

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

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Thursday, September 17, 2026

Anna, Illinois

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County board urges state to reverse decision on downsizing at Choate

Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna is the focus of a resolution which was approved at last week’s regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners. The meeting was held Friday morning, Sept. 11 at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

The resolution was on the agenda for Friday’s meeting. A request for passage of such a resolution was made at the meeting by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFSCME, Council 31 representative Ty Petersen.

The Illinois Department of Human Services, DHS, in July announced plans to cut services and lay off staff at the center. Petersen said he is meeting with local governing bodies to seek their passage of a resolution which would address concerns about the impact of 250 or more layoffs at the Choate Center.

“We all need these jobs,” Petersen said. He said the loss of 250 jobs would decimate Union County businesses.

The resolution which was unanimously approved by the county board read:

“Whereas, Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center serves a vital function in the Illinois Department of Human Services’ system of care for individuals with severe developmental disabilities and mental illness, including those who have been found not guilty by reason of insanity or unfit to stand trial in criminal cases, and

“Whereas, for many of these individuals, Choate



Supporting Choate Center workers
Signs showing support for workers at the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna can be seen throughout the Union County area. One of the signs is posted in front of Anna City Hall.

is the only suitable place in Southern Illinois that can care for them and meet their needs; and

“Whereas, Choate is an important source of good jobs and meaningful work in Southern Illinois, employing over 450 people at the facility; and

“Whereas, Choate employees have long advocated for improved funding, staffing and training opportunities to better meet the needs of residents, while the Illinois Department of Human Services instead has transferred a number of residents to other

developmental centers elsewhere in the state where they have struggled to adjust to these new settings; and

“Whereas, in July 2026, DHS announced plans to further slash services at Choate and lay off some 250 staff at the facility; and

“Whereas, DHS has announced that the treatment program provided on the ‘stepdown’ unit that serves individuals with mental illness who are ending their term of confinement mandated by the courts will be moved to Madden Mental Health Center in the Chicago metro

area, which is not equipped to serve such a population; and

“Whereas, such a drastic cut to mental health services available in Southern Illinois would profoundly affect the availability and quality of care for vulnerable Union County residents; and

“Whereas, Union County residents in need of such care for severe mental illness and developmental disabilities would be forced to seek care further away from family, friends, and support systems;

“Now, Therefore Be It

Resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of Union County urges the Illinois Department of Human Services to reverse its decision to drastically downsize Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center; and

“Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of Union County urges the State of Illinois to reverse the trend of divestment in mental health services available to Southern Illinois residents.”

Court Action Filed

The Choate Center is also the focus of legal action taken by Union County State’s Attorney Tyler E. Tripp.

The state’s attorney on Sept. 8 filed a verified complaint for an emergency temporary restraining order and a declaratory judgment and preliminary and permanent injunction and writ of mandamus in Union County Circuit Court.

Tripp filed the case on behalf of the people of Union County and the State of Illinois, Union County Sheriff David Wilkins and Justin Emrick as guardian of J.B.

The case was filed against the Illinois Department of Human Services, DHS; Dulce Quintero, the director of the DHS; David Albert, the director of the department’s Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery; Tonya Piephoff, director of the department’s Division of Developmental Disabilities; John F. Schomberg, assistant secretary of programs; Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center; Angela Quigley-Raglan, assistant director of the Choate Center.

News Notes

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

High temperatures reached, and topped, 100 degrees in Union County during the early September heatwave. That marked the first time in several years that the temperature had reached 100 in the county.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah shared that on Sept. 3 it had recorded the 20th day this year when the heat index reached at least 105 degrees. That tied with 1989 for the second most such days on record and was only behind 23 days recorded in 1988.

A Sept. 10 U.S. Drought Monitor update showed that northeastern Union County, northern Johnson County and all of Jackson and Williamson counties once again were experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Another warming trend was expected to start Saturday, Sept. 12, in the region. The National Weather Service calling for high temperatures to be six to 12 degrees above normal starting Sunday, Sept. 13, and continuing through Thursday, Sept. 17.

Anna - Jonesboro Community High School’s 2026 homecoming parade is set for 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.

The City of Anna invited businesses, organizations, families, alumni and Wildcat fans to help decorate the A-JCHS homecoming parade route by adopting a downtown light pole and decorating it in the Wildcats in Paradise theme. The cost is \$25, with all proceeds going to the A-JCHS Student Council. Details were being shared on the city’s Facebook page.

(see Notes on page 8)



County board meeting held; Flock cameras, Spay/Neuter Coalition, animal control, proclamations among topics discussed

Flock cameras, support for a local program which addresses the community’s cat population, animal control and proclamations highlighting Constitution Week and train safety awareness were among the topics discussed at last week’s regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners. The meeting was held Friday morning, Sept. 11, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Moment of Silence

Friday morning’s meeting opened with a moment of silence in remembrance of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the nation.

Flock Cameras

Concerns about Flock cameras once again were

voiced by Union County resident Tim Crosby. He had voiced his concerns about the cameras at a previous board meeting. He repeated his opposition to use of the surveillance cameras and the possibility of them providing constant surveillance of the public during discussion at Friday morning’s meeting. “I remain very much opposed to this,” Crosby said, who noted that he supports law enforcement.

Discussion about the issue also focused on surveillance involving the use of cell phones and their tracking capabilities, with opinions being shared that their use is optional, while Flock cameras are not.

Spay, Neuter Coalition

Jillian Miller, representing

the Cobden Spay and Neuter Coalition, sought support from the county for the coalition’s work. The coalition is a small group of volunteers who are working on humane efforts to address the community’s cat population.

Miller explained that the coalition has two programs. She said the programs are different, but they have a common goal of reducing the number of unwanted cats in Union County.

The coalition’s subsidized surgery program helps Union County residents afford spay and neuter for their cats. Residents pay \$50 toward the veterinary cost. The coalition covers the remaining costs, including a rabies vaccination. Since 2022, 585 cats have been

fixed through this program.

The coalition’s second program, called TNR, for Trap, Neuter and Return, is for feral and community cats. The coalition traps the cats, coordinates their veterinary care, has the cats spayed or neutered and vaccinated, ear-tipped and returns them to the colonies where they live. Since 2025, the coalition has fixed 152 feral cats through the TNR program. That’s 737 cats sterilized since 2022 through the two programs, Miller said. She added that 54 more cats are on the coalition’s upcoming surgery schedule.

Miller said the coalition has built the programs through volunteers, community support, fundraising and partnerships with local

veterinarians. The coalition provides the trapping, transportation, scheduling, coordination and outreach. Its veterinary partners provide the medical services.

