

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Anna, Illinois

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News Notes

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

Deaconess Illinois Union County Hospital in Anna has partnered with the American Red Cross to collect essential items for those in Southern Illinois by the recent devastating tornadoes.

During National Public Works Week, which was May 19-25, the City of Anna saluted its public works department. The city shared a message on social media celebrating “the incredible team behind the scenes who keep the City of Anna running smoothly – our Public Works Department... From maintaining our streets, water systems, parks, and facilities to responding to emergencies in all kinds of weather, our Public Works staff work tirelessly to serve our community with pride and dedication. Please join us in thanking these everyday heroes who help make Anna a cleaner, safer, and more connected place to live.”

Union County Ambulance Service was at Giant City State Park near Makanda providing medical support for last Saturday’s Red Cedar Trail Races.

Cobden High School student Mason Lyerla served on the Student Advisory Council for the Illinois State Board of Education this school year. Mason was also recently elected to serve as the president of Educators Rising Illinois for the 2025-26 school year.

The 2024-2025 academic year is wrapping up at Union County schools. Congratulations, once again, to all of this year’s graduates.

A variety of summer sports camps are planned at schools in the county.

Shawnee Community College has announced an update to its strategic plan, which is a road map for the college's future. About 50 people, including faculty, staff, students and community members (educators, pastors, business owners and elected leaders; among others), weighed in during a recent day-long session examining the college’s mission, vision and values. The college says that insights and ideas which were shared are helping to shape Shawnee Community College’s future and ensure it remains innovative, inclusive, learner-centered and community-engaged. The community is urged to look for updates.

Shawnee Community College reports that significant renovations are underway to improve its campus for students, staff and the community. One of the key upgrades is in Building H and the lower level of Building K on the college’s main campus near Ullin, where crews are installing new, energy-efficient windows

(continued on page 2)

County board meets Friday

Good news about audit; commercial solar energy project ordinance passed

An ordinance has been approved which sets guidelines for the development of commercial solar energy projects in Union County.

The ordinance was approved at last week’s regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners. The meeting was Friday morning, May 23, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Good News About Audit

The meeting also was highlighted by good news related to a county audit. The audit again was done by the Sikich firm and was for the county’s 2024 fiscal year. The county’s fiscal year runs from Dec. 1 to Nov. 30. The firm also did an audit for the Union County circuit clerk’s office. Both audits were accepted.

The report showed that the county’s overall financial position showed a positive increase from the previous. For the third year in a row, the audit showed no findings for the county. County board chairman Max Miller voiced pride in that outcome, saying that it is “something that Union County can be proud of.” He said the outcome reflected hard work by the commissioners, officeholders, department heads and administrators. “...plus, we’re financially sound,” the board chairman noted.

Solar Project Ordinance

Extensive research and work went into the drafting of an ordinance for commercial solar energy facility siting in Union County. Union County State’s Attorney Tyler Tripp presented an overview of the ordinance, which took effect immediately, at Friday morning’s meeting. He said a team of county officials worked on drafting the ordinance.

Union County’s new ordinance comes in response to growth in commercial solar energy projects. At this time, officials are not aware of any such projects that are formally on the drawing board for development in the county. The purpose of the ordinance is to be prepared for such projects, no matter what size they may be. The county’s ordinance is similar to guidelines which are in place in other area counties.

The ordinance includes an application fee of \$1,500 per megawatt of energy that such a project would generate. The fee goes up to a maximum of \$200,000. A building permit fee also is in the ordinance. The fee is \$5,000 per megawatt; the cost would be prorated down for smaller projects.

Guidelines are included for the construction and design of commercial projects, environmental concerns, insurance and decommissioning of facilities. The ordinance also addresses the impact a project would have on local agriculture. The county also approved a road use agreement for such projects.

With commercial solar energy projects having been addressed, next on the agenda is the drafting of guidelines for commercial wind farms.

In other business at Friday’s meeting, a reminder was shared about plans for open house which scheduled at the Union County control program’s new building. The open house is planned from noon to 3 p.m. on June 21. The event will give the public a chance to see the new building.

It was reported that the county highway department has six new trucks in operation.

Anna project awarded state grant

The City of Anna has been awarded an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, ITEP, grant to construct a multi-use path along East Vienna Street to Wal-Mart.

The city announced the awarding of the grant on social media. Complete details, including the amount of grant funding, are to be announced.

The city said the new path

will provide a safe and accessible route for pedestrians, cyclists and all of those who travel between Anna’s neighborhoods and key shopping areas.

“It’s another step forward in making Anna more connected, walkable, and welcoming for everyone,” the city shared. “Stay tuned for updates as we move into the planning and construction phases.”

