that we can work to use those gifts to spread God’s word. We were blessed to have a visitor this past Sunday, Cassandra Cooper, a traveling nurse, who is making the rounds of area churches. Be sure to make her welcome when she comes to visit you!

Mill Creek Baptist Church will be hosting Snowball Mountain Challenge as their Vacation Bible School theme and all are welcome Aug. 3-7 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. A light meal will be served each night. Family Night on Friday, Aug. 7th, will begin for parents at 7 p.m. and a pizza party will follow. Please join the crowd for some winter fun in the heat of August! Eighteen members were on hand Saturday to decorate and prepare the church for it’s opening on Monday.

Mill Creek Baptist Church was saddened to hear their Pastor, Brother Bobby Richardson, and his family are mourning for the loss of their father, grandfather and uncle, Robert Richardson Sr., who passed away July 29. A graveside service will be held for the internment of him and his late wife, Sandy, in October. Please keep the family in prayer. Also keep the families of Jerry Billingsly, Bonnie Hileman, Betty Reynolds, Pat Stute and Joy Toler in your prayers, as they have recently passed, as well. Others in need of prayers for health are “Tiny” Lingle and Mary Lou Lingle, who both grew up in this area.

The weather has been rather

nasty lately. The heat and the accompanying heat index have hit triple digits too many times. The rains have slacked off as well. We did get a nice bit of rain Friday night and Saturday a.m., so it’s not deserted us. However, where the river was once at flood stage, it’s now showing entirely too much shoreline. The weather in Canada, on the other hand, was 70 degrees, with a low of 48, my daughter was quick to brag about. Meanwhile, my niece, who is living in England has been dealing with temperatures in the mid to upper 90’s. This isn’t the norm, so most homes don’t have air conditioning. My daughter’s apartment in Canada is the same. While I grouse about the temperatures, I am certainly thankful we have air conditioning and pray for those that don’t!

The heat hasn’t stopped my husband from venturing out to go fishing. He’s caught quite a selection and is proudly taking photos of them. We’ll be sharing a mess of those this weekend with our daughter and her family as they join us for her birthday celebration. I am not a fish eater, so I’ll have an alternate meat for me. We will also enjoy some of the bounty from our garden. We only lost the squash in the flooding, so we’re doing pretty good. It’s slowed the okra and beans down some, but they are finally bouncing back and we’ll have our first meal of green beans this weekend, along with tomatoes. If your garden didn’t make it, there are several farmer’s markets nearby to get that homegrown vegetable of your choice.

The 89th Cobden Peach Festival will be this week, Aug.

7-8, with lots of good food, music, carnival rides, races and so much more. Plan to come out and see what’s going on and bring home a pile of peaches while you’re at it.

Members of P.A.S.T. of Union County met for regular business meeting on Tuesday, July 28. Ten members and a guest were in attendance. A new member was added to the board, Janice Newton. There was a lot of discussion on upcoming events: parlor talks in August; a yard sale and Constitution Week events, with an open house at the museum with a story hour, in September; Spooky Parlor Talks in October; a soup and chili supper with dessert auction in the November, concerts and holiday luncheons in December. Several business items were voted on. Also discussed were the success of the recent quilt show at John A. Logan College on July 25 and 26, and the contacts made from that; the search for grants and other financial resources; menu for the holiday luncheons, ongoing needed repairs; the upcoming G.S.S.I. conference; and the gift of a donation. The next meeting will be held on Aug. 25 at 6 p.m.

P.A.S.T. of Union County will have started their Transportation that Transformed Union County, Sunday Parlor Talks on Aug. 3. Bart Hileman will lead the way with talks about trains and the railroad. Aug. 9 will feature Norm & Barbara Bauer and Steve Burns, with Automobiles. On August 16th Jane Mowery Patterson will speak on the old Wagon Trails. August 23rd, Norm Bauer and some other friends will speak on Aviation

in Union County. Then on Aug. 30, Darrel Dexter will speak on ferries and river traffic. These promise to be very interesting, so join P.A.S.T. members and other at the Heritage House Museum, 102 South Main Street, in Jonesboro at 2 p.m. each Sunday. They hope you can be there for them all.

Shirley Harvel was blessed with a lovely letter from Bonnie Kohler that shared events through all the years of their acquaintance (more than 50). Bonnie is a dear lady and friend to our family and Shirley was thrilled to get her letter. Shirley was further blessed this past Friday with a visit from her sister, Sue Knowlton, and her husband, Don, from Poplar Bluff, Missouri. They had business in Cape and swung by to spend a few hours visiting. Also visiting were Shirley’s son, Chuck, and his wife Martha.

Lots of folks are rushing to get their vacations in. School starts sooner than the children would like. Registration has already begun in a lot of districts. Check your local stores for those dreaded school supply lists, as well. College students are also prepping to get started on another era in their lives. Some will be living away from family for the first time and many will do it a state they aren’t familiar with. Let us keep all these students, parents, teachers/ instructors, administrators, secretaries, nurses, librarians, coaches, crossing guards and bus drivers, cafeteria workers, maintenance personnel, and all the many others involved in the educating of others, in our prayers for a safe and successful year.

Jonesboro First Baptist Church News

On July 26, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in our morning service. His message addressed church growth. The message of the gospel must flow outward into the community or the church doesn’t grow. We must be pouring into each other. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus told us to give to all, even enemies, and expect nothing in return. We put all our expectations in God. His text was found in the sixth chapter of Luke, located in the New Testament.

Dee Rose, Music Director,

led in worship, accompanied by Debbie York on the piano, and the Praise Team: Megan, Isabel and Lucas Tehandón, and Kerry Shipley. Marlee Smith sang a special, “Thank God, I do.”

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.

This week’s activities include Men’s & Ladies’ Bible Studies, Monday, July 27, at 6 p.m. The men meet at the church, and the ladies will meet at the home of Sheila Aldridge. On Friday, July 31, the Youth will visit Judgment House at Marion First Baptist, and others from our church will attend on August 1.

Happy birthday to Leon Rendleman and José Tehandón, both born on July 26; Maddison Pinero and Perry Williams, both born on July

28; Judy Johnson, July 30; David Whitaker, August 1; and Michael Freeman, August 2.

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 6-8 p.m. Our Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study also meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Anna Church of the Nazarene News

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on July 26, 2026. Announcements were given

by Pastor Wright. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team.

The message “Built On

Values” from James 5:16-18, Acts 4:23-31, Colossians 4:2 was brought by Pastor Wright sharing that everything God

desires to accomplish through His Church begins with prayer. At the close of the service, communion was served.

ANNA FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

Anna First Baptist Church met for Worship on Aug. 3 with Pastor Perry Wright leading our opening prayer.

Our Call to Worship was on the Lord’s Supper and was taken from 1 Corinthians,

“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the night in which he was betrayed too bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it and said,

Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament to my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”

Our Worship Team led us in Music Worship by singing, I Surrender All, Who You Say I Am and Holy Forever.

Pastor Lupe’s Sermon title was “The Tragedy of An Almost Christian.”

Highlight of his sermon included, An almost Christian is one of the greatest tragedies because they came so close to salvation yet never truly surrender to Christ. Like the rich young ruler; they may admire Jesus, know the truth,

and even live a moral life, but still walk away unchanged.

Good intentions, religious activity and church attendance can never replace genuine repentance and saving faith.

Jesus warned that many will one day say, “Lord, Lord,” only to hear the heartbreaking words, “I never knew you.” (Matthew 7: 21 – 23)

The greatest danger is not being far from Christ but being so near that you mistake familiarity with Him for a true relationship with Him.

After our Worship Service our Church Family, together, remember Jesus Sacrifice on the Cross as we shared the Lord’s Supper together.

Our Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. and is for all ages, our worship service and children’s worship begin at 10:15 am. Our Wednesday evening Bible Study begins at 6 p.m. Our bus service runs for all of these services and programs. Please call our church office to be put on a list to ride our bus.

Our church is located at 409 Morgan Street in Anna. Our phone number is 618-833-5416. Our office is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Give us a call, we have other programs you may be interest in, you can ask when you call.

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to The Vienna Times and Monday’s Pub.
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Hess News

Submitted by Glenn Heisner

Fred and Wanda Schlenker celebrated their 70th anniversary July 19 at United Missionary Baptist Church with many friends and relatives.

The 60th-annual 9 Day Trail started July 25 at its new location 79 Gaskin Mine

Road, Herod, also known as Buck Creek Campground.

I went over sun for church and meal.

Union County Saddle Club members had a potluck meal at noon.

Several members of A-J Class of '54 are talking about getting together for a meal while we are still able.