The coalition is requesting the Union County become a partner in the work that it is doing. A request was made at Friday’s meeting for \$2,400 in county funding to help cover veterinary costs for the coalition’s subsidized surgery and TNR programs. Miller said the coalition is not asking the county to take over the programs or to fund the entire organization. Financial support from the county would offer a a modest investment in programs that are already operating, already

(see Board on page 8)

OBITUARIES



Judy Kay Brown

Judy Kay Brown, 79, passed away on Sept. 11, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Judy was born May 13, 1947, to Charles and Betty (McDonald) Thornton. She grew up in Southern Illinois and graduated from Anna-Jonesboro High School in 1965. She continued her education at Vocational Technical Institute (VTI), where she earned a secretarial degree, and at Shawnee College, where she studied accounting.

On Dec. 8, 1967, Judy married Wayne Brown at New Hope Baptist Church in Lick Creek. Together, they shared nearly 59 years of marriage and raised two children, Becky and Jeff.

Judy’s varied working life reflected her many abilities and interests. Over the years, she worked in a number of different settings and even operated a greenhouse and bait shop. Her career culminated in nearly 20 years at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where she served in several roles, including work in the Chair of Sociology’s office, accounting and the President’s Office.

For Judy, however, her greatest joy was her family. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who loved being surrounded by those closest to her. She was an excellent cook, enjoyed flowers and gardening, and seldom met a crossword puzzle she did not want to solve.

Judy was a woman of deep Christian faith and a member of First Baptist Church in Dongola, Illinois. Her faith was expressed not only in what she believed but also in the ways she served others, including her work with the church’s food pantry.

Judy is survived by her husband, Wayne Brown; her daughter, Becky (Chris) Ritter; her son, Jeff (Kim) Brown; seven grandchildren, Hannah, Isaac, Sarah (Bill), Samuel, Jacob, Steven, and Micah; her sister, Sue Treece; her brother, Jim Thornton; and other family members and friends who will cherish her memory.

Judy will be remembered for her devotion to her family, her deep faith, her capable hands and active mind, her love of growing things, and the many ways she cared for those around her. Her family is grateful for the life they shared with her and for the love she gave so freely.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026, at 11 a.m. with Rev. Mike Cole officiating at Crain Funeral Home in Dongola. Visitation was held prior to the service from 10 until 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Interment followed the service at St. John’s Cemetery in Dongola.

The family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Dongola. Memorial envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Crain Funeral Home in Dongola is in charge of arrangements.

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



Brenda Straddeck

Brenda Straddeck, age 67, of Cobden, lost her battle with cancer and left for her Heavenly home on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026.

She was preceded by her father John, mother Roberta, Cousins William (Willie) and Francis (Frank), sister Deborah and cousin Bill.

Brenda is survived by her husband John, son John (J.W.), her Aunty Helen, Cousins Barbara and Becky, niece Jennifer, nephew Daniel, grandniece Allison, grandnephew Jared.

She was born on Aug. 15, 1959, in Ft. Knox, Kentucky, where they say that’s where she got her golden blond hair. Brenda spent two years in the Army Reserve and became a Med. Tech Specialist. She met her husband John in Southern Illinois, had a son, J.W. on June 13, 1982, and got married on Sept. 28. While J.W. was in school, Brenda provided care for an elderly couple, (Syl and Annie). This provided her work while always being home when her son was, always at the stop when the school bus picked him up and waited for him when they dropped him off.

Brenda later earned her nursing license and worked at the Jackson County Nursing Home while working there; she got her Real Estate license and began working part time at Century 21. She worked briefly at Jonesboro Healthcare before working full time as a Broker Agent for Century 21.

Brenda was known for helping her clients in any way she could to help them buy or sell a home. Her drive to provide the best service as an Agent Broker would at times exhaust her. Brenda would enjoy a mini vacation to the Branson area where they go to a few shows, eat at various restaurants and fish in the lakes. All too often while her husband was fishing, Brenda would be sitting on the dock with her laptop open and phone in her trying to keep a deal from falling apart.

Brenda will be remembered as a kind and loving soul, giving everyone the benefit of the doubt. Her selfless giving to serve others will not be forgotten. She will be missed.

A Family Held Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026, from 3 until 6 p.m. at the Carterville Community Center, 129 N. Greenbriar Rd., Carterville, IL 62918.

To honor Brenda’s life, the family requests that you may donate to her favorite charities, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, <https://www.stjude.org/donate/>; Shriners Children’s Hospital, Attn: Shriners Children’s Processing Center, PO Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394, <https://donate.shrinerschildrens.org/>; Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516, <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/>; or Disabled American Veterans, <https://www.dav.org/ways-to-give/>.

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



Donald Louis Shipley, Sr.

Donald Louis Shipley, Sr., age 85, of Anna, passed away on Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, at his home in Anna.

He was born on Sept. 1, 1941, to Irvin Alonso Shipley and Lucille (Tidd) Shipley in Bartholomew, Indiana. On June 24, 1967, he married Connie Govekar.

Donald was a proud veteran of the United States Army. He retired from E.T. Simonds. He was a member of the Laborers International Union of North America Local 773 for over 30 years. Donald loved to “tinker” outside in the yard and on his tractor and take care of tasks around the farm while on his tractor. He could fix anything according to his boys. Don also enjoyed going to the casino on occasion. He was of Christian faith.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Connie; his two sons, Richard Shipley and Donald, Jr. (Kim) Shipley; granddaughter, Brooklyn Rebecca Shipley; two step-grandchildren, Hunter Chapman and Alayna Chapman; sisters-in-law, Rose Ann Bruchhauser, Helen (Dan) Knapp, and Christine Stickler; along with nieces, nephews and many friends.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Rebecca “Becky” Shipley Rushing; brothers, Jim Shipley and Bob Shipley; and sisters, Alice Frick and Barbara Knowles.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026, from 4 until 6 p.m. at Crain Funeral Home in Anna.

A Graveside Service with Military rites by Carroll P Foster ritual team was held on Sept. 14, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Anna City Cemetery in Anna with Father Larry LeMay officiating.

Inurnment at Anna City Cemetery followed the service.

The family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, <https://www.stjude.org/donate/>.

The cremation of Donald Louis Shipley, Sr. was personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.



Betty L. Dillow

Betty L. Dillow, age 79 of Jonesboro, passed away Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, at St. Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau with her loving family by her side. She was born Nov. 14, 1946, in Anna, the daughter of Herman and Gladys (Miller) Houseman. She married Allen E. Dillow on May 15, 1970, at Ebenezer Church in Jonesboro. He preceded her in death Oct. 6, 2015.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Lesley (Gary) Kinder; son, Otis Gene Dillow; grandchildren, Victoria (Eric) Spaulding, Chase Stoffel, Otis Gene Dillow, Jr., and Katrina Dillow (Austin Slone); step-grandchildren, Jennifer Kinder (Thomas Hill), and Bobby Kinder; great-grandchildren, Jacelyn, Ryker, and Lainey Spaulding, and Savannah, Austin, Ocean, and Marie Slone; step great-grandchildren, Matt and Charlie Aiden, Lucas Hill, and Isaac, Liam, and Cynthia Kinder; brother, Lonnie (Sheila) Houseman; sister, Tammy Murphy; nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, and sister, Linda Roberts.