Memorial Day commemorated at events in Union County

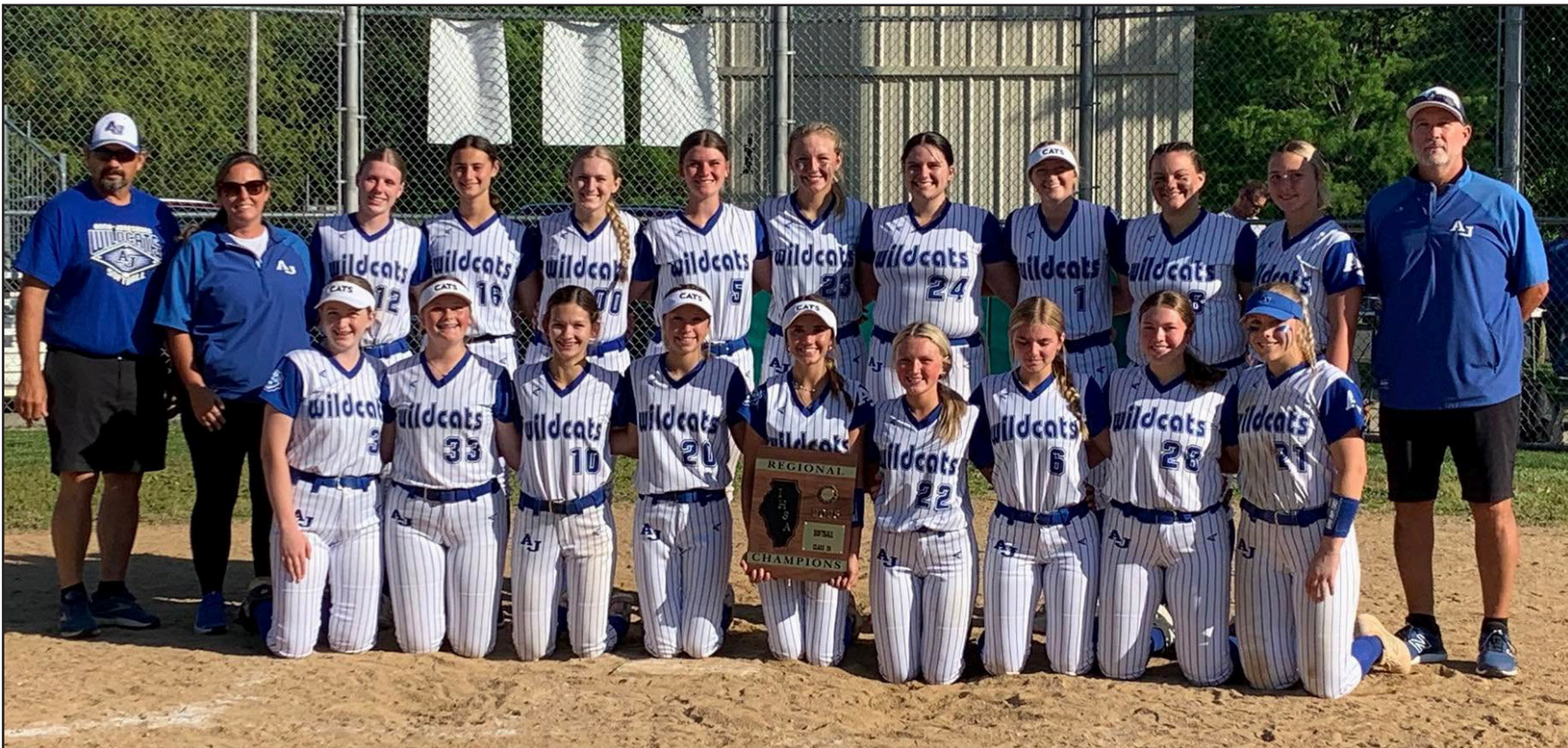
Memorial Day was commemorated with the special events in Union County. The Memorial Day holiday was Monday, May 26. Events in Anna, Cobden and Alto Pass had good turnouts as the community honored those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation.



The Alto Pass Area Veterans Memorial Organization conducted a Memorial Day ceremony early Saturday afternoon, May 24. The ceremony was held at the veterans memorial in downtown Alto Pass.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 hosted a Memorial Day service Monday morning, May 26.



Lady Wildcats win regional championship

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School softball team have earned the title of Illinois High School Association regional softball champions for the second year in a row. The Lady Wildcats defeated Mt. Carmel by the score of 5-4 in the finals of tournament on Friday, May 23 in Benton. A-J advances to the sectional tournament in Murphysboro and was scheduled to play Johnson City in the first round on Tuesday, May 27. The finals of the tournament are set to be held on Saturday, May 31.



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Weather service: ‘insane amount of tornadoes’ in 2025

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that as of May 22, 54 tornadoes had touched down across the 58-county forecast area it serves in Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri, Western Kentucky and southwest Indiana.

“Our region has observed an insane amount of tornadoes this year, now ranking 3rd most for any year on record,” the weather service office reported on its website. “Over 550 miles of tornado tracks shattered the previous record for tornado miles in a single year. Nine EF-3’s is the most strong tornadoes in a single year since 1957. Here’s to hoping we don’t witness another tornado this year in our region!”

The most tornadoes which touched down during the same period were 79, which was recorded in 2011, and 59 in 2024.

As of May 22, a total of 557.8 miles of tornado tracks had been recorded in the region, which the weather service said shattered the annual record of 449.8 miles set in 2011.

So far this year, the number of tornadoes, by state, included 22 in Missouri, 16 in Illinois,

Tornadoes so far in 2025

The National Weather Service office in Paducah posted a map online which shows the number of tornadoes which had been observed in the region through May 22.

11 in Kentucky and seven in Indiana. Two of the tornadoes cross into multiple states.

Nine EF-3-plus tornadoes which have touched down in the region this year are the most strong tornadoes since the weather service office in Paducah recorded 12 in 1957.