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NOTICE: CITY OF VIENNA

Notice is hereby given that the City of Vienna Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing Monday, August 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Vienna City Hall to consider a request by Angie Dodson for a Special Use Permit to replace an existing manufactured home with a newer manufactured home at 306 South 7th Street. Any interested person may appear and be heard.

ONLINE LAND AUCTION

JOHNSON COUNTY IL 15+/- ACRES
SURVEYED! 12 LOTS

Bidding Closes Thur, Aug 27 - 8PM

Lots Range from 1+ Acres to Almost 2 Acres

Property Inspection By Appt Only

Location: Missey Lane, SE of Vienna IL

In the Eastland Subdivision

Info & Bidding at buyafarm.com

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Questions? Call/Text

AUCTIONEER DON BAILEY

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ONLINE REAL ESTATE AUCTION

PULASKI COUNTY IL 84+/- ACRES
HOME* - BARNs - TILLABLE AC

Bidding Closes Thur, Aug 27 - 8PM

Property Inspection:

Sat, Aug 15, 10am-2pm

Location: 1079 State Hwy 169, Karnak IL

Info & Bidding at buyafarm.com

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OBITUARIES



Ronald L. 'Ronnie' Alstat
Ronald L. “Ronnie” Alstat passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, July 29, 2026.

He was born on Feb. 27, 1944, in Herrin to Roy and Pauline (Taylor) Alstat. He married his high school sweetheart, Sherry (Smith) Alstat on November 18, 1961. Together they had three children, Tracee, Kent and Wayne. Sherry passed away on Oct. 13, 2006. He later married Sharon Turner on Jan. 4, 2012, and she survives him.

Ron grew up on a farm and from a very early age spent long hours in the field and worked on equipment. It was there that he developed his diligent work ethic. After marrying Sherry, he lived in rural DeSoto until 2003, when they moved to Creal Springs. Early in his married life he sought employment at Carbondale Brick and Block. He always felt grateful that Clifton Greer took a chance on a young kid who wasn’t “officially” 18 years old. He remained friends with the Greer family his entire life and he and Jim Greer were great friends. He was later employed by Carbondale Township, where he was the Road Supervisor, retiring in 2009. He later worked for the Anna Wal-Mart from 2010-2012.

Ron was a homebody who enjoyed living and working on his farm where he raised cattle, goats and enough chickens to supply eggs to countless families.

Ron’s family always came first, so he had few hobbies as a young guy, but he did enjoy racing his Ford Fairlane at the local drag strips winning numerous trophies which he proudly displayed. He remained a loyal “Ford Guy.” He was also known as the car engine and carburetor wizard and would fix anyone’s car that came to him and never asked for anything in return. Much of his knowledge of engines came from his work with his wife’s uncle, Jake (Nancy) Ebersohl of DeSoto. Ron enjoyed many pet dogs through his life, but in particular, Cassie and Sammie, both of whom he buried on his property in Creal Springs, near him. He was a 32nd Degree Mason, and a Shriner, and Past Master at the Wolf Creek Lodge, and was recently presented with a 50-year member pin, something of which he also was very proud.

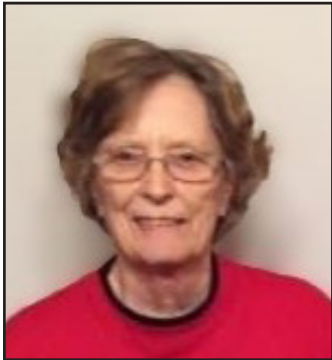
In addition to his wife Sharon, he is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Tracee and John Foley of New Harmony, Ind.; son Kent Alstat of Creal Springs; a grandson, Matthew (Emily Vallino) McMurray and their two children, Keira and Kellan, all of Austin, Texas; his “little” brother, Steve (Corrine) Alstat of Du Quoin and their children Leigh, Will, Erin and Janna; his stepchildren, Randy, Debbie and Missy; and 15 step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Sherry; infant son Wayne Allen Alstat; sisters Shirley Kay Alstat and Doris Yates; and stepson Dewayne Turner.

Ron’s children thank their stepmother Sharon for her kind and loving care during his last illness.

A graveside service was held on Monday, Aug. 3, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. at the DeSoto Cemetery in DeSoto.

Crain Funeral Home in Energy is in charge of arrangements.



Bonnie Marie Hileman

Bonnie Marie Hileman, 88, of Anna passed away peacefully Tuesday, July, 28, 2026, at her home.

She was born May 24, 1938, in Williamson County, the daughter of Loren and Mabel (Taylor) Jones. She married William Hileman on Oct. 13, 1956, in Anna. He preceded her in death March 24, 2020.

Bonnie is survived by her children, Douglas E. (Elizabeth) Hileman of Anna, Kurtis N. (Melanie) Hileman of Jonesboro, Russell L. (Sherr) Hileman of Anna, Lynn G. (Connie) Hileman of Anna, and Brenda Hileman of Anna; grandchildren Sarah (Matthew) Song, Jacob E. (Nadia) Hileman, Lucas E. (Rachael) Hileman, Nicole Hileman, April R. (Patrick) Shields, Joshua (Tiffany) Hileman, Amy (Mark) Glasco, Rebecca (Josh) Partridge, Daniel (Melanie) Hileman and Paul Hileman; great-grandchildren Joshua, Abigail and Gideon Song, Finley, Emma and Leah Hileman, Wyatt, Joelle and Landry Hileman, Averie and Madison Dickinson, Millie, Morgan and Asher Shields, Brad, Eli and Kooper Glasco, Drake, Leigha, Isaac and Rosemary Hileman, Mattilynn Houseman, Ali Hileman, Kyran and Bryce Partridge, Averie and Lucie Hileman; sisters Marilyn Lingle of Jonesboro and Anna Ellen Lipe of Carbondale; other extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband William Hileman; brother Wesley Jones; and sister Evelyn Butcher.

Bonnie was a faithful member of the Anna Heights Baptist Church for many years. She helped prepare meals for events and special occasions at the church and also helped with the Pumpkin Patch during Halloween. Bonnie loved her family dearly, especially spending time with her grandchildren. She loved making Christmas breakfast and having all her family around the table.

Bonnie retired from the Corps of Engineers where she worked as the Executive Secretary. She worked on numerous projects, but she enjoyed her time at the Olmstead Lock and Dam the most. She was an avid quilter and cookie jar collector and was a member of the Homemakers Group for many years. Bonnie enjoyed fishing and camping, and the memories made to last a lifetime.

Funeral services for Bonnie Marie Hileman were at 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026, at Anna Heights Baptist Church with Darryl Williams officiating. Interment followed at the Anna Cemetery. Visitation was after 2 p.m. until the service at 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026, at the Anna Heights Baptist Church. Memorial contributions may be made to Anna Heights Baptist Church. Envelopes will be available at the church and the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home.



Joy Ann Toler

Joy Ann Toler, 59, passed away on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, in Anna.

She was born on June 6, 1967, to Jerry F. Toler and Kindra Ann (Hunter) Toler in Marion.

She was a graduate of Anna-Jonesboro Community High School in 1985. She graduated Murray State University in 1990 with a bachelor’s degree in animal health science and technology. She then acheived her master’s degree. She also worked in the Zoology Department at Southern Illinois University and worked in Louisville, Ky. Joy loved horses and was an excellent equestrian. She attended the Church of Christ in Dongola.

Survivors include her children, Jared (Lindsey) Toler and Jenna Gomez; her parents, Jerry and Ann Toler; her sister, Kimberly (Gregory) Inman; niece Haley (Justin) Moore; nephew Clayton Inman; grandchildren Loni Toler, Roni Toler and Kaci Toler; great-nephew Lane Moore; along with other relatives and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Fred and Muriel Toler and Kindred and Marjorie Hunter.

A graveside service with inurnment will be held on Monday, Aug. 10, 2026, at 11 a.m. with Brent Miller officiating at McGinnis Cemetery. Friends are asked to gather at the cemetery after 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial donations be made to McGinnis Cemetery.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.

ANNA VFW NEWS

The Anna VFW and its Auxiliary will be hosting their “All You Can Eat Fundraiser Fish Fry” on Friday, Aug. 7 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fish, fries, hush puppies, baked beans, pickled cucumbers, onions, pickles, desserts for only a \$15 donation. With the meal you will receive a nomination form for one of the County Schools organizations that you can nominate. At 6:30 p.m. a name will be drawn and that organization will receive some of the proceeds plus all the tips for the night. The public is welcome. Please come out and support one of our local schools.

On Sunday, Aug. 9 the Anna VFW and its Auxiliary will be

GILEAD CHURCH

Simpson, Illinois

Sunday School9:30 a.m.