Betty was a member of McClure United Pentecostal Church. She was a busybody and loved being outside. She enjoyed tending to her garden. In earlier years, she enjoyed travelling with her husband, Allen, and staying at different military bases. Betty loved her family and will be dearly missed.

Funeral services were at 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with Robert Smithy officiating. Interment followed in Ebenezer Cemetery in Jonesboro. Visitation was held from 11 a.m. until the service hour of 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial donations can be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or Shriners’s Hospitals for Children. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

To leave online condolences, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.



Rita C. Pearl

Rita C. Pearl, age 91 of Jonesboro, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026, at her home. She was born on April 23, 1935, in Oran, Mo., the daughter of Bernard and Theresa (LeGrand) Sietman. She married Paul Kenneth Pearl on Aug. 4, 1958. He preceded her in death on June 17, 2003.

Rita is survived by her children, Kenny Pearl (Karen Lewis), Eddie (Dee) Pearl, Tim (Trina) Pearl and Tom (Shelly) Pearl; grandchildren, Cristi, Shannon, Todd, Dalton, Sarah, Mike, Samantha, Ben, Chris, Clayton, Chase, Kamryn and Kacey. She is also survived by many great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and family friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, daughters, Theresa McKinney and Nancee Morrison and siblings, Mary Jane, Joe and Clyde Sietman.

Rita was a longtime, devoted member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Anna. She enjoyed cooking, camping and NASCAR. Along with her church, her other great love was her family. She was a bonus mom to any child that was fortunate enough to spend time with her and a friend to everyone she met. She never met a stranger. She will certainly be missed.

Funeral mass for Rita Pearl was held at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Anna with Father Larry Lemay as celebrant. Interment followed in the Jonesboro Cemetery. Visitation took place from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026, at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Mary Catholic Church. Envelopes will be available at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home and at the church.

To visit Rita’s memorial page and leave online condolences for her family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com.



Linda Kay Johnson

Linda Kay Johnson, age 81, of Anna, passed away on Monday, Sept. 7, 2026, at home surrounded by her family.

She was born on Sept. 5, 1945, the daughter of Ralph Basse and Valerie (Johnson) Basse in Cairo.

Linda graduated from AJHS as Valedictorian of the Class of 1963. She worked at Choate Mental Health until her retirement. After her retirement, Linda loved farming through her small businesses, Pergola Rose and Johnson’s Berries. Linda was a member of the Anna United Methodist Church and was a devout Christian who enjoyed working with youth groups and working in the nursery.

Survivors include her husband, J. Dale Johnson; daughter, Celeste (Ricky) Borders; grandchildren, Callysta Borders, Trystan Borders, Sabryna Borders, and Katryna Borders; brother, Victor (Georgann) Basse; and sister-in-law, Bonnie Johnson.

She was greeted in heaven by her parents; granddaughter, Jocelyn Johnson-Borders; and brother-in-law, Terry Johnson; along with several beloved cousins.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for a later date and will be announced.

A Private Inurnment will take place at Anna City Cemetery at a later date.

The cremation of Linda Kay Johnson will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.



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Worship at Kornthal

Worship at Kornthal will be held September 20 at 2:00 pm. Special music will be provided. A tour of the cemetery along with light refreshments will be offered immediately after the service. Kornthal is located 2 1/2 miles south of Jonesboro off Illinois 127.

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Isaiah 26
A Song of Trust in the LORD's Protection

261 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. 2 Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. 3 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. 4 Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

5 He humbles those who dwell on high, he lays the lofty city low; he levels it to the ground and casts it down to the dust. 6 Feet trample it down- the feet of the oppressed, the footsteps of the poor. 7 The path of the righteous is level; you, the Upright One, make the way of the righteous smooth. 8 Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws,[1]we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. 9 My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness. 10 But when grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness; even in a land of uprightness they go on doing evil and do not regard the majesty of the Lord. 11 Lord, your hand is lifted high, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people and be put to shame; let the fire reserved for your enemies consume them.

12 Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us. 13 Lord our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us, but your name alone do we honor. 14 They are now dead, they live no more; their spirits do not rise. You punished them and brought them to ruin; you wiped out all memory of them. 15 You have enlarged the nation, Lord; you have enlarged the nation. You have gained glory for yourself; you have extended all the borders of the land. 16 Lord, they came to you in their distress; when you disciplined them, they could barely whisper a prayer.[2] 17 As a pregnant woman about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pain, so were we in your presence, Lord. 18 We were with child, we writhed in labor, but we gave birth to wind. We have not brought salvation to the earth, and the people of the world have not come to life. 19 But your dead will live, Lord; their bodies will rise- let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy- your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

20 Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. 21 See, the Lord is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed on it; the earth will conceal its slain no longer.

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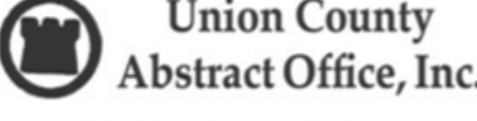
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NEWS FROM VIENNA, ILLINOIS

Constitution Week Program

A program celebrating Constitution Week, sponsored by Daniel Chapman Chapter, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution [NSDAR], will be held at the Vienna public Library on Sept. 17 at 2 p.m.

The program includes participation in Bells Across America, ringing bells to celebrate the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Church bells were rung in Philadelphia when the Constitution was signed in 1787. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of The Declaration of Independence; however, it is the Constitution which has enabled the first Democratic Republic to survive.

NSDAR initiated the commemoration of Constitution Week with Congress adopting the resolution and President



Goreville Village Clerk Kaylee Chrisman signed a proclamation on behalf of the village declaring the week of Sept. 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

Eisenhower signing it into law, declaring September 17-23 as Constitution Week annually.

Brian Bailey will be the featured speaker this year. If

the weather is inclement or the extreme heat continues, the meeting will be held in the Vienna Public Library Community Room.

The Old Johnson County Courthouse

Gary Hacker, a former business owner on the Vienna square, had an antique store there for several years. The post card shown with this article is from his collection. He recently wrote the following article for the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society.