Only four EF-3 tornadoes had been recorded in a 10-year period from 2014 to 2023. “Now we’ve had 13 in the past 13 months (including 4

in 2024,” the weather service reported.

The accompanying map shows that four tornadoes have touched down this year in Union County, including three EF-1s and one EF-0.

Twilight Series opens season with look at poultry production

Thirteen counties, 35 farms and 10 years of cultivating connections: these are the milestones of the Summer Twilight Series. Designed to bring together farmers, educators and community members, the series presented by University of Illinois Extension celebrates the innovation and diversity of local agriculture.

Now in its 10th season, the 2025 program launched May 19 at The Flock Farm, the home of Southern Illinois’ only poultry processing facility. The Flock Farm is located near Anna.

Local farm hosts event
The Flock Farm near Anna hosted the opening event for this year’s Summer Twilight Series in Southern Illinois. University of Illinois Extension photo.

Operated by Brent Glays, The Flock Farm specializes in pasture-raised lamb, pork and poultry. Glays began working as a meat and poultry inspector around the time he was starting his own homestead and small farm. During that time, he became connected with a Mennonite community that gifted him with five lambs, which quickly grew into a 165-head herd.

In 2018, they began to sell meat at the local farmer’s market, but with lamb being a seasonal animal, they needed to supplement to keep the booth open year-round. Poultry was an easy choice, and it took off.

“There would be a line

Anna seeks to hire new police chief

The City of Anna is in the process of hiring a new chief of police. Police chief Bryan Watkins retired in May. Brent Sims is serving as the acting police chief.

In a posting on social media, the city stated that it “is seeking a highly motivated, experienced, and community-focused law enforcement professional to lead the Anna Police Department as our next Chief of Police. We are looking for a proven leader who values integrity, transparency, and strong community relationships to help guide our department into the future.”

The city that the chief of police “will oversee daily operations, strategic planning, and departmental leadership, while fostering a safe and welcoming environment for all residents of Anna.”

A deadline of June 20 has been set to apply for the job.

A full job description, along with the opportunity to apply for the job, can be found on the city’s website at cityofanna.org.

waiting for us at eight in the morning when we pulled into the market, and we would sell out,” said Glays.

The absence of a local poultry processing facility created a significant challenge in meeting demand. With the nearest option located two and a half hours away in Kentucky, Glays was forced to make the lengthy round-trip each month to process 400 chickens. With the majority of their revenue consumed by processing costs, he recognized the need for a more sustainable solution.

Being a meat and poultry inspector by trade, Glays knew what was involved and how to go about it. His vision quickly became a reality when he designed and built his own on-site poultry processing facility, which officially opened in 2024.

Each month, the facility processes approximately 200 chickens raised on the homestead, depending on hatch rates. Committed to

sustainability and quality, Glays uses air chilling, avoiding chemical interventions entirely, to maintain greater control over the final product. With an expanded USDA certification, Glays will soon be able to process poultry for other local producers in Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky.

The Flock Farm’s on-site retail store showcases a variety of local goods, from honey and milk to coffee, meat and plants, with each item reflecting the quality and care of regional producers. Store hours are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays. The store is located at 460 McDuffee Ln., off new U.S. Route 51, just north of Anna.

The remaining twilight meetings for 2025 are scheduled feature a different farm or direct-market outlet, showcasing a range of production methods and marketing strategies. Each session includes time for networking, helping local entrepreneurs build valuable partnerships and strengthening regional food systems.

More information, including registration for the free programs, can be found online at go.illinois.edu/twilightseries or by calling 618-695-2441.

News Notes

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and storefront systems. The improvements will enhance both the energy performance and safety of the facility. The college thanked the Illinois Green Economy Network for its generous grant of \$100,000, which is helping make this important project possible.

Shawnee Community College’s Little Saints Book Club has received a grant of nearly \$9,000 from the Dollar General Literacy Fund.

Bills addressing Illinois deer population approved

Legislation sponsored by State Sen. Dale Fowler, R-Harrisburg, aimed at giving hunters more freedom to address the growing deer population in Illinois has officially cleared both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly with unanimous support.

“These proposals are the result of feedback and conversations with constituents, including landowners, hunters, and farmers, who are seeing the costly effects of the growing deer population in their communities,” Fowler said in a news release on May 22. “This legislation provides common-sense tools to manage that growth while ensuring taxpayer resources are used more efficiently.”

House Bill 2339 requires

the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to end its sharpshooting program used to manage chronic wasting disease if no cases have been detected in the previous three calendar years.

“By eliminating the use of sharpshooting in areas with no recent disease activity, the hope is to reduce unnecessary government intervention and give more control to local hunters and landowners,” Fowler said.

House Bill 2340 makes Landowner Deer Permits more accessible in counties where chronic wasting disease has been identified. Under the legislation, permits will be issued free of charge to Illinois residents who own at least 20 acres of land, resident tenants who

farm at least 20 acres of commercial agricultural land, and individuals with qualifying ownership interests in that land. This change helps those who are directly impacted by deer overpopulation to better manage the growing issue in the area and protect their property.

Fowler said both pieces of legislation are focused on improving local control, supporting responsible conservation efforts and protecting landowners and local farmers.

“These bills not only give hunters more flexibility but also ensure landowners have better avenues to help manage deer populations,” added Fowler.

Both bills were awaiting the governor’s signature.