Worship Service10:30 a.m.

Bible Study, Wed.7:00 p.m.

Pastor, Doug Hughes

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Shirley Ann Russell White

Shirley Ann Russell White, 93, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., passed away on July 24, 2026, at her home in Cape Girardeau. Shirley was born May 26, 1933, in Detroit, Mich., to Franklin Doyal “Doc” and Clara (Shelton) Russell. She married Robert L. White on Dec. 30, 1950 in Piggott, Ark., and they were married for 72 years before her husband’s passing in July of 2023.

Shirley and Bob resided in numerous states across the country during Bob’s employment with Texas Eastern and before finally retiring in Cape Girardeau where she spent most of the remaining years of her life, except for the last few years living in Texas after her husband’s passing to be close to family. Shirley spent the final months of her life back home in Cape Girardeau.

Shirley is survived by her daughters, Judy White of La Quinta, Calif., and Sheila Noble of Cape Girardeau, Mo.; son and daughter-in-law Robert “Bob” and Tina White of Pasadena, Texas; grandson and granddaughter-in-law Chad and Ashley White, of Houston, Texas; and grandchildren Conner, Brynley and Tyler White of Houston, Texas.

Shirley was preceded in death by her loving husband, Robert “Bob” White; daughter Sonya Faye White; her parents, J.D. “Doc” and Clara Russell; and numerous extended family members.

Visitation was held on Thursday, July 30, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. with memorial service to follow at 11 at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home, 301 W. Spring St., Anna. Shirley’s nephew, Pastor Todd Hawk, will officiate the services. Interment will follow in the Anna Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, visit rendlemanhilemanfh.com.



Deborah Darlene Morrison

Deborah Darlene Morrison, 73, passed away on Monday, July 27, 2026, at her home in Sesser.

She was born on Aug. 18, 1952, to Eugene Short and Dottie Mae (Webster) Hunter in Anna.

She was a 1970 graduate of Century High School. Deborah worked as a CAN in home health for over 20 years along with having worked at Marion Hospital. She loved

animals, especially her cats and dogs. Deborah was of Christian faith and as a child she was a member of Ullin Baptist Church.

Survivors include her brother, Gary Short; her mother, Dottie May Hunter; one sister, Christina Beth Mobley; friend Richard Longmire; cousin Jon (Mary) Cagle; along with nieces, nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father.

A graveside service with interment will be held on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026, at 10 a.m. with Rev. Bob Dickerson officiating at St. John’s Cemetery in Dongola. Friends are asked to gather at the cemetery after 9:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to St. John’s Cemetery.

Crain Funeral Home in Ullin is in charge of arrangements.

Union County Alliance of Churches

Recommendations

1

Alliance of Churches, Romans 12:1 worship experience, Union County Fair, Aug 23, 6:30pm.

2

John 3:16 Ministries, “The Cure”, for drugs/alcohol addiction, john316thecure.com/admission/ FREE

3

“The Old Depot” 6 pm. Free dinner, live praise, fellowship, everyone welcome, come as you are.

Questions call Alliance of Churches (618)-614-2974

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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.

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Genesis 4
Cain and Abel

1 Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”

2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.

4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,

5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?

7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

10 The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.

11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

12 When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

13 Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear.

14 Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

15 But the LORD said to him, “Not so ; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.

16 So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

17 Cain made love to his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch.

18 To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech.

19 Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah.

20 Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock.

21 His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes.

22 Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain’s sister was Naamah.

23 Lamech said to his wives, “Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me.

24 If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times.”

25 Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.”

26 Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.



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NEWS FROM VIENNA, ILLINOIS

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE *By Dixie Terry*

Welcome August!

This new month is named to honor the first Roman Emperor and grand-nephew of Julius Caesar, Augustus Caesar (63 B.C.—A.D. 14).

The birthstone for August is the peridot and the official flowers for this month are the gladiolus and red poppies.

Some days to recognize, celebrate or ignore include: Aug. 1—Girlfriend Day. Aug. 2—Ice Cream Sandwich Day. Aug. 3—Watermelon Day. Aug. 4—Chocolate Chip Cookie Day. Aug. 5—Underwear Day and Oyster Day.

This is National Peach Month and they are now ripe and ready here in Southern Illinois, where the best crop can be found.

My daughter recently brought me a bagful from Bass Farms Produce in Marion.

Looking Back: On Sept. 8, 1900, the United States experienced the worst weather disaster in its history, when the Galveston, Texas hurricane claimed 8,000 lives.

Country music star Jamey Johnson is coming to the Marion Cultural and Civic Center on Sept. 20. Tickets are available at ilshows.com.

Also coming to southern Illinois will be Martina McBride, another country star, who will perform at Walker’s Bluff Resort on Sept. 18. Tickets can be ordered at walkersbluffcasinoresort.com.

Live music can be enjoyed each weekend at the Shawnee National Forest KOA Campground at The Resort on the Lake of Egypt. On Aug. 7, at 5-8pm will be Joseph Stacy headlining an outdoor concert.

The annual “Run For Hope” with a 5km, 10km and a fun run will get underway on the Tunnel Hill State Trail, adjacent to the Vienna City Park, on Sept. 25. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. with the runs to begin at 6 p.m. For more, contact eaglehouseministries.com

The Johnson County Home and Community Education (HCE) of the University of Illinois Extension welcomes the public to join in their motorcoach trip to Shipshewana, Indiana, an Amish community, on Sept. 28-Oct.1. Visit an Amish home, shop in quaint shops, enjoy Amish food, attend a theatre, take a wagon ride to a bison ranch for a cookout, and much more. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Faye Mize at 618-771-0066 or famize@hotmail.com.

Volunteers of the Lake

of Egypt Christian Church were working at the Goreville Ministerial Alliance Thrift Shop on July 28 and 30 and Aug.1.

On Aug. 4-6-8, the Goreville United Methodist Church and the Busby Chapel Freewill Baptist Church will provide volunteers.

Anyone wanting to donate good used furniture, to give to those in need, can take it to “The Unit” of Eagle House Ministries or call for pick-up at 618-771-7442. The location is State Route 37, north of Buncombe.

Welcome to Reverend Hiram Gonzalez and wife, Tonie. He is the new pastor of the Vienna United Methodist Church and also serves as the pastor of the Cobden United Methodist Church.

The Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society Research Center is now open on the Vienna Public Square each Friday at 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. This facility is open to the public, who can watch vidos, do research or purchase historical publications and county souvenirs.

Give a gift of family history, with a membership to the JCGHS, a perfect gift for those who have everything. Members receive a copy of the Jo. Co. Heritage Journal each month. Send \$20 to JCGHS, P.O. Box 1207, Vienna, IL. 62995.

Visit illinois treasurer. gov/icash. to see if you have unclaimed property.

The Honor Flight of Southern Illinois will be making Flight #17 this fall. Stay tuned for the date. For information on how to volunteer; become a guardian; or apply for a future flight; contact veteranshonorflight.org.

My granddaughter, Leah, her husband, Andrew, and their daughters, Jamison and Jemma, of Orange Park, Florida, who spent the 4th of July week in southern Illinois and then drove to Long Island, New York to visit his family,

have finally made it home. They spent time in Philadelphia, where a friend there served as a tour guide to numerous historical locations. Andrew and Jamison both climbed the steps made famous in the movie, “Rocky.”

Several teens from Vienna High School traveled in July to Beijing, China for two weeks in a cultural exchange and to provide a Christian Cantata in many regions in China.

On July 23, Dr. Steven

Webb, retired superintendent of Goreville Schools, provided the closing keynote speech at the “School Safety Advocates Council National School Safety Conference” held in Orlando, Florida. Over 800 school safety personnel were in attendance.

These folks will be blowing out candles in the first week of August! Aug. 1—Lori Daine, Tyler Woelk. Aug. 2—Aubrey Poole, Linda Tropp, Douglas Dunn, Kim Choate, Angie Breeden, Mikalah Greer, Eric Martin. Aug. 3—Jason Alvis, Kira Franklin, Gayla Stapleton. Aug. 4—Dick Kelley. Aug. 5—Danny Joe Hancock, Tina Hammond. Aug. 6—Jerrod Walker. Aug. 7—Bill Hancock, Nell Stokes, Donna Ray, Kim Chamness. May you all have many more!

Congratulations to these couples who will be celebrating wedding anniversaries! Steve and Angie Webb on Aug. 1! Cyndi and Clark Madden on Aug. 3! Robin and Donna Wetherell on Aug. 3! Bill and Helen Hancock on Aug. 5! Ann and Chester Lawrence on Aug. 6! Karen and Bob Sawyer on Aug. 6!