“There are many reasons why we should preserve and keep the center piece of Johnson County and Vienna – the Johnson County courthouse that has served this county since 1871. We of the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society believe its rich history is a major reason for saving it. Many citizens around our county have the same opinion. Having operated a retail store on the Vienna square for twenty-five years, I heard and observed that opinion from many who came into my store. On weekends, I observed many out of town people looking at and taking photographs of our old courthosue. Seeing the license plates on some cars, I could tell that they were out of state tourists. Many would come into my store asking

Blood drive set for Sept. 21 in Vienna

The next Vienna Blood drive will be Monday, Sept. 21 from noon to 6 p.m. at Fellowship Baptist Church, 890 Senior Dr., Vienna.

A typical blood donation takes less than an hour. Appointments can be scheduled at the Red Cross website, and walk-ins are always welcomed. County Line Baptist Church is providing food and desserts, and Longhorn Cafe is providing the door prize.

questions about the history of this historic structure.

"I was always happy to see the number of individuals who took an interest in our small community. Many came here from I-24 and I-57, but from many I heard them say that they purposely took the ‘back roads’ to see the small towns and what they had to offer. These people were looking to see the history of our country. Some of these tourists travelled many miles to witness history and early life of this nation.

"Tourism is big business. The State of Illinois recognizes this and has staff devoted to advertising things to see and do in Illinois. Tourists bring money into Illinois and its many counties. More and more small and medium size communities are making efforts to capitalize on the dollars that tourists

bring into their communities. A figure often used to illustrate the benefits of tourism to local communities is that for each dollar a tourist spends in a local community it generates seven more dollars of commerce in that community. Tourist buy local gasoline, food at stores and restaurants, and stay overnight in local motels, bed and breakfast establishments and at area campgrounds. Spending money while here and adding to the collection of state and local sales tax, tourism helps the local economy. This added local revenue helps local and county governments and eases the burden on local taxpayers and often adds employment opportunities through new jobs for local citizens. This all helps the local economy.

"Yes, there is another reason for saving our old courthouse – pure and simple economics.”

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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF HEARING

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

SHAWNEE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Start of Home Heating Assistance Program Begins
October 1, 2026 through August 13, 2027 or until funds are exhausted.

October 1, 2026 - Seniors 60 and older, disabled, and Household with children 5 years and under, and Disconnected or Imminent disconnect households.
November 21, 2026 - open enrollment to general public.
Every Thursday - walk-in day for Imminent Disconnect or Disconnected ONLY
Appointments can be made Starting September 21, 2026 through our website
www.shawneedevlopmentcouncil.org or scan the QR code below
All income eligible households can apply
The following documentation is required
If you cannot bring ALL documents, your appointment will be rescheduled.

• Proof of 30-day gross income for ALL household members

• A Copy of your current electric and gas bill

• Photo ID

• Social Security cards for ALL household members

• If you rent, a current rent receipt

• Food Stamp printout, if applicable

Propane vendors, natural gas companies, electric companies, wood vendors

Family Size30 Days Income

1	\$3,441
2	\$4,500
3	\$5,558
4	\$6,617
5	\$7,676
6	\$8,735

Ameren, Liberty Gas, City of Metropolis Southern Illinois Electric Co-op

Max income for these vendors

Family Size	30 Days Income
1	\$3,990
2	\$5,410
3	\$6,830
4	\$8,250
5	\$9,670
6	\$11,090

Contact your local Shawnee Development Council County Office below

Alexander/Pulaski 2035 Washington Ave Cairo 734-0535	Hardin/Pope 1509 MainSt Rosiclare 285-7071	Massac/Johnson 1 Superman Square Metropolis 524-2941	Union/Johnson 1000 N Main St. Anna 833-7431
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www.helpillinoisfamilies.com

Funding provided in whole or part by Department of commerce & Economic Opportunity. Shawnee Development Council, Inc., a Community Action Agency, is an Equal Opportunity Agency serving the seven southernmost counties of Illinois.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

By Dixie Terry

Summer continues! Need we say more?

The hummingbird population is making ready to depart to southern points to spend the winter months. I don't have feeders for the little charmers, but I spotted a couple swooping around my hanging impatient plant. It is said the tiny creatures over-eat prior to their departure.

The Monarch butterflies are also preparing to depart to the south, the only butterflies who take this journey.

The annual "Run For Hope" a 5Km, 10KM, and Fun Run will be held on Sept. 25 during the Vienna Fall Festival at the Tunnel Hill State Trail, adjacent to the Venna City Park. Registration is at 4:30 p.m., with the run at 5 p.m. This is a fundraiser for community events of the Eagle House Ministries.

"Refresh Your Marriage" will get underway on Oct. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m., with dinner provided, at Eagle House Ministries, located on Route 37 north of Buncombe. Register to attend at either 618-771-7442 or 618-658-0099. All area couples are welcomed to participate.

The members and guests of the Community of Christ Church will hold their annual "Church in the Park" on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 10:30 a.m. at Ferne Clyffe State Park. followed by a picnic lunch.

Volunteers at the Goreville Ministerial Alliance Thrift Shop on Sept, 15, 17 and 19 will be members of the Lake of Egypt Christian Church.

Shopping hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Merchandise is added daily at bargain prices.

An "Arrowhead Endurance Race" will be held Oct. 10-11 at 8 a.m. at Arrowhead Lake Campground at Jonesboro.

The annual "Fat Tire Festival" will get going on Oct. 16-18 at Ozark.

Keep in mind the Vienna Fall /festival on Oct. 3 in the Vienna City Park. Lots of vendors, music, contests, entertainment, a chili cook-off and more will be ongoing. For more, call 618-658-5161.

On that same date, Oct. 3, the Goreville Community Yard Sales will be underway with a map available at the village hall. Call 995-2157 to include your sale.

The Cypress School PTO will host a dance for students in grades 5-8 from across the area on Oct. 16, 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5,

payable at the door. Wear a costume.

Enter the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society "Fall Photo Contest," ending on Oct. 31. Entry fee is \$5.

The next blood drive of the American Red Cross will take place on Monday, Sept. 21, noon to 6 p.m. at the Fellowship Baptist Church in Venna. Walk-ins are welcome!

A patriotic tribute will be held to honor local veterans and our country will take place in the Vienna City Park at noon on Oct. 3 at the amphitheatre. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the Vienna High School Chorus, under the direction of Connor Windings, perform.

We welcome your newsy items from Johnson County and beyond. Call 618-422-2086 or email dixieterry85@yahoo.com.