Memorial Day
A Memorial Day service was held Monday morning at the Cobden Cemetery. Memorial Day services have been held at the cemetery in the Union County village for many years.

A-J softball team wins regional title, advance to sectional tournament

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School softball team finished first in the Illinois High School Association regional softball tournament, earning the title of regional champions for the second year in a row.

The tournament was held last week in Benton, with A-J scoring decisive wins over Hamilton County and Mt. Carmel.

A-J 5, Hamilton County 2

After a bye in the first round, the Lady Wildcats picked up a 5-2 win against Hamilton County from McLeansboro on Wednesday, May 21. A-J went ahead 2-1 after the first inning and held on to the lead through the end of the game.

Pitcher Ruby Yates had a big game at the plate as well as on the mound, earning 2 RBIs off of a double. Kansas Craig continued her strong season with a 3-for-4 performance with 1 RBI and 2 runs off of 2 doubles.

Ariana Turner was 1-for-2 with 1 RBI, and freshman Molly Roach was 2-for-3 with 1 run and 1 stolen base.

Ruby Yates picked up the post-season win, pitching 7 innings and allowing only 1 earned run off of 3 hits and 0 walks with 7 strikeouts.

A-J 5, Mt. Carmel 4

The Wildcats faced off against Mt. Carmel in the finals of the tournament on Friday, May 23. After a 5th inning rally by the Golden Aces, the score was 4-4 heading into the bottom of the 7th inning.

Kansas Craig batted in 3 runs for A-J, hitting 1-for-3 for the game.

Jayci Needling was 2-for-4 for the day. Ariana Turner was 1-for-3 and Ruby Yates was 1-for-2 in the win.

The Lady Wildcats have advanced to the Murphysboro sectional tournament where they were scheduled to face Johnson City in the first round on Tuesday, May 27.

The finals of the tournament are scheduled for 12 p.m. on Saturday, May 31.

Jonesboro School students recognized in short story contest

Young authors were recently recognized at the Short Story Spring Celebration held at the Carbondale Public Works Center on April 24.

The Short Story Writing Contest was sponsored by the Southern Illinois Reading Council, which is the local chapter of the Illinois Reading Council.

All students in grades second through eighth in the southern 16 counties of Illinois were invited to participate.

The top three stories in each grade level were honored at the banquet. The winning story in each grade was read by the student author.

All winning students received a certificate, a Barnes and Noble gift card and a yearbook of all of the winning stories.

A record number of stories were entered in the 2025 contest.

From Jonesboro School District, seventh grader RaeAnne Turner received first place, and Jayden Benefield received second place in sixth grade.

English teacher Mrs. Pamela Turner submitted their stories for the contest.



Contest winners
Two students from Jonesboro School earned recognition at the Short Story Spring Celebration. Jayden Benefield (left) placed second amongst sixth graders and and RaeAnne Turner (right) earned first place for the seventh grade

Flag Retirement Ceremony Planned

American Legion Post 178 in Villa Ridge invites the public to its annual flag retirement ceremony on Saturday, June 14 at 4 p.m.

This year, the program will also recognize the semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) of the United States Army, founded June 14, 1775.

The U.S. Flag Code states that, “The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

Flags sometimes can be rejuvenated by machine washing in a mild detergent in cold water to remove dirt, or by mending tattered or frayed ends. The decision to retire an old flag is left to the individual who is displaying it.

The Post collects retired flags throughout the year in drop boxes located at Honey’s Tire Center in Ullin, the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office in Mound City and at the Legion Hall in Villa Ridge.

Old flags may be given to any member of the American Legion or Auxiliary, or brought to the retirement ceremony for proper disposal. Flags will be burned in a specially prepared area, and the ashes buried.

Following the brief program, the Auxiliary will serve homemade ice cream and cake. The American Legion Hall is located at 1853 Olmsted Road, Villa Ridge, Illinois. The event is free and open to the public.



Trip to Crab Orchard

Kindergarten students from the Jonesboro School District recently attended a grant-funded field trip to Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. Kindergarten teachers Mellissa Ellis and Susan Ramsey were awarded grant funding through the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant sponsored by the Illinois Department of National Resources. The students enjoyed the fun activities in the new Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center.

Jonesboro School's Beta Club creates clothes-cleaning service for students

Beta Club students at Jonesboro School are getting their hands “clean” by washing clothes for students in need.

“Wash and Learn” is the year-long service project for several Jonesboro School Beta members. Students were surprised when they learned from their research that it is common for 1 in 5 school kids to not have access to clean clothes on a regular basis.

With the nearest laundromat being over three miles away on the other side of Anna, Beta Club students knew that they needed to find a solution to the problem that so many students face each day, especially for those who don’t have transportation to the laundromat.

The school already had a washing machine and a dryer. After getting approval from the administration, the club looked for resources to fund the laundry bags, laundry soap, and dryer sheets. The group’s sponsor, Mrs. Pamela Turner, wrote a grant through the Illinois Education Association (IEA) to cover those costs. It was fully funded.

Working with the school’s nurse, Jackie Plott, students made flyers and got the word out about the free laundry service for students.

To use the service, students go to Nurse Jackie to pick up a backpack laundry bag. Students return the filled bag with dirty laundry to the nurse. The nurse lets the Beta sponsor know when laundry is dropped off.

Beta students wash and dry the laundry during breaks in the school day. It is the goal to return the clean laundry to the nurse by the next school day. Students do not know who’s laundry they are washing. The nurse returns the clean laundry to the student.