A belated anniversary wish goes to Tammy and Harry Rowe, who celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on July 14.

The True-Vine food pick-up or delivery of free meals is set for Saturday, Aug. 8, 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Vienna United Methodist Church. The menu will include grilled chicken, green beans, mac and cheese, and dessert. Call 618-926-1468 and leave a message on number of meals needed and whether delivery is needed.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive was held at the Fellowship Baptist Church in Vienna on July 20. Desserts were furnished by the Tunnel Hill Community of Christ Church .

Looking Back! In the Aug. 25, 1993, issue of the Goreville Gazette was this: “A couple of pontoons, loaded with Johnson /county Home Extension members and guests toured the Lake of Egypt, after a picnic supper at the lakeside home of Beverly and Dale Bishop at Robinwoods subdivision, one evening last week.”

We welcome your newsy items for this Johnson County column. Call 618-422-2086 or email dixieterry85@yahooo. com and share your county happenings.

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

Murrie Reunion held in Simpson

Descendants of Jefferson Monroe Murrie and Emily Avira (West) Murrie gathered at the Art Murrie Resource Center at Simpson Baptist Church in Simpson on July 4, 2026.

The Murrie family gathered for the 57th year with 91 family and friends signing the register book. After a blessing for the food, all enjoyed a wonderful meal.

After the meal there was a vote taken with prizes awarded for the best dish, which was won by Connie Bremer for her meatloaf; the best dessert, which was a tie between Arlene Miles and Carmen Murrie for their versions of banana pudding; and the most unique dish was Jon Murrie’s patriotic tower of individual clear cups filled with layers of red, blue gelatin, vanilla pudding, with

option of whipped cream and maraschino cherry on top.

The table center pieces were given away. There were 16 tables with a gum machine styled candy dish made and donated by Arlene Miles. The winners were Connie Bremer, Jenson Reed, Brantly Breeze, Deidre Breeze, Marcy Rushing, Brenda Rushing, Chandra Homann, Adrian Birch, Harlan Johnson, Ella Mae Murrie, Myah Murrie, Charleigh Hall, Emily Ruble, Trish Murrie, Zachary McGinnis and Shirley Combs.

Gifts were given to the following: traveling the furthest to attend the Murrie reunion were Shirley Combs with her son Bill Skirvin from Indianapolis, Ind.; the oldest descendant was Glenna Collie, age 91; youngest descendant was Harlan Johnson, 7 months; the descendant with

most children present was Kacie and Luke Ruble, five children; the couple married the longest were Connie and Charles Bremer, 53 years; newest married were Jon and Jodi Murrie, married two years; youngest grandmother was Brenda Rushing; and youngest grandfather was Tim Miles.

Everyone practiced their auction hand motion in preparation for the white elephant sale, which was held to help with reunion expenses, thanks to helpers Abigail Ruble, Allison Rose, Patti McGinnis, Angela Rose and auctioneer Joy Siebenshuh.

It is a blessing to have family and friends come together to catch up on news and enjoy each other’s company, so plan to come July 3, 2027.

Submitted by Molie Oliver

Revolutionary War Memorial at the Old Courthouse

In the northeast corner of the Old Courthouse lawn, in a shaded spot, stands a small stone. This stone, as some will remember, stood beside Route 146 just east of West Vienna. It was removed when the new Route 146 was under construction in the early 1970s. It found its way to the lawn of the Old Courthouse where the memorials of old Johnson County are concentrated.

It may be surprising to some that the Revolutionary War came to southern Illinois long

before Illinois became a state. In the year 1778, the western boundary of the United States was the Mississippi River, and Virginia claimed all that territory from its present limits, all the way to the western edge of the United States.

Staking its claim to the lands where Johnson County now sits, Virginia sent General George Rogers Clark to take possession of the town of Kaskaskia on the Mississippi River, then held by the British. General

Clark, with a rugged force of pioneer men, first set foot on what would become Illinois, at old Fort Massac.

They journeyed overland making their way to Kaskaskia. On that journey, they passed through Johnson County. The old monument, now sitting at the Old Courthouse, marked the spot where their trail crossed on their way to eventually capture Kaskaskia as a major objective in the Revolutionary War. A new monument now marks that spot just east of West Vienna.



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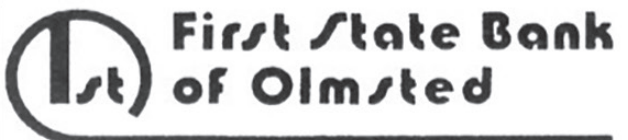


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Cobden Peach Festival queen candidates
A new Cobden Peach Festival queen will be crowned Saturday night, Aug. 8. The 2026 candidates gathered for a photograph with 2025 Peach Festival queen Amelia Long. From left are candidates Allison McGee, Finley Diemer, Eden Kaszubski, Kaylie Adams and Keela Kaszubski; 2025 queen Amelia Long; and candidates Emma Roberts, Sophie Barnhart, Mariana Palmerin and Nicole Basler. The 2026 Cobden Peach Festival is set for Friday and Saturday, Aug. 7-8. Photo by Stephanie Stroehlein.

Cobden Peach Festival pageant candidates featured

A new Cobden Peach Festival queen will be crowned Saturday night, Aug. 8. The coronation will be one of the highlights of this year's Peach Festival, which is sponsored once again by the Cobden Lions Club.

Amelia Long is the reigning Peach Festival queen. Amelia is the daughter of Mike and Julia Long. She has one sister. She is a 2026 graduate of Cobden High School. She plans to attend Brown University in Providence, R.I., in the fall.

Profiles of the 2026 queen candidates follow. The candidates were asked to share information about themselves for their appearance on stage for the pageant.

Kaylie Adams

Kaylie, of Cobden, is the daughter of Jeannie Gerlach. She has a sister. She is a Cobden High School graduate and is continuing her education at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She works at AutoZone. She lists audio directing, acting and theatrical directing, and CPR/first aid/water safety as her special talents or training. Her hobbies include cross-stitching/embroidery, crocheting, reading, biking, running 5Ks and SXS trail riding.

Asked about anything special she would want said on stage about her, Kaylie shared: "I am very thankful to God for this experience that I have gained and the friends I have made along the way."

Asked about her favorite place, she said: "My favorite place is anywhere I can have

fun and laugh with all of my friends."

Her sponsor in the pageant is Lisa Tomazzoli/House 2 Home Realty.

Sophie Shay Barnhart

Sophie is the daughter of Luke and Jennifer Lyerla and Jonathon Barnhart and Kelly Key.

Sophie is a 2025 graduate of Cobden High School. She is attending Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, where she is majoring in secondary education.

Her sponsor in the pageant is Moreland Eye Care.

Nicole Basler

Nicole, of Alto Pass, is the daughter of Jamie and Aaron Basler. She has two brothers. She is a Cobden High School graduate and is continuing her education at SIUC. She works at Walmart in Murphysboro, where she is a fashion associate and also participates as a Fashion Friday model.

She said her special talent or training include "enthusiastically bad dancing, telling classic dad jokes and performing a surprisingly convincing goat bleat impression."

Her hobbies and collections include recreating recipes from antiquity, cooking, building with LEGO, golfing, gaming, playing bingo, hiking "and putting my couch-detective skills to work while watching mysteries and true-crime shows."

Asked about anything special she would want said on stage about her, Nicole said: "At this moment, I want

to say a special thanks to my sponsors. I really appreciate the love and support that both sponsors have given me. Thank you, Bass Farms and Hair Creations."

Asked about her favorite place, Nicole said: "My favorite place is on the couch, holding my new baby brother, Emmett, while we watch 'Bob's Burgers' together because those quiet moments allow me to build a close and special bond with him. I enjoy being able to comfort him, make him feel safe and create loving memories that I hope we will continue to share as he grows older."

As noted, her sponsors in the pageant are Bass Farms and Hair Creations.

Finley Diemer

Finley Diemer, of Anna, is the daughter of Donald and Cheri Diemer. She has a brother and two sisters. She is a graduate of Anna-Jonesboro Community High School and is attending Rend Lake College in Ina. She works at Dairy Queen.

She said that being a multi-instrumentalist, including the guitar, piano, flute and piccolo, is her special talent or training. Her hobbies and

collections include collecting pennies and creating landscape portraits. "While doing those, I love being outside, baking, traveling, running, hiking, storm watching and hanging out with my friends and family."

Asked about anything special she would want said on stage about her, Finley said: "I regularly volunteer with a local youth program and the younger schools to teach young girls the basics of golf – proving it is not just a sport for the boys."

Asked about her favorite place, she said: "My favorite place is Bald Knob Cross. I love driving out to the cross and bringing my Bible. I love reading my Bible and books overall, and just taking in all of the beauty that was created."