Have a great remainder of the week and enjoy all that September has to offer.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSAL TO VACATE WATER STREET RIGHT OF WAY

Notice is hereby given that the corporate authorities of the City of Vienna, Illinois will hold a public hearing on whether to adopt an ordinance that would vacate the dedicated Water Street right of way that extends generally east and west and is located between Blocks 3 and 6 and Blocks 4 and 5 of the Rose Hill Addition to the City of Vienna, Illinois. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the Vienna City Hall, 205 N 4th St, Vienna, IL 62995. Any persons desiring to comment upon the proposed ordinance or the vacation of the street may do so either in person or in writing. A copy of the proposed ordinance may be viewed and copied in the City Clerk's office, 205 N 4th St, Vienna, Illinois. The legal description of that part of the street or right of way sought to be vacated is as follows:

All that part of the platted right of way of Water Street that lies between Blocks 3 and 6 and between Blocks 4 and 5 of the Rose Hill Addition to the City of Vienna, Illinois as per recorded plat thereof.

City of Vienna, Illinois
Aleatha Wright, City Clerk

★

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• No Warranty - Seconds and Yard Panels

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(618) 253-7355

Anna

517 E. Vienna St., Suite A

(618) 833-6014

Herrin

1116 N. Park Ave.

(618) 942-2342

McLeansboro

710 E. Randolph

(618) 643-2825

Benton

1408 S. Main St.

(618) 435-4199

Mt. Vernon

2223 Broadway

(618) 242-1305

Paducah KY

402 S. Third St.

(270) 443-1550

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make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968714

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-12
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: ANGELA SUMMERS, HERSHAL SUMMERS, ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK, CREDIT ACCEPTANCE CORP, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:
PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 04-19-300-016

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968713

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-13
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: ADAM CECIL, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 05-22-200-002

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968712

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-14
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: ROBERT MATTHEWS, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, ONE-MAIN FINANCIAL GROUP, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 07-06-100-002

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968711

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-15
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISES OF LIZZIE HOLDER, CARLA SCOTT THOMPSON, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 09-18-101-002

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968710

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-16
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: GAYNES PECORD, SANDY PECORD, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the

following described property in Alexander County:
PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 09-27-400-003, 09-34-200-001, 09-35-100-001

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968709

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-17
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: ALVAN SMOOT, BELINDA SMOOT, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 10-32-377-002

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968707

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-18
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: CARLOS HALLIBURTON, JORDAN HOLDER, TOWER LOAN OF MISSOURI, LLC, DBA TOWER LOAN OF CAPE GIRARDEAU, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-23-331-013

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968708

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-19
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: EDDIE L PAYTON, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-23-381-007

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968706

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-20
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, KRISTY JOHNSON, ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-23-381-017

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968705

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-21
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: ANTHONY RORSHAD SENTER, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-23-385-019

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968704

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-22
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: CAROLYN DAVIS, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-23-401-003

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968702

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-23
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: CORREY J. WILSON, CROWN ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-23-453-003

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968703

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-24
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: GARY FRAYSER, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-26-182-009

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968699

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-25
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISES OF ERMA J. BURRIS, YOLANDA WILKINS, JAMES GERALD VAUGHN, AMELIA DUPREE, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-26-204-006

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.

Thursday, Sep. 17, 2026

Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968700

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-26
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: JK ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS LLC, CITIZENS BANK OF CHARLESTON, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-26-205-001

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968701

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-27
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: PAULM KANIA, SARAH KANIA, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-26-209-009

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968698

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-28
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: IL MEDICAL OFFICES, LLC, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-26-227-008

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968697

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-29
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: HARRY R HELTON JR, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-26-257-006

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968696

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-30
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: HAROLD JONES, ALLENE JONES, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-26-286-007

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption

may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968695

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-31
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: JERRY A STACY, FIRST COMMUNITY BANK OF WESTERN KENTUCKY, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 12-26-431-001

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968717

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-7
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: ELITE LIFE CARE LLC, NANCY JESSUP, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 01-13-403-011

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968718

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-8
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: RICHIE TERRY GREEN JR., UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 01-13-454-017

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968715

**TAX DEED
NO. 2026-TX-9
FILED: 08-21-2026
TAKE NOTICE**

TO: NANCY JESSUP, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Alexander County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 01-13-455-014

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Alexander County in Cairo, Illinois on January 20, 2027, 1:00 PM. On that date the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on January 12, 2024, for general taxes of the year 2022. The period of redemption will expire on January 11, 2027. Redemption may be made by applying to the county clerk at the office of the county clerk in Cairo, Illinois.

TERMINUS INVESTMENTS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
8221-968716

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR PULASKI COUNTY, ILLINOIS - CHANCERY DIVISION CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff,
vs.
CHARLES N. HOWELL; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; STATE OF ILLINOIS, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; CITIBANK, N.A.; UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
Case No.: 2026FC7
Property Address:
2912 BUCHER ROAD, MOUNDS, IL 62964
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

A TRACT OF LAND CONTAINING 1.85 ACRES, BEING 358 FEET NORTH AND SOUTH AND 225 FEET EAST AND WEST, LYING ADJACENT TO, AND IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF LOT ONE, ALL IN THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER IN SECTION FOUR, TOWNSHIP SIXTEEN SOUTH, RANGE ONE WEST OF THE THIRD P.M., AND AS SHOWN ON A SURVEY RECORDED MAY 31, 1978 IN MAPS, PAGE 10, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF PULASKI, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 2912 BUCHER ROAD, MOUNDS, IL 62964

Names of the titleholders of record: CHARLES N. HOWELL.

Date of the Mortgage: September 14, 2021.

Name or names of the mortgagors: CHARLES N. HOWELL.

Name of the mortgagee: AmeriFirst Financial Corporation.

Date and place of recording: October 1, 2021; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Pulaski County, Illinois.

Identification of recording: Document No. 34440.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before October 3, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e

claiming any right, interest or title in the following described real estate:

Lots Five (5) and Six (6) in Block Thirty Two (32) in the City of Cairo, County of Alexander and State of Illinois.

Permanent Index No. 12-25-334-002

On August 21, 2026, Brookwood Properties LLC filed a Petition for Order of Tax Deed. The object of the plaintiff's petition is to foreclose on the Tax Sale Certificate No. 2024-0283 for the delinquent taxes on real estate described above which was issued by the Alexander County Treasurer on January 9, 2026. The taxes due under the certificate are for the 2024 tax year. The petition asks the court to direct the county clerk to issue a tax deed if the property is not redeemed from the sale on or before January 12, 2027, and that Petitioner, as grantee of said parcel of real estate. The Petition for Order of Tax Deed will be brought before the Alexander County Circuit Court on January 20, 2027 at 1:00 p.m. in Courtroom 1. If you fail to redeem, the court may enter a judgment for the relief demanded in the petition.