As the year progressed, more students took advantage of Beta’s laundry service. It is hoped that the service can continue next year, as long as there is still funding for laundry soap and dryer sheets.

It wasn’t only students who got to use the service. When the ice storm left some staff members without electricity for several days, Beta Club was happy to do laundry for them as well.

Eighth grade Beta students who mainly helped with the service project are: Kynlee Needling, Smith Wilson, Kylie Dillow, Lindyn Eudy, Alli Leek, Trent Miller and Hayden Lewis.



Beta students Lindyn Eudy, Smith Wilson, and Kynlee Needling fold clean clothes.



Beta students Lindyn Eudy and Kynlee Needling give a laundry bag filled with clean clothes to Nurse Jackie Plott to return to a student.

Shawnee Students of the quarter

The Shawnee School District at Wolf Lake honored the Students of the Quarter for the third and fourth quarters of the school year at the May 20 meeting of the Board of Education. These students were selected for this honor for academic excellence, citizenship and attendance. They received a certificate and \$25 from First Southern Bank of Grand Tower.



Students of the Third Quarter
Front row, from left, Archer Davis (kindergarten) and Landon Ford (4th grade). Back row, from left, Eliza Ford (9th grade), Board President Trenton Colyer, Malorie Buskohl (6th grade) and Carlie Chapman (7th grade). Not pictured: Haleigh Charles (10th grade).



Students of the Fourth Quarter
From left, Gracelynn Bigham (8th grade), Makena Fowler, (4th grade) Milam Wilson (1st grade), Board President Trenton Colyer and Jackson Weber (6th grade). Not pictured: Kyler Jewell (10th grade) and Daisy Taylor (11th grade).

Obituaries

Ann Ellen Williams

Ann Ellen Williams, age 86, of Cairo, passed away on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at Countryside Healthcare in Bardwell, Ky.

She was born on March 31, 1939 to George Loree and Bernice Vivian (Walker) Harrison in Cairo, Ill.

Ann had previously resided in Bettendorf, Iowa and Boynton Beach, Fla.

She retired from Shawnee Development after 26 years of service. She had worked as an LPN at St. Mary's Hospital in Cairo and later worked at Daystar Care Center also in Cairo and she had worked in private duty nursing in Florida and Illinois.

She loved her animals and being outside in her yard. She was a member of the Daughters of Isabella and the Altar Guild at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Cairo.

She had attended Cairo Baptist Church in her early years. Ann had been married to Joe Edwin Williams of Cairo, Ill. Ann received her last rites on May 20, 2025 from Father Basilio Az Cuc.

Survivors include her sons, Geoffrey (Debbie) Williams and Robin Todd Williams; daughter, Laurie (William) Berry; eight grandchildren, Stephanie (Christopher) Dren-



nan, Lauren (Kris) Dillman, Holly Williams, Haley Rae (Taylor) Daugherty, Taylor Shae (Chris) Spurlock, Amber Berry, Charlotte (Cody) Rust, and Jeffrey Berry; and 15 great-grandchildren; and the love of her life and most loyal companions, Gabe and Marley.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, May 28 at Mighty Rivers Regional Worship Center in Cairo with Rev. Larry Potts officiating.

Interment followed the service at Spencer Heights Cemetery in Mounds, Ill.

In lieu of flower, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to Shriners Hospital for Children and/or Mighty Rivers Regional Worship Center.

Crain Funeral Home in Cairo is in charge of arrangements.

Union County Fixin's Bacon and Cheddar Corn Muffins

6 bacon slices, cooked, drained, and crumbled
2 cups self-rising white cornmeal mix
1 Tablespoon sugar
1 1/2 cups buttermilk
1 large egg
4 Tablespoons butter, melted
1 cup (4 oz) shredded sharp cheddar cheese
Vegetable cooking spray

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
Combine cornmeal mix and sugar in medium bowl. Make a well in center of mixture.
Stir together buttermilk and eggs. Add to well of cornbread mix, stirring just until dry in-

gredients are moistened.
Stir in melted butter, cheese, and bacon.
Heat a 12-cup muffin pan in oven for 5 minutes.
Remove pan from oven and coat with cooking spray. Spoon batter into hot muffin pan, filling almost full.
Bake at 425 degrees for 15-20 minutes or until golden.
Remove from pan to wire rack and let cool 10 minutes.
Additional suggestions: for spicy muffins add pepper jack cheese and a can of chopped green chilies, drained, with cheese and butter; these are also good with a folded egg inserted into cut apart muffins, to create a sandwich.



Happy Birthday

Martha Ann Webb (middle) was blessed with wonderful family and friends with many celebrations for her 80th birthday on May 15. Martha Ann welcomed two other birthday girls to the Little Egypt Red Hat Ladies dinner, Betty Webb (left) May 17 birthday, and Macky Cohen (right) June 1.



Red Hat Ladies meet

The Little Egypt Red Hat Ladies met at Pizza Hut in Anna. Pictured were, in the front row, from left, Barbara McNeely, Martha Ann Webb (hostess and birthday girl), Shirley Page (hostess), Pam Baker, Glenda McDowell, Sara Wylie (birthday girl and guest singer).