Her sponsor in the pageant is the Union County Country Club.

Eden Kaszubski

Eden, of Cobden, is the daughter of Shannon Quain and Paul Kaszubski. She has a brother and two sisters. She is a graduate of Cobden High School and is attending SIUC. She is employed at the SIUC bursar's office and at



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Peach
(Continued from Page 6)
at church, watching BBC’s “Pride & Prejudice” with her mom and “nerding out over ‘Attack on Titan’ with her boyfriend.”

Asked about anything special she would want said on stage about her, Eden shared that her “icon is Elle Woods from ‘Legally Blonde.’ Elle shows that if you have nothing else, you have the ability to succeed in spite of those that wish for you to fail.” She is pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theatre while also deciding whether or not she would like to obtain her master of arts in political science degree or to attend a Top 14 Law School after graduation.

Eden said her favorite place “is Kellogg Hall 216, her freshman year dorm that saw lots of love, laughter, memories and a couple of crazy stories to tell her kids one day.”

Her sponsor in the pageant is The Green Mug.

Keela Rose Kaszubski
Keela Rose, of Cobden, is the daughter of Shannon and Paul Kaszubski. She has a brother and two sisters. She is attending Cobden Junior/Senior High School. She works at StarView Vineyards. Her special talent or

training is being able to play the French horn and mellophone.

Asked about anything special she would want said on stage about her, Keela shared that at just 11 years old, she was diagnosed with Tourettes Syndrome, “an invasive disorder that causes involuntary tics and vocal stims. A year later, she was diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome, a disorder that can be incredibly frustrating and limiting.” She has spent the last six years learning to manage those disorders, ultimately overcoming them and becoming a talented varsity athlete, honor roll student and Junior Firefighter. Keela shared she believes “that even if you struggle with disorders like she does, you don’t have to be limited. You always have the option to push through and become the best version of yourself.”

Keela said that she “believes her favorite place is somewhere she hasn’t been yet. She will find her favorite place once she starts traveling the world.”

Her sponsor in the pageant is Pro-1 Auto Body & Service Center.

Allison Nicole McGee
Allison, of Cobden, is the daughter of Brad and Christina McGee. She has a sister. She is a student at Cobden High School. She

works at Blue Sky Vineyards.

Her hobbies or collections include doing Bible studies, getting coffee and being with friends and family.

Asked about anything she would want said on stage about her, she said: “I am very outgoing and always give one hundred percent.”

Allison said her favorite place is “on top of the big hill on my family farm that overlooks Bald Knob Cross and all of our towns and longstanding orchards.”

Her sponsor in the pageant is JP Sides Ford-Chevrolet.

Mariana Palmerin
Mariana, of Cobden, is the daughter of Guillermo and Carmen Palmerin. She has two brothers and a sister. She is a Cobden High School graduate and is attending the Paul Mitchell School. She works at StarView Vineyards and Subway.

Her special talent or training is Spider-Man pushups. Her hobbies and collections include hiking, painting, pickleball, shopping, dancing and photography.

Asked about anything special she would want said about her on stage, Mara shared: “I hope to inspire my nieces and other little Latina girls to step onto a stage and into every space to make their dreams come true.”

She said her favorite place is “Chicago because it celebrates different cultures

and brings people together.”

Her sponsor in the pageant is StarView Vineyards.

Emma Mae Roberts
Emma Mae, of Cobden, is the daughter of Brian and Julie Roberts. She has two brothers. She is a 2025 graduate of Cobden High School. She is attending SIU Edwardsville, where she will be entering her sophomore year this fall.

She is employed at The Voyage Assisted Senior Living in Anna as a certified nursing assistant, CNA, as well as working part time as a home caretaker for her great-grandmother.

Her special talent or training is being a certified CNA, as well being trained in CPR.

Emma said her favorite hobbies are “collecting fun rubber ducks for my Jeep as well as handcrafts of all varieties.”

Asked about anything special she would want said about her on stage, she said: “One special thing about me, Emma Mae, is that I love splashing in puddles.”

Emma Mae said her favorite place is “at the dinner table playing Phase Ten with my mom, brothers and best friends, because it makes me feel as though I’m part of a secret where everyone is welcome.”

Her sponsor in the pageant is Personalized By Jamie.

Our Union County Roots

Cobden Peach Festival: a long and successful community event

This article originally appeared in 2020 as part of the Union County Roots series, which was a monthly column shared by the Union County Historical and Genealogy Society. The Society owns the Union County Museum in Cobden.

Early Days of the Peach Festival

August 13, 1938, marked the beginning of a long and successful social event in Cobden that was initially conceived to showcase and elevate the importance of peaches in the region.

The Cobden Lions Club, organized earlier in 1938 under the sponsorship of the Lions district governor, C. W. “Runt” Bishop, had 31 charter members. Bishop, two years later, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Frank Petty, the first president of the club, was joined by almost every Cobden business owner in creating the first Peach Festival, along with the wives of the members.

The event, a Saturday afternoon and evening affair, was held on the high school grounds.

Temporary stands were built for the queen coronation, food, games and music.

Bushels of peaches were judged and prizes awarded. Hugh Lamer Jr. took first place for Elbertas and J.E. Venerable and Sons won first and second for Hales. The winning peaches were then raffled off.

The coronation of the Peach Festival queen, Delores Flamm, preceded the final event of the festival: a dance with a live band in the high school gymnasium.

Attendance was estimated at between 1,200 and 1,500 people.

The Lions declared the event a success and pledged to use their profit of \$130 for community projects.

The initial format of the festival remained the same for many years, but eventually changes were made.

Different kinds of events were held to create interest in the festival, including ball games, amateur talent contests, bicycle races, a magic show, water fights between fire departments, bingo, pony rides, attendance prizes, gospel quartets and radio personalities.

In 1950, the festival was moved to the new, lighted ball park. Two couples were married on stage after the queen coronation. The prize winning bushel of peaches was sent to President Harry Truman. The crowd was estimated at 5,000.

The queen was chosen by popular vote. One cent bought one vote. As many as 25 young women sought the title some years. In 1952, the National Beauty Contest rules were adopted and judges from outside the area chose the queen.

In 1953, the queen contest was opened to any girl living

in the county. The judges selected Marjorie Miller of Anna. Rebellion! No one ran for queen in 1954 to protest the rule of county-wide inclusion of girls. The rule was rescinded and Nancy Kelly was selected queen in 1955.

In 1956, Friday evening and additional events were added to the Saturday festival. The third Friday and Saturday of August were declared the dates of the festival. Joe Thomas, with a team of local talent, entertained the crowd from 1956 through 1964 with a minstrel show.

The Cobden Women’s Club in 1958 set up a Peaches ‘n Cream stand featuring homemade peach cobbler, ice cream and cakes they had solicited from local women along with sliced, fresh peaches.

In 1960 a professional carnival was added. The event became a homecoming and a popular venue for class reunions.

In 1964, once again, the Lions Club opened the queen contest to the entire county. No one objected. Times had changed.

A booth for the iconic Appleknocker basketball team of 1964 was provided for the boys to autograph plastic apples, with the proceeds going to the Thomas Crowell Memorial Trophy Room. A dunking

booth was added and was a moneymaker through 1982.

The Cobden American Legion organized a Saturday afternoon parade in 1982.

The Cobden Lions Club has always used its Peach Festival proceeds for the benefit of the community, including:

A new fire truck in 1947 and help with another in 1972. Christmas baskets and eyeglasses for the needy, support for the Scouts and 4-H, the United Fund, the school band, the American Legion, the ball park and school groups are among those who over the years have benefited.

Beginning in 1958 and continuing through 1971, the Lions focused their attention and finances on the construction of a new medical building in Cobden to aid in securing much-needed doctors for the area.

The heat and humidity of August along with torrential rains never deterred the Lions from producing the festival.

Many peach crops were killed by late spring freezes, hail storms and minus 25 degree winter nights. Peaches were purchased and hauled in from other states.

World War II nor the Great Depression stopped Cobden’s ode to the peach, but in 2020 an unseen, little-known virus put an end to the festival.

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Cobden
Peach
Festival

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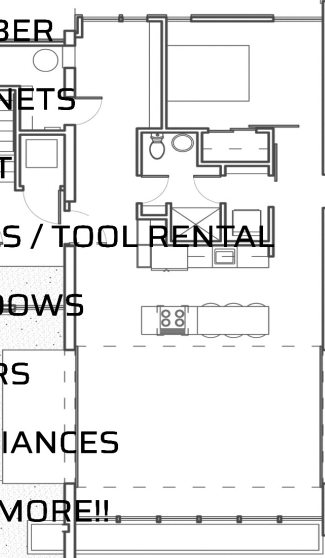
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Lynn Forby Geske poses with several paintings done by her mother, Anna 'Neicey' Lamer Forby (1929-2026). The paintings will be on display at the Union County Museum during the Cobden Peach Festival. The museum will conduct special hours during the festival: Friday and Saturday, Aug. 7 and 8, noon-5p.m. Paintings by Faye Lamer Ballance and Jo Dent Lamer will also be on exhibit.