Brookwood Properties LLC, Petitioner
Stuart E. Morgenstern, #6275553

Attorney for Petitioner
1 W. Laurel Street
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274
(618)357-5315
semlaw@frontier.com
8221-968766

**PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, ALEXANDER
COUNTY, ILLINOIS, Case
No. 2026TX35, Brookwood
Properties LLC.**

To: George Moss; Moss Heating and Cooling; Moss Heating and Cooling, LLC; Occupants of; Alexander County Clerk; and all other persons/entities UNKNOWN having or claiming any right, interest or title in the following described real estate:

All of Lots Ten (10) and Eleven (11), 12.50 feet off the East side of Lot Twelve (12), 12.50 feet off the East side of Lot Thirty Seven (37) and all of Lots Thirty Eight (38) and Thirty Nine (39) in Block Sixty One (61) in the First Addition to the City of Cairo, County of Alexander and State of Illinois.

Permanent Index No. 12-26-226-007

On August 21, 2026, Brookwood Properties LLC filed a Petition for Order of Tax Deed. The object of the plaintiff's petition is to foreclose on the Tax Sale Certificate No. 2024-0336

for the delinquent taxes on real estate described above which was issued by the Alexander County Treasurer on January 9, 2026. The taxes due under the certificate are for the 2024 tax year. The petition asks the court to direct the county clerk to issue a tax deed if the property is not redeemed from the sale on or before January 12, 2027, and that Petitioner, as grantee of tax deed be put in possession of said parcel of real estate. The Petition for Order of Tax Deed will be brought before the Alexander County Circuit Court on January 20, 2027 at 1:00 p.m. in Courtroom 1. If you fail to redeem, the court may enter a judgment for the relief demanded in the petition.

Brookwood Properties LLC, Petitioner
Stuart E. Morgenstern, #6275553
Attorney for Petitioner
1 W. Laurel Street
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274
(618)357-5315
semlaw@frontier.com
8221-968767

**PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, ALEXANDER
COUNTY, ILLINOIS, Case
No. 2026TX36, Brookwood
Properties LLC.**

To: Delta Center, Inc.; Occupants of; Alexander County Clerk; and all other persons/entities UNKNOWN having or claiming any right, interest or title in the following described real estate:

12.50' W. side Lot 12 all of Lots 13-15 2.97' E. side of Lot 16 2.97' E. side Lot 33 all of Lots 34-36 12.50' W. side Lot 37 Block 61 First addition Cairo, Illinois. Situated in the County of Alexander, in the State of Illinois. Permanent Index No. 12-26-226-008

On August 21, 2026, Brookwood Properties LLC filed a Petition for Order of Tax Deed. The object of the plaintiff's petition is to foreclose on the Tax Sale Certificate No. 2024-0337 for the delinquent taxes on real estate described above which was issued by the Alexander County Treasurer on January 9, 2026. The taxes due under the certificate are for the 2024 tax year. The petition asks the court to direct the county clerk to issue a tax deed if the property is not redeemed from the sale on or before January 12, 2027, and that Petitioner, as grantee of tax deed be put in possession of said parcel of real estate. The Petition for Order of Tax Deed will be brought before the Alexander County Circuit Court on January 20, 2027 at 1:00 p.m. in Courtroom 1. If you fail to redeem,

the court may enter a judgment for the relief demanded in the petition.

Brookwood Properties LLC, Petitioner
Stuart E. Morgenstern, #6275553
Attorney for Petitioner
1 W. Laurel Street
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274
(618)357-5315
semlaw@frontier.com
8221-968768

**ASSUMED NAME
PUBLICATION NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON AUGUST 24, 2026 A CERTIFICATE WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER ROBIN HARPER-WHITEHEAD OF JOHNSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SETTING FORTH THE NAMES, POST OFFICES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL OF THE PERSONS OWNING, CONDUCTING AND TRANSACTING THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS:**

HQ MEATS LLC
LOCATED AT:
620 PIONEER LANE
VIENNA, IL 62995
Robin Harper-Whitehead
Johnson County CLERK/RECORDER
8221-968655

REAL ESTATE

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE 1ST
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF Alexander
- Cairo, ILLINOIS
LLACG Community
Investment Fund
Plaintiff**

**vs.
Diane Douglas Special
Representative for the
Estate of Thelma C.
Beasley (Deceased); Joyce
Schnaare; Sherry Miller;
Estate of Les Beasley; Gary
Beasley; Tom Beasley; David
Beasley; Unknown Heirs
and Legates of Thelma C.
Beasley; Unknown Owners
and Non Record Claimants
Defendant**

**24 FC 2
CALENDAR
NOTICE OF
SHERIFF'S SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Alexander County will on October 14, 2026, at the hour 10:00 a.m., Lobby of the

Alexander County Courthouse, 2000 Washington Avenue, Cairo, Illinois 62194, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 04-07-400-007. Commonly known as 32560 State Highway 127, Tamms, IL 62988.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Potestivo & Associates P.C., 223 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 610, Chicago, IL 60606. (248) 853-4400 ext 1200. 319503 SHERIFF 13293530 8221-968994

JONESBORO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

On Sept. 6, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in our morning service. His message was about keeping your focus on Christ during stressful times. Christ can help you no matter what situation you find yourself in. His text was found in the 17th chapter of Judges in the Old Testament; and Philippians, chapters 1 and 2, found in the New Testament.

Dee Rose, Music Director, led in worship, accompanied by Debbie York on the piano, and the Praise Team: Chris Rose, David Pedigo, Isabel

VFW welcomes entries for Veterans Day parade

Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post 3455 of Anna is making plans for this year's annual Veterans Day parade. The longstanding Union County tradition is set for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in Anna.

The theme for this year's parade is "Honoring All Who Served." Letters of invitation and application forms were recently mailed to last year's parade entrants.

The VFW is always looking for additional parade entrants to show their patriotism and respect to the nation's and community's veterans with their participation in this event.

Local food organizations to receive \$3.5 million in state grant funds

Illinois will award more than \$3.5 million to local food organizations in the state's latest attempt to bolster local food infrastructure, Capitol News Illinois reports.

The grants from the Department of Agriculture are part of a three-year-old program aimed at making it easier for local farmers to process and distribute food locally. In total, 61 organizations received grants, 16 of them in Cook County and the other 45 distributed among 34 other counties, including Union County.

"These awards will help farmers, food businesses and community partners expand their capacity and reach new markets," Illinois Department of Agriculture director Jerry Costello II said in a statement. "When we invest in local food infrastructure, we are creating economic opportunity for businesses while ensuring Illinois residents have greater access to fresh, locally grown foods."

The latest distribution covers two fiscal years, 2025 and 2026. This round of projects ranged from a \$1,424 grant for air conditioning improvements to a \$205,000 collaboration to enhance growing and distribution capacity of six community-based farms on Chicago's South and West sides.

The latter is a partnership between the Chicago Food Policy Action Council and

Tehandón and Kim Benefield. Debbie York sang the song, "Let Me Tell You 'bout My Jesus."

Also, during the morning worship service, Sara Jackson followed the Lord through baptism. Welcome to the church family, Sara!