Back row, from left. Lillian Milam, Kathy Jackson Milam Queen Mom, Cathy Ziegler, Lillah Williams, Brenda Lovelace, Shirley Vines (birthday girl), Carole Anderson, Larry and Rosemary Dillow, Venus Buck.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

The Mill Creek Village Board met on Tuesday, May 20. The contract for mowing was signed. Southern Seven issued a reminder that spraying for mosquitoes has to be done through a licensed individual. One will be contacted soon.

Larger signs will be purchased and mounted to remind folks that dogs, ATVs, UTVs, golf carts and such are not allowed in the park. There will be additional signage to remind patrons that the park is closed to everyone from dusk to dawn.

It's been reported that private property signs are also being ignored and illegal dumping has been noted. The village follows the ordinances of the county and all violations will be reported to the sheriff's office who will issue citations. The next meeting will be held on June 17.

Once again, it's soggy outside. At least we aren't dealing with nasty storms this week. I keep seeing photos of the Marion area and wince at each one. What a heartbreaking mess. I don't know if I'm ready to start singing the "rain, rain, go away" song, but as long as it keeps to a couple days a week, I'm good. I fear it's going to decide to dry up come July.

The vegetable garden is coming along nicely, so far, and I can only pray my husband's hard work on it pays off later. Mine and my mother-in-law's flowers are doing great and my Annabelles are slap-dab full of blooms. Last year some of them were dinner plate sized. We'll see what I get this year. Remember the Annabelle Festival is June 14, so come out and enjoy and bring home an Annabelle hydrangea of your own.

I had occasion to visit someone else's gardens on Friday. Gary and Emily Meyers graciously invited me to come get some of their irises. Gary wouldn't let me walk away with just those, however. I now have cuttings of a white peony, Jacob's coat, Sweet Williams, and a large variety of iris. We share a lot of the same plants in our yards and flower beds, but I will be bringing some of my pink peony in exchange for the white.

In addition to the flower cuttings, we had a very nice visit. Both of them were in the same graduating class as my late mother. Emily has shared photos of some of their class reunions with me. Emily and I are also in the same chapter of DAR and share a love of history and genealogy. It was nice to chat with them and see what Emily's ancestral home looks like now, as they've settled in it again.

I was also privy to the history of the Boyd farm and saw photographs of when there was once a booming apple orchard on the farm. Emily and I both chatted about our visits to cemeteries and the uniqueness of

some of her family's headstones and along the way we learned that my husband and her share a Revolutionary patriot. It's a small world, indeed. It was a wonderful morning with them and I appreciated every minute and every plant I came home with.

Later that evening we were invited to a fish/shrimp fry up at Bon Kohler's place in Mill Creek. The get-together allowed us all to have a last visit with Bon's children, Dalton and Cheryl, who are visiting from California, but leave this week.

There was a nice sized crowd there. I met some new folks and saw plenty of those I already knew, including family. Everyone contributed something to the meal, while Mike Whitney was the awesome fry cook. There ended up being outfit changes as the evening cooled off, but the bonfire was nice at warming us up and keeping the worst of the bugs away.

We all shared some laughs, some fond and borderline embarrassing reminiscences, and great food. Dalton and Cheri kept us entertained with their sibling bickering too. It was great to see them and we can't wait for their return and, since Cheri's son will be moving up on the farm with Bon soon, we hope they can come more often.

Mill Creek Baptist met this past Sunday to hear a message that came from the book of Luke. On this Memorial Day weekend, we were reminded of those that gave their life for our country, but also reminded that Jesus gave His life for everyone. Our remembrance of his sacrifice should be daily.

A recognition of graduates was also held Sunday at church with a fellowship dinner afterwards. We congratulated Xavier Richardson on his 8th grade graduation and Dalton Cobb on his high school graduation. We are proud of you guys!

Those added to the prayer list are Charlotte Craft, who will be having surgery this week; Jack Richardson for health; Maddie Keller for a difficult pregnancy; and Claude Sadler asked prayer for a friend who is terminally ill. Please help us with prayer for these folks.

My daughter and her family have been on a vacation to Kansas City to see Lego Land and Overland Park with their 3 children and are on their way home today. She called to let me know she's been handed some pay-back in the form of her sons' constant asking "Are we there yet?" and "Are we almost home?" It gave me a good chuckle. She was much the same, to the point my dad gave her an atlas so that she could figure it out herself. She still has it! Anyway, it sounds to me like a hint that perhaps I need to do the same.



Poppy Day

Anna American Legion Auxiliary 344 members expressed appreciation to all who donated on Poppy Day to help our Veterans. They were very thankful and impressed with the hospitality shown by the Kroger manager and employees. Pictured are, from left, Martha Ann Webb, Shirley Page, Shirley Vines, Janet Hawk and Homer Hawk, commander of American Legion.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on Sunday, May 25.

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

The message was "Our Freedom With Christ Comes With Responsibilities" from Galatians 5:1, 2 Corinthians 3:17, Hebrews 6:10, 1 Peter 2:16, Ephesians 4:32, Romans 15:13, 1 Corinthians 13:13, 1 Corinthians 16:14.

There were no evening services on May 25, 2025

Celebrating birthdays this week are: 25th Nancy Smith. Terry Wiseman.

Friday, May 30 - Saturday, May 31

Olivet regional quiz at Olivet. Cameron Mull will be participating from the Anna Church.

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship on Sunday, May 25, with opening prayer given by Pastor Perry Wright.