Reigning Cobden Peach Festival queen
Amelia Long is the reigning Cobden Peach Festival queen. Amelia is the daughter of Mike and Julia Long. She has one sister. She is a 2026 graduate of Cobden High School. She plans to attend Brown University in Providence, R.I., in the fall. A new queen will be crowned Saturday night at the Peach Festival. The festival runs Friday and Saturday, Aug. 7-8.

The Cobden Peach Festival.
A special part of Union County's history.

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Come to the Cobden Peach Festival! Hope to see you there.



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Nathan Treece, CPA

Union County Museum plans extended hours during Peach Festival

The Union County Museum in Cobden plans to have special extended hours during the upcoming Cobden Peach Festival. The Peach Festival is set for Friday and Saturday, Aug. 7-8.

The museum, located on South Appleknocker Street in downtown Cobden, is scheduled to be open from noon to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The museum is planning to host an exhibit featuring the paintings of Anna “Neicey” Lamer Forby (1929-2026), Faye Lamer Ballance (1928-2000) and Jo Dent Lamer (1935-1986). The ladies took local art classes and were proud of their talent. They were all from Cobden.

The museum will continue its exhibits celebrating the nation’s 250th anniversary. A 49-star flag and a flag created by Lick Creek School students in 1976 will be on display. Another exhibit will be a board honoring 18 Revolutionary War soldiers who lived in Union County after the war.

Also on display will be a collection of photos of past Peach Festival queens, along with a binder of photos of all the previous queens.

Meet Your Friends
and have a great
time at the
Cobden Peach
Festival!



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HOUSING APPLICATION NOTICE

The Housing Authority of Johnson County is accepting applications for apartments in Johnson County.

The Housing Authority manages apartments in Vienna, Goreville, Buncombe, and New Burnside, IL. Monthly rent is based on income.

Apartments in Vienna and Goreville - Bedrooms range from efficiency to 4 bedrooms. Flat rents are available.

Apartments in Vienna, Goreville, and New Burnside range from 1 to 2 bedrooms and are for persons 62 years of age or older; or disabled regardless of age.

Buncombe has 1 bedroom units. Rental Assistance may be available.

Interested persons may contact the Authority by telephone at 618-658-5811, by mail at Housing Authority of Johnson County P.O. Box 188, Vienna, IL 62995, by e-mail at hajciled@frontier.com or at the administrative office located at 501 North 4th Street, Vienna, IL 62995, to obtain an application for housing.

The Housing Authority of Johnson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider, and Employer.



The Housing Authority of Johnson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider, and Employer.



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HELP WANTED

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

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Land Clearing, Mulching and Excavation Work Brush Busters 618-658-2029.

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HUGE GYM SALE

Friday & Saturday, August 7 & 8, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Shawnee Worship Center 98 Oliver St., Vienna

Kitchen items, tools, decor, clothing - all sizes & lots more.

Chicken & Dumplings, home baked items, free produce & bread items.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Proposed

Tariff Changes

Electric Service Schedule

Ill. C. C. No. 1

To the Electric Patrons of Ameren Illinois Company d/b/a Ameren Illinois:

Ameren Illinois (or the Company) hereby gives notice to the public that on May 28, 2026, it filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission (Commission) proposed changes in its rates and charges for approved Energy Efficiency and Demand-Response Measures (EDR) throughout its territory in Illinois pursuant to its Rider Energy Efficiency and Demand Response Investment (Rider EE) tariff in Docket No. 26-0443. The changes to Rider EE are applicable to Ameren Illinois Rate Zones I, II and III.

A copy of the proposed change in schedule may be inspected at the Ameren Illinois offices at 300 Liberty Street, Peoria, Illinois or online at www.icc.illinois.gov/e-docket/.

Customers should be advised that the Commission may alter or otherwise amend the rates or conditions of service after hearings are held pursuant to 83 Ill. Adm. Code Part 200, and may increase or decrease individual rates in amounts other than those requested by Ameren Illinois.

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

8221-967631

Lick Creek C.C.S.D. #16

Board of Education

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the School board of School District Number 16, in the County of Union, State of Illinois, that tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 7355 Lick Creek Road, Buncombe, Illinois in this School District from the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., on the 10th day of August, 2026.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 5:15 o'clock pm., on the 21st day of September 2026, at Lick Creek School in this School District Number 16. Dated this 27th day of July, 2026.

School board of School District Number 16, in the County of Union, State of Illinois.

Jordan Suits, Superintendent

Caron Sullivan, Administrative Assistant

8221-967638

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Cairo School District #1

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Cairo School District School Board of Education of School District Number #1, in the County of Alexander, State of Illinois, that a tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the District Office in this School District located at 4201 Sycamore St, Cairo, Illinois from the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning Monday, August 17, 2026.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the 17th day of September, 2026 at Cairo Jr/Sr High school Boardroom located at 4201 Sycamore St, Cairo, Illinois in this School District Number 1. Dated this 31st day of July, 2026.

Cairo School District Board of Education of School District Number 1, in the County of Alexander, State of Illinois.

Kevin McAllister

Secretary, Board of Education

8221-967738

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

In the matter of: BIG CREEK DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 2, Pulaski County, Illinois, NO. P-163-67

NOTICE OF ELECTION

We, the undersigned, as Commissioners in the office of said District, do hereby designate that an election will be held for the purpose of electing a successor to the Commissioner of said District, whose term will next expire. The election will be held at the Ullin Depot/City Hall, 101 North Central Street, Ullin, Illinois, on September 1, 2026, between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. One Commissioner shall be elected for a term of three (3) years from the date of his election.

Any qualified person may declare his candidacy for the office of Commissioner and thereby become entitled to have his name placed on the ballot by filing a statement of this candidacy, in writing, with the Circuit Clerk of Pulaski County at the Pulaski County Courthouse in Mound City, Illinois, at least three (3) weeks prior to the date of said election.

COMMISSIONERS OF BIG CREEK DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 2

Sammy Ulen, Commissioner

Mike Earnhart, Commissioner

Donnie Blaney, Commissioner

Dated: 7/22/2026

8221-967623

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

City of Anna will hold a public hearing on August 14, 2026, at 10:00 am, in City Hall to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federal funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact Lacey Reagan, 5 Justice Drive, Ullin, IL 62992, 618-845-9000 no later than August 13. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

On or about August 19, 2026, City of Anna intends to apply to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a grant from the State CDBG program. This program is funded by Title 1 of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: to make necessary improvements to the City's storm-water drainage system. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$1,231,500.00. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low-to-moderate income persons is \$663,665.50.

Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of August 6, 2026 at Anna City Hall between the hours of 9am to 4pm. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to Lacey Reagan, 5 Justice Drive, Ullin, IL 62992 no later than August 14, 2026 in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by City of Anna and is also available to the public. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Lacey Reagan, 618-845-9000 or write to Lacey Reagan, 5 Justice Drive, Ullin, IL 62992.

8221-967729

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Village of Cobden will hold a public hearing on August 14, 2026, at 11:00 am, in Village Hall to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federal funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact Lacey Reagan, 5 Justice Drive, Ullin, IL 62992, 618-845-9000 no later than August 13. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

On or about August 19, 2026, Village of Cobden intends to apply to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a grant from the State CDBG program. This program is funded by Title 1 of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: make necessary improvements to the Village's sewer system. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$1,500,000.00. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low-to-moderate income persons is \$843,880.00.

Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of August 6, 2026 at Cobden Village Hall between the hours of 8am to 3pm. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to Lacey Reagan, 5 Justice Drive, Ullin, IL 62992 no later than August 14, 2026 in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by Village of Cobden and is also available to the public. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Lacey Reagan, 618-845-9000 or write to Lacey Reagan, 5 Justice Drive, Ullin, IL 62992.

8221-967730

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Village of Ullin will hold a public hearing on August 17, 2026, at 10:00 am, in Village Hall to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federal funded

CLAIMANTS Defendants. MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2025FC1 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered by the Court in the above-entitled cause the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

(A) The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Aly Carnes at Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., 500 Alcoa Trail, Maryville, TN 37804, 1-865-380-3000 ext. 7180.