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

Businesses, organizations, school bands and clubs, local clubs and groups which would like to be a part of the parade but did not receive an application can pick up one at the VFW post near during the post's regular business hours, which are scheduled from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Saturday. The post is located at 70 VFW Ln., which is off old U.S. Route 51 between Anna and Cobden. The deadline for parade entry forms to be returned to the VFW is Nov. 4.

The Anna VFW post is very proud of its Veterans Day parade. The Anna event is the only parade in Southern

FBC, for the latest videos and info on church events.

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. Both our Dig-In Children's program and our Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Illinois which continues to be held on Veterans Day, which is observed each year on Nov. 11. The Anna post notes that without the support and participation of the local community members and organizations it would not be able to continue to hold the parade.

There will be complimentary chili and hot dogs served in the VFW hall to parade participants immediately following the parade. Certificates will be distributed to winning entries at that time as well. The Anna VFW looks forward to seeing everyone at this year's Veterans Day parade.

\$44,356. The funds will be used to address high-need infrastructure gaps by modernizing a 60-year-old cold storage facility and expanding a commercial kitchen's value-added processing capacity.

Lucy Jill Rendleman, doing business as All Seasons Farm near Cobden, will receive \$64,757 to purchase a refrigerated delivery vehicle to aggregate and distribute more fresh local vegetables and fruit to more places.

Rendleman Orchards Inc. in Alto Pass will receive \$60,286. Some of the funds will be used to perform a comprehensive mechanical overhaul of Rendleman Orchards' refrigerated truck. The work will include a complete engine replacement and electrical repairs. Rendleman Orchards also will use some of the funds to install a high-capacity SPX evaporator coil and digital adaptive controllers in a primary cooler.

In Jackson County, Al Raawi LLC will receive \$75,000 to purchase a new refrigerated van to support the pick up and distribution of locally sourced and locally processed meat products.

As of early September, the state had allocated over \$5 million to local food grants since the program's launch. Another \$2 million was included in the current-year budget, according to the Department of Agriculture.



25th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks commemorated in Anna

The Anna Fire and Rescue Department and the City of Anna joined in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists attacks on the nation. A large American flag was on display last Friday on the department's ladder truck. A banner and American flags were displayed in front of city hall.

COUNTY LINE NEWS BY SUZAN HARVEL

PAST of Union County held their annual yard sale at the Heritage House Museum on Saturday, Sept. 5. We had a great turn out and appreciate those who not only came and bought items, but those who donated to it, worked it, and hauled off the leftovers. I think we need to have the next one in February.... it's a thought anyway.

Shirley Harvel was pleased to have her daughter, Vickie Jacobs of Sparta, come in late on Sept. 3 to visit for a couple of weeks. They made a trip to Tom's Place, in Tamms, that Friday night for fish and then brought dessert home. Richard Harvel took both of them out to the yard sale at Jonesboro on Saturday and on to do some other shopping and lunch out together. The heat took a toll though and they

all needed naps to recover afterwards. Believe me, I had to have one after the yard sale, too. Shirley received more company on Sept. 9, when her sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Don Knowlton of Poplar Bluff, came to visit. Son Chuck and wife Martha also came to visit and brought zucchini cake. On Sept. 11 her other daughter Tina and her husband Darron Moore, also of Poplar Bluff, came to visit and brought lunch and chocolate cake. Chuck and Martha Harvel also came by with some of their grandchildren, so Shirley's had many visitors.

Thank goodness in all of this heat, we've had some showers and the temperatures have reduced somewhat. It doesn't much feel like fall yet, does it? A few trees are

shedding leaves, but there isn't much color yet. The area will be gearing up regardless of the temperatures for Fall Fest, October Fest, and the Semo District Fair, along with other fall endeavors. Make sure you get out and enjoy them.

Members of Daniel Chapman Chapter, NSDAR met on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at Fellowship Baptist Church in Vienna for their opening meeting. Dues were collected and new yearbook distributed. Awards received at Continental Congress were also on display. The next meeting will be held on Oct. 12 at the Vienna Public Library at 1 p.m. with the program "The Seven Deadly Sins" given by the Alliance Chapter DAR Museum Correspondent Docents.

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Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Dancing robots ... no thank you ...

Sept. 11, 2001. Twenty-five years ago. For many folks, what happened on that day is something in the history books. Let’s hope that the tragic events which happened on that day a quarter of a century ago are not forgotten ...Meanwhile ...

Our local weather observer reported that the high temperature reached 102 degrees near Jonesboro on September 5. The heat index was a balmy 115.3 degrees at 2:30 p.m. At least there was a wind chill at the time...a cool 101.9 degrees ...

Meanwhile ...

The Other Half and yours truly once again have been enjoying one of our summer viewing habits on the tube.

Before we fall asleep on Tuesday evenings, we like to watch “America’s Got Talent” on our old school flat screen television that has a rabbit ears antenna. We always hope that the wind isn’t blowing when the show comes on. Windy weather is not kind to the digital signal, at least when it involves the network and local channel which carry “AGT.” Rain doesn’t help much either. And a combination of wind and rain mean it’s time to find another channel.

The show features all kinds of fascinating, and occasionally perplexing, “talent.” With that being said, the folks who have the courage to go on a stage to perform in front of millions of people deserve a pat on the back. And that would be the people who perform. As in real live, genuine human beings, who sometimes are accompanied by highly talented canines or maybe a puppet, which, in my simple little mind, are OK.

Last week, the episode we watched had one act which featured real live human beings. And robots. Yes. Robots. The robots danced on stage. They looked almost human. Those robots were s-m-o-o-t-h. Truth be told, the whole idea of dancing robots seemed kind of scary. Almost made me wonder what kind of plots they would be hatching against humanity once they got off the stage.

Yes. These are probably the meandering musings of an official old school old guy. As I mentioned earlier, we still use a rabbit ears antenna. But the idea of dancing robots winning a talent show for people ... No thank you.

Meanwhile ...

One of my daily walkabouts last week was pretty exciting, at least in terms of Critter Sightings. In a very short of time, pretty much right in town, I spotted some white-tailed deer and a chipmunk. The deer were crossing a road. The last time I had seen deer at that location, the temperature



I think I can. I think I can. I think I did. A groundhog achieved success, eventually, in an attempt to harvest some green beans in The Other Half’s garden.



Why did the deer cross the road? To catch up with the chicken.



Critters like this chipmunk just seem to be willing to pose for a picture or two. Sometimes. Other times, Critters will just vanish.

was about 20 degrees and the ground was covered with snow. Such was not the case last week.

I hadn’t seen a chipmunk

in the wild in many a year. Neither the deer nor the chipmunk seemed all that concerned about my presence. The little Critter was even

kind enough to pose for a few pictures ... and then just kind of watched as I walked away slowly. (Oddly enough ... a couple of days later ... The Other Half pointed out a chipmunk that was scampering through our backyard.)