The Prayer List was went over and those who are sick were prayed for.

The call to worship was "Testimony."

"Therefore, since through God, mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."

"We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be reveal in our body. It is written: 'I believed: therefore, I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak." 2 Corinthians Chapters 4 and 10.

The Worship Team lead in music worship with "Blessed Assurance," "Open the Eyes of my Heart" and "Counting my Blessings."

Pastor Lupe's sermon continuing in the Book of Revelation, was titled, "The Red Dragon." Highlights of his sermon included, in Revelation Chapter 12, the red dragon is a powerful and symbolic figure representing satan. He is described as having seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns, signifying great authority and influence over earthly kingdoms. The dragon attempts to devour the male child born to the woman, a child understood

Saturday, May 31

A teen party will be held at the Fellowship Hall from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday, June 1

Graduate Sunday to honor 8th grade, high school and college graduates.

Breakfast, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning service, 10:35 a.m. Evening worship service, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 4

A Wednesday night service is planned at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A youth group meeting is planned at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The church can be contacted by calling the church office at 833-6702 and leaving a message if necessary or by calling Pastor Wright at 618-534-7103.

to represent Christ. After failing, the dragon wages war in heaven but is defeated and cast down to earth by Michael and his angels. Enraged, the dragon then turns his fury against the woman and her offspring, symbolizing the persecution of God's people throughout the ages.

The Mission 2025 Yard Sales continue on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. to around noon. Come by and shop with us, get in on some great buys and support our Mission trip too.

Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. and is for all ages. Worship time begins at 10:15 as well as Children's Worship.

Prayer Time is at 6 p.m. and the youth program runs from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday evening.

A bus runs for all of these programs and services. Please call the church office to get your name on a list to ride the bus and to find out about these and other programs in the church.

First Baptist Church is located at 409 Morgan St. in Anna. The church's phone number is 833-5416.

The church's Facebook page is Facebook.com/AnnaFirst-BaptistChurch.

The church's email is fbcan-na409@gmail.com.

You are welcome to call or come by to visit during the day, or if we can pray with you, answer any questions you may have. It is our prayer, God will bless you and your family.



Scholarship awarded

Menda Cash (right), Library Chairman of Anna First Baptist Church, presented Trinity Evans (left) with the Library scholarship to help her with college on Sunday morning May 25.

Honor roll, high honor roll students named for Lick Creek

The Lick Creek School District has recognized the students earning honor roll and high honor roll status for the 4th quarter of the school year

High Honor Roll
Madelyn Coomer, Lawson Duty, Tanner Gerardi, Taylynn Gerardi, Jocelyn Lyon, Fritz Moberley, Emma Schlenker, Michael Schmidt, Brooklyn Shipley, Bella Cook, Kooper Glasco, Elijah Hall.

Isabella Mendez Fabery, Paisley New, Hayes Pinnon, Daniel Plott, Owen Corbit, Payton Brown, Leah Buchheit, Hayden Craft, Emily Hunter and Cooper Kneeven.

Honor Roll
Taylor Baker, Bentley Cobb, Ayla Corbit, Ryan Houseman, Jet Newman, Emmie Orange, Maggie Roach, William Brown, Camden Kneeven.

Jaylyn Nice, Zander Sullens, Easton Corbit, Lilliah Hoehner, Eli Huff, Millie Morris and Kaleb Stover.

News from Camp Ground Church, Community

Bro. Easton's sermon Sunday was "His Word Over Ours: A New Creation" with scripture selection 2 Corinthians 5:17.

"The world looks at us critically and notices all our flaws and short-comings. God knows our faults, but when we accept His offer of salvation through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ, God remembers our faults no more."

"When we are adopted by God, we get a complete makeover: our hearts are transformed, and we are guaranteed eternal life with Him. When we stand before God, we will have a new body, we will be a new creation."

A group of the youngest attendees rang the bell to begin Morning Worship. Raelynn Bonner and Callie Pind took up the morning tithes and offerings. The Elder for June will be Sandra Boaz.

Belated April birthday wishes to Mary Robinson, 25, and Mary Jones, 29. Also, to Berna Gerard on May 5, Landon Roach, 17, Vanda Gerard, 20, and Dean Jones, 25.

Belated anniversary greetings to Billy and Donna Williams April 28, David and Jhan Miller May 11, and Cody and

Sara Poole, May 26.

Praises were voiced for successful surgeries for three of our church family, for one who's spine treatment is not going to be as invasive, and one having only minor injuries after a major accident.

It seems our prayer list grows longer each week; but it is a privilege and duty as Christians to pray for and minister to those in any type of need.

Congratulations to Trent and Erin Smith who were married in Auburn, Ala. May 17. Trent is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Darren Smith. Attending the wedding from here were Trent's grandfather Bill Smith, aunt Melissa Smith, great aunt Karen Vaughn, and cousins Chelsey Smith, Kim Emery, Alicia and Madie Brown.

Congratulations to Reed Crane who was part of an awesome recent weekend of baseball. His team had a five-game sweep in play at Sikeston, Mo., with Reed being named tourney MVP.