(B) The real estate is commonly known and numbered as 30954 Bader Ln., McClure, IL 62957.

(C) The legal description of the real estate is: THAT PART OF THE N.W. QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 19; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEG. 14' WEST 624.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEG. 46' EAST 24.37 FEET FOR A PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEG. 46' EAST 104.36 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEG. 14' WEST 104.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEG. 49' WEST 104.36 FEET; THENCE NORTH 0 DEG. 14' EAST 104.00 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING IN ALEXANDER COUNTY, ILLINOIS, CONTAINING 0.249 ACRE.

Together with a 2020 STHRN Energy Mobile/Manufactured Home, VIN RUS077509ALAB PIN(S): 02-19-100-010

(D) The time and place of the sale are: Public sale at 10:00 a.m., on August 26, 2026, at the Alexander County Courthouse, 2000 Washington Ave., Cairo, IL 62914.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.

(E) The terms of the sale are: Cash or certified check or the equivalent thereof.

(F) Title will be conveyed without warranties, subject to all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, but have not yet become due and payable; special assessments, if any; other exceptions, if any, set forth in the title insurance company and easements, covenants and restrictions of record.

(G) 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.

(H) Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1507.1, entitled "Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund," upon and at the sale of residential real estate under Section 15-1507, the purchaser shall pay to the person conducting the sale pursuant to Section 15-1507 a fee for deposit into the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, a special fund created in the State treasury. The fee shall be calculated at the rate of \$1.00 for each \$1,000.00 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser to the person conducting the sale, as reflected in the receipt of sale issued to the purchaser, provided that in no event shall the fee exceed \$300.00. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. Upon confirmation of the sale under Section 15-1508, the person conducting the sale shall remit the fee to the clerk of the court in which the foreclosure case is pending. The clerk shall remit the fee to the State Treasurer as provided in this Section, to be expended for the purposes set forth in Section 7.31 of the Illinois Housing Development Act.

VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC.,

/s/ Lauren E. Kinder

Michael K. Daming, IIBar #6281714

Evelyn I. Sims, IIBar #6321883

Lauren E. Kinder, IIBar #6352026

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(314) 961-2726 FAX

Attorneys for Plaintiff

8221-966611

CLAIMANTS Defendants. MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2026-PR-12 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Bertha Waddy, deceased, a resident of Villa Ridge, Pulaski County, Illinois. A Petition for Letters of Independent Administration and for Letters of Office were filed with the Circuit Clerk on June 30, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on July 15, 2026, to Elisabeth Thompson of 708 Cates Dr., Mahomet, Illinois 61853.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk at the Pulaski County Courthouse, Mounds City, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before January 30, 2027, at which time a hearing date will be set in Circuit Court of Pulaski County.

Stephanie Crain

Circuit Clerk of Pulaski 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

8221-967505

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS JONESBORO, UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JAMES A. HINES, Deceased.

Case No. 2026-PR-12 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of JAMES A. HINES. Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on July 9, 2026, to HILLARY HINES-HOLL, as legal representative of the estate, whose address is 10 Delmar Drive, Clinton, Illinois 61727, and whose Attorneys are WOODS & BATES, P.C., 306 Clinton Street, Lincoln, Illinois 62656.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Logan County Courthouse, Lincoln, Illinois 62656, or with the representative, or both, on or before a date six (6) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice and any Claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk of the Court must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorneys within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2026.

HILLARY HINES-HOLL

Independent Administrator

WOODS & BATES, P.C.

Michael T. Fleshman

60323298

Attorneys for Independent Administrator

306 Clinton Street

Lincoln, Illinois 62656

Telephone: (217) 735-1234

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JOHNSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GARY L. PROUT, Deceased.

No. 2026-PR-12 PUBLICATION NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Gary L. Prout, deceased, a resident of Tunnel Hill, Johnson County, Illinois. A petition to admit will to probate and for letters testamentary was filed with the Circuit Clerk on July 15, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on the 16 day of July, 2026, to Shannon Prout, of 485 Penrod Ln., Dongola, IL 62926.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk at the Johnson County Courthouse, Vienna, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before January 30, 2027, at which time a hearing date will be set in Circuit Court of Johnson County. Failure to file any claim within that period does not deprive the claimant of his right to enforce his 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.

Ryan O'Neal

Circuit Clerk of Johnson County

8221-967497

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PULASKI COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BERTHA WADDY, Deceased.

No. 2026-PR-8 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Bertha Waddy, deceased, a resident of Villa Ridge, Pulaski County, Illinois. A Petition for Letters of Independent Administration and for Letters of Office were filed with the Circuit Clerk on June 30, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on July 15, 2026, to Elisabeth Thompson of 708 Cates Dr., Mahomet, Illinois 61853.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk at the Pulaski County Courthouse, Mounds City, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before January 30, 2027, at which time a hearing date will be set in Circuit Court of Pulaski 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.

Stephanie Crain

Circuit Clerk of Pulaski County

Alan W. McIntyre

Attorney at Law

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REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ALEXANDER COUNTY - CAIRO, ILLINOIS VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC., Plaintiff,

v.

ROBIN S. OWEN, SUSAN ANN GODSEY, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants. MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE No. 2025FC1 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered by the Court in the above-entitled cause the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

(A) The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Aly Carnes at Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., 500 Alcoa Trail, Maryville, TN 37804, 1-865-380-3000 ext. 7180.

(B) The real estate is commonly known and numbered as 30954 Bader Ln., McClure, IL 62957.

(C) The description of the real estate is: PIN(S): 02-19-100-010

(D) The time and place of the sale are: Public sale at 10:00 a.m., on August 26, 2026, at the Alexander County Courthouse, 2000 Washington Ave., Cairo, IL 62914.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.

(E) The terms of the sale are: Cash or certified check or the equivalent thereof.

(F) Title will be conveyed without warranties, subject to all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, but have not yet become due and payable; special assessments, if any; other exceptions, if any, set forth in the title insurance company and easements, covenants and restrictions of record.

(G) 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.

(H) Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1507.1, entitled "Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund," upon and at the sale of residential real estate under Section 15-1507, the purchaser shall pay to the person conducting the sale pursuant to Section 15-1507 a fee for deposit into the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, a special fund created in the State treasury. The fee shall be calculated at the rate of \$1.00 for each \$1,000.00 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser to the person conducting the sale, as reflected in the receipt of sale issued to the purchaser, provided that in no event shall the fee exceed \$300.00. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. Upon confirmation of the sale under Section 15-1508, the person conducting the sale shall remit the fee to the clerk of the court in which the foreclosure case is pending. The clerk shall remit the fee to the State Treasurer as provided in this Section, to be expended for the purposes set forth in Section 7.31 of the Illinois Housing Development Act.

VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC.,

/s/ Lauren E. Kinder

Michael K. Daming, IIBar #6281714

Evelyn I. Sims, IIBar #6321883

Lauren E. Kinder, IIBar #6352026

WASINGER DAMING, LC

CIBC Place, Suite 875

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

8221-966611

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Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Flying machines...a lucky number...and more stuff

For reasons unknown, the overlords of social media somehow determined that yours truly might be interested in acquiring an aircraft. Or, at least something that required a flying machine. A really, really old flying machine...from back in the days of the Red Baron...

The recently listed product that some algorithm somewhere determined that I might be interested in was a 1914 Nieuport Eleven. From the image I saw with the message, the 112-year-old aircraft was in need of a bit of work. Actually, it looked pretty much like a bare bones version of something that might have been an aircraft at some point in its existence. If it had been an old house, it would be called a “fixer upper.” Don’t need another one of those.

I am not really sure why anyone might think I would be interested in acquiring an aircraft. Maybe the internet somehow knew that I been reading about Charles Lindbergh recently. With that being said, I might have been interested if the aircraft had been a Sopwith Camel. That’s the plane that Snoopy is flying when he exclaims “Curse you, Red Baron!” Yes, remembering such things proves that I am o-l-d.

I suppose the good thing is that the vintage aeroplane would cost me only \$3,000. That would be a whole lot cheaper than the fifty million bucks I would have had to pay to acquire the pile of rocks that made up a T rex fossil that were sold at a recent auction. Meanwhile...

As you may recall, I pay frequent visits to the Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro to go for a walk. Often, except for the Critters, I have the park to myself.

Such was not the case one nice morning last week. During my visit to the park, I was lucky to meet two other travelers on The Journey Through Life. Both acquaintances were young men. One of the fellows shared a little bit of special history about the park. The other young man was out looking for birds... and taking pictures of the feathered Critters on his



A groundhog spotted near The Other Half’s garden may have been scouting for some tasty snacks. This Critter looked like it has not had any trouble finding goodies.

phone. The photos were quite good, as was his knowledge about the birds. I was grateful for the opportunity to have met both of the travelers.