Thanks to a fellow traveler on The Journey Through Life who stopped to chat during my walk, I learned a little bit about the story of a majestic oak tree in our little corner of the world. I had walked by the tree many, many times over the years ... in all seasons ... and often admired it. Squirrels liked it, too.

As sometimes happens with trees, the core of the oak had gone hollow. That meant the tree had to come down. Personally, I do not like cutting down a tree, but safety needs to be a top consideration.

Anyway, after the tree had been cut down, the fellow traveler had taken the time to count the rings in the oak. He counted 231 rings. That would have made the oak more than two and a quarter centuries old.

The oak tree would have been a sapling when George Washington was president. Maybe the tree sprouted from an acorn that simply fell to the ground. Maybe a squirrel dropped its snack while wandering around in what I’m guessing were woodlands back then.

That tree would have started its own Journey Through Life before Lewis and Clark started their journey to the Pacific Ocean ... before the War of 1812 ... before the Civil War ... before the village we call home was even a village ... before there was the internet ... before there were creepy robots dancing on a stage...

At some point, on another daily walkabout, I may try to see if another acorn has sprouted where the oak tree was growing.

Then ... I’ll need to watch and see how well it grows for the next 231 years.

Speaking of Critters ... a fellow traveler on The Journey Through Life was kind enough to share a special memory about recently spotting some bald eagles. Such moments are times to treasure.

And then there was the groundhog which I saw one evening last week which had scaled Mt. Green Beans in The Other Half’s garden. We know that groundhogs like what she grows in the garden, but I had never seen one scale some fencing in an attempt to secure dinner.

Meanwhile ...

We’ll wrap up things this week with a personal note ... Happy birthday to my sweetheart. Sept. 17 is birthday number ... Well. It’s her birthday ...



Mildred Blessing celebrates 100th birthday
Mildred Blessing of Cobden celebrated her 100th birthday Sept. 8, 2026. A celebration was held at her home on Sunday, Sept. 6th in her honor with cake and refreshments with family and friends. Mildred wants to thank every person who visited and wished her a Happy Birthday.

Anna Police issues alert about scams

The Anna Police Department is alerting the public about two new fraud warnings.

The department shared information about the scams on social media.

First, a new scam is coming through Facebook notification emails advising people they are being charged for purchasing adult materials. The scam then instructs individuals to call their phone provider to fix the issue and provides a link to call.

A link which is used connects you to the scam artists who claims to work for the FTC, demands cash via wire and claims they will provide you with new documents to clear your identity fraud.

“Please reach out to your friends, family

and neighbors and warn them of this new scam,” the department advised. “Remind them that any link, including a phone number, should not be trusted even if it comes from a known sender.”

The second new fraud is check thefts from the mail.

“Please keep an eye on any checks you send in the mail that they arrive at their intended destination and you are only charged for the amount you sent. Again, please warn your friends, family and loved ones about this issue,” the department said.

The department offered a “big thanks to Southern Bank of Anna for letting us know about this issue. We appreciate all our partnerships which help keep our community and our citizens safe.”

Notes

From page 1

More than 20 local businesses are helping to support a co-op work program at A-JCHS. A-J seniors who are participating in the program are taking skills they learn in the classroom to the job site. The school is grateful for the local support of the program, which is led by A-J faculty member Alysha Hase.

The Cobden Village Board has approved donations of \$250 to the Williamson County Shriners, \$150 to the VFW’s Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna and the Cobden American Legion and Auxiliary for their participation in the Cobden Peach Festival parade, which was held in August.

The Cobden High School Marching Appleknockers band won second place at the Labor Day David Hannan Marching Classic parade competition in Metropolis.

Shawnee Community College has recognized Chris Clark for 25 years of service. Clark is the college’s vice president of administrative services. He joined the college in 2001.

Shawnee Community College late start classes are scheduled to get underway beginning Sept. 21.

Stinson Memorial

Public Library District reports that with help from the Friends of Stinson Library and the University of Illinois, digital scans of the Anna Talk newspaper are available. The Anna Talk was acquired by The Gazette-Democrat. The digital archive features 411 issues of the Anna Talk for the period from April 2, 1915, through March 16, 1923. A link to the archive can be found on the Anna library’s Facebook page.

September marks the 87th anniversary of the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois, including Union County. The U.S. Forest Service notes that what is now the Shawnee National Forest was once known as the Illini and Shawnee Purchase Units. The area was officially designated as the Shawnee National Forest by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in September 1939. At that time, much of the land was worn out farmland, but the Civilian Conservation Corps, CCC, began its restoration in the 1930s by planting pine trees to reduce erosion and rebuild the soil.

Illinois resident and non-resident hunters can purchase fall turkey shotgun permits from a licensed vendor on a first-come, first-served basis starting Sept. 21 until quotas have been met for a particular county or until the close of the season on Nov. 1. Learn more at huntillinois.org.

Board

From page 1

serving Union County and already producing measurable results.

The county board will take the funding request under advisement.

Animal Control

County board vice chairman Kent Pitts said the county’s animal control program has recently experienced a record number of owner-surrendered dogs.

He said owners have surrendered the dogs because they can no longer afford them.

Pitts praised the work being done by the animal control program’s staff to find new homes for the dogs.

He also thanked the community for its continued support in the form of

donations of dog food and financial resources.

Pitts also again urged owners to have their pets spayed and neutered.

Constitution Week

The commissioners approved a proclamation commemorating the observance of Constitution Week, which is Sept. 17-23.

The proclamation declared that Sept. 17, 2026, marks the 239th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention. The proclamation asks the citizens of Union County “to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787.”

Train Safety

The commissioners also approved a proclamation declaring Sept. 21-27 as

National See Tracks?

Think Train Week in Union County. The proclamation encourages everyone to recognize the importance of rail safety education.

The proclamation noted that 2,274 rail grade crossing collisions resulted in 766 personal injuries and were responsible for 285 fatalities in the United States during 2025.

A total of 1,317 pedestrian trespassing casualties occurred in the United States, resulting in 793 pedestrians begin killed and another 524 injured while trespassing on railroad property right-of-ways in 2025.

The proclamation declared that educating and informing the public about rail safety (reminding the public that railroad right-of-ways are private property,

enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws) will reduce the number of avoidable fatalities and injuries caused by incidents involving trains and citizens.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Operation Lifesaver Inc., the U.S. Department of Transportation and all local, state, county and railroad law enforcement officers, first responders and railroad corporations commit to partnering together in an effort to educate at a national level all aspects of railroad safety to enforce applicable laws in support of National See Tracks? Think Train Week.