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

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

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



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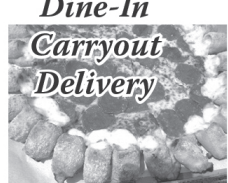
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Purchased by Death



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On Memorial Day, we honor those who have died for our freedom throughout history. We honor their torture and their pain; we honor their families torn by tragedy; we honor their faith in freedom; we honor their faith in God. On this day we can pray for the lives they gave and for the loved ones left behind, pray for our country and our leaders. Above all, take full advantage of your priceless freedom of worship...purchased by death.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Ephesians	Ephesians	Ephesians	Ephesians	Acts	Acts	Psalm
1.1-23	2.1-22	3.1-21	4.1-16	1.1-11	1.12-26	47

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Worship service at 10:45 a.m.
Midweek service Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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Cobden, IL 51-3GC

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Worship Service
10:30am**

**Wednesday
Bible Study
7pm**

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HELP WANTED

The City of Anna, IL is accepting applications for the position of a Full-Time Police Chief. The City of Anna seeks a skilled Police Chief with exceptional interpersonal skills and proven leadership and management experience in law enforcement. The Chief must be strongly committed to public service, dedicated to community policing and understanding of the importance of managing crime. The Chief directs the planning, organizing, controlling and budgeting of all Police functions and activities with the City. Eligible applicants must reside within 30 minutes of Anna City limits, have PTI certification. Prefer at least ten years of law enforcement experience, three of those years in a supervisory position. Prefer candidates who also hold an Associate's degree or Bachelor's degree, be proficient with MS Office and have experience in a "Bargaining Unit" environment. Salary range of \$65,000+, depending on experience, as well as a full benefit package is offered by the City of Anna. Applications will be available for interested candidates at Anna City Hall or can be downloaded below. Please return resume and employment application to the Human Resources Department at Anna City Hall, 103 Market Street Anna, IL 62906 or by email to mmcreynolds@cityofanna.org. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

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YARD SALE

Yard sale Saturday May 31 10am-3pm Williford Rd Jonesboro Tools, Toys & Household stuff
Big Sale Anna 143 W. Vienna St Saturday, May 31 8am-3pm Cleaning Out!
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2024-2025 AMENDED BUDGET

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Education of Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81 in the State of Illinois that the tentative amended budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, is on file and conveniently available for inspection at the District Office, 608 S. Main St., Anna, Illinois, after 8:00 a.m. on the 20th day of May 2025. Notice is further given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 5:45 p.m. on the 23rd day of June 2025, at the address listed above.

8221-953914

NOTICE UNDER ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME ACT State of Illinois SS County of Union

Notice is hereby given pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Name in the conduct of Transaction of Business in the State," as Amended that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Union County, Filed this 30th day of April, 2025, under the Assumed Name of The Crib Plant Nursery with the place of business located at 325 Texas Eastern Rd., Buncombe, IL 62912, and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietors of said Business is:
Owners: Leslie Roach
Address: 325 Texas Eastern Rd. Buncombe, IL 62912
Stephanie L. Cox
Union County Clerk
8221-953647

Anna-Jo Garden Club News

By Julie O. Murphy, AJGC Secretary

The Anna-Jo Garden Club spring plant sale was a great success. We are grateful for all the hard work and generosity of our neighbors, including Liz M, Paul and Chuck, and Brenda T. We look for all of Union County to be more beautiful with so many lovingly hand-raised plant beauties shared at the sale.
Dane Mason of Creative Scapes Landscaping and Seed and Soil Nursery of Duquoin shared at our May meeting on the art of container gardening. Dane and his crew have won the KCB award for SIH Memorial Hospital of Carbondale for their beautiful and colorful landscaping work. We learned about design elements and preferred plants and amendments with a live demonstration.
We welcomed a new

Fort de Chartres Historic Site set to host Rendezvous

The Fort de Chartres Rendezvous, a popular annual tradition in Randolph County, is scheduled to take place June 7-8 at the Fort de Chartres State Historic Site near Prairie du Rocher. Rendezvous hours are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 7, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 8. The Rendezvous is free and open to the public. Special event parking is available for \$10 per car. Donations are welcome. The site is at 1350 Illinois Route 155, about 4 miles west of Prairie du Rocher. Highlights include a flintlock muzzleloader shooting competition; period food, drink and entertainment; artisan and craft demonstrations; 18th-century children's games; militia and military events; and more. The event is hosted by

Infrastructure projects discussed at Anna City Council meeting

Plans for infrastructure improvements were discussed at last week's regular meeting of the Anna City Council. The meeting was Tuesday evening, May 20, at Anna City Hall. Other topics discussed at the meeting were plans for the 2025 Christmas in Downtown Anna celebrations and the celebration of the nation's 250th birthday in 2026. The infrastructure projects include wastewater treatment plant improvements and work planned by the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT, from the four-way stop in the downtown Anna area all the way to the square in Jonesboro. A specific timetable for the street project has not been announced. IDOT has suggested that the city have a plan in place for the street project. The city has conducted a survey of owners of businesses in the downtown Anna regarding improvements they would like to

Several events scheduled for Anna Arts Center

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council's Anna Arts Center has several events scheduled from the upcoming weeks. The arts center is located on the 100 block of West Davie Street in Anna. The "Arts by the People" exhibit is an opportunity for members of the community to showcase their work. Categories of work accepted include painting, drawing, photography and fine crafts. Fees for entry are \$5 for adults and \$3 for 18 and under. Payments should be made with artwork delivery. Work needs to be delivered on Wednesday, June 11 or Thursday, June 12 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at 123 W. Davie St. in