For whatever it might be worth, yours truly is still Old School when it comes to taking photographs. I still like to use a camera. But some of those phones take some really nice photos.

Meanwhile The Other Half and her traveling companion on The Journey Through Life went on a “date” one day last week. It was a date in the sense that the two of us had an opportunity to spend some together while traveling to a foreign state.

Our destination was on the other side of the Mississippi River, where she had an appointment involving health care. On the way over to the Show Me State, and again on the return trip to Little Egypt, we noticed how green...and how dry...the world was. Old Man River was pretty low, too. We did not see much water at the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area, also know as the refuge, near Ware. During a drive through the refuge, we saw some birds...

and one, just one, white-tailed deer which crossed the road. On the day of our journey, we also noticed the wonderfully hazy air that blanketed Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri. And we were supposed to breathe that stuff.

While The Other Half took care of her appointment, I got to sit in a waiting room. And wait. That gave me an opportunity to watch parts of a couple of episodes of a show on the tube which was about big-time home renovation projects. The home in one of the episodes dated all the way back to the year 2000. The home in the other episode was even older...dating to the 1990s. Apparently, both of those “old” homes were in need of some “refreshing.” We found such things interesting. The original part of our humble abode dates back to the ‘70s...as in the 1870s...around the time Ulysses S. Grant was president.

Meanwhile... This week’s lucky number is 126.9... Not all that long ago...one day way back near the end of January...the high temperature in our little corner of the

world climbed all the way to a balmy 17 degrees...after an icy morning low of 2. We have not seen temperatures anywhere near 17 degrees in recent weeks. However, at 4:30 p.m. on July 26, a heat index of 126.9 degrees was recorded near Jonesboro. The air temperature at the time was 95.3 degrees. And there was even a wind chill. Really. The wind chill at the time also was 95.3 degrees. Given such conditions, I decided to wait until the sun had gone down to go for a daily walk. The Other Half suggest that was a wise choice. The heat index, as you know, is a number we often hear during the summer which makes us feel more miserable than we already are. Strangely enough, I do not recall hearing anything about a heat index back when it 2 degrees. Oh, well.

Meanwhile... Thank you to a fellow traveler on The Journey Through for the kind words about the July 23 column...and for sharing another article to read. I have not had a chance to read article yet; I plan to do so.

That wraps up things for this week. See you at the Peach Festival in Cobden...

Notes
From page 1

ly 29. The academy includes 33 community leaders from across the authority’s eight-state service region. Building success in a small community was a focus of the visit, which included a walking tour of the downtown Anna area. More on this to come ...

*** Union County CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) held its Class of 2027 student orientation in early July at The Space on Main, a new addition to the Anna community on South Main Street owned by Bryan and Mary Kay Miller. UCCEO board members and facilitator Melanie Smith welcomed 15 young professionals and their parents as they officially began their CEO journey. More on this to come as well ...

*** Reminder: the due date for the first installment of Union County property taxes is Aug. 6.

*** The City of Jonesboro is offering applications for Hometown Hero banners. The applications can be picked up at city hall.

*** Plans for a ColorFest car show on Saturday, Oct. 10, have been announced by the City of Jonesboro.

*** A Back to School fish fry is planned from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 Aug. 7 at Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post 3455 near Anna. At the fish fry, a winning school organization will receive 25 percent of the net proceeds plus all of the tips.

*** The final summer grocery pickup day sponsored by Anna School District 37 is planned from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 6. Groceries can be picked up under the awning at door number 1 at Davie/Anna Junior High School. The program is open to all District 37 families.

*** Jonesboro School District 43 recently announced that letters of interest were being accepted to fill a vacancy on the district’s board of education. A board member is resigning. The appointment is slated to start in September and continues through the April 2027 school board election. Details are available by contacting the school.

*** A number of projects have filled the summer in Anna School District 37, including getting buildings ready for the start of a new academic year, improving internet infrastructure, a major asbestos removal project, installation of new flooring and construction of a new parking lot at Lincoln School.

*** Practice was set to begin this week for the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School football, cross country, girls golf, boys golf, soccer and volleyball

teams.

*** Cobden Unit School District 17 has announced plans for a parking lot yard sale/vendor sale on Sept. 26. The event will be held in support of multiple school organizations.

*** Players on the Dongola School junior high softball team played their families in a recent wiffle ball game.

*** Shawnee Community College is congratulating recent graduate Ashton Dillow, who earned national champion female honors at the 2026 National Junior Angus Show in Louisville, Ky. Ashton earned an associate degree in agriculture business at the college in May.

*** The fall semester at Shawnee Community College is scheduled to start Monday, Aug. 17.

*** The Illinois State Police planned to conduct active shooter training throughout the day on Friday, July 31, on Shawnee Community College’s main campus.

*** The accomplishments of 15 Shawnee Community College associate degree nursing graduates were recognized at a recent pinning ceremony. The ceremony was held at the college’s main campus near Ullin.

*** Madison Hammonds is the new head volleyball coach at Shawnee Community College. Hammonds was an assistant coach last season. Kealey Collins is the team’s new assistant coach.

*** Illinois State Police Troop 10 had a post on social media which shared that “Sometimes the smallest gestures leave a lasting impression. Trooper Mark Hagen recently coached his son’s Team USA Shamrocks at the 2026 World Series International Baseball Classic in Marion. As part of a tournament tradition, he shared Illinois State Police patches with teams from around the world. One special moment was seeing Team Aruba proudly holding ISP patches. Thank you, Trooper Hagen, for representing the Illinois State Police on and off the field.”

*** Southern Illinois University Carbondale is planning to host a Saluki Registration Rally from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, at the Tedrick Welcome Center. Undergraduate admissions will be available to help students register for classes, resolve any enrollment questions and make sure that students are prepared for the first day of the fall semester on Monday, Aug. 17. The one-stop opportunity will give prospective new and returning students the opportunity to complete their registration to “Register. Connect. Become a Saluki.”

Doggie swim day planned at Anna Pool

The City of Anna is planning to host its sixth annual “Dog Days of Summer.” The doggie swim day is scheduled from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9 at the Anna City Pool.

Doggies and their favorite people are invited to swim together along with dogs of sim-

ilar size. Swimming will be by the doggies’ weights. The city shared on social media that the “weight classes and times will shake out like this (pun intended)”:

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

(25 to 75 pounds) will swim from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The heavyweight division (over 75 pounds) will swim from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The city asks that all dogs be leashed and up to date on vaccinations. Admission is \$10 per dog. Each dog can bring along two of his/her fa-

vorite human friends. All admission proceeds will go into a fund created for development of a future dog park in the City of Anna.

Lifeguards will be present and the concession stand will be open. More information is available by calling Anna City Hall at 833-8528.

Archives
From page 1

highlight examples of great achievements and some shortcomings that serve as lessons for the future.”

Purnell earned a bachelor’s degree in speech pathology in 1971 and master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling in 1976. The Black Archives Project idea started with a discussion about five years ago among SIU Sages — a cohort of Black alumni who attended the university from the mid-

to-late 1960s and early 1970s.

Purnell noted that Tony Burroughs, an SIU Sages member, told the group that Black archives had been established at several other universities.

Those initial discussions and later concept development resulted in talks with university officials beginning in fall 2024 and culminated in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signing in mid-June 2026 in Chicago.

The MOU is a collaborative partnership between SIU Carbondale, the SIU Foundation, Library Affairs and the Black Archives Committee (BAC).

Walter Ray, an SCRC professor and political papers archivist, said the alumni who have donated their papers and have been involved in the discussions are highly accomplished.

“Each of them has an interesting story to tell. Together, they represent an important facet of the histo-

ry of the university and region,” Ray said.

“It’s an honor for us to be able to help preserve that history.”

Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm, Library Affairs associate dean, said the collection will strengthen SCRC’s catalog.

“The African American experience is underrepresented in our collections. We aim to fill the gap with factual and inspiring stories with a long-term focus on stewardship and ac-

cess,” she said. “In collaboration with SIU Black alumni, our goal is to endow enough funding to support an archival position dedicated to developing and promoting the Black Archives. Endowing the position will ensure that the collection grows and continues to engage many generations to come.”

Endowment fundraising is underway through the SIU Foundation.

Alexander Lane, who lived in Tamaroa, was the

first Black male student when he enrolled in the then-Southern Illinois Normal University in 1876 — just seven years after SIU was founded as the state’s second teacher’s college. Lane became the first African American to graduate from SIU, going on to become a school principal, physician and later, an Illinois state legislator.

Two African American women enrolled earlier, though their names are unknown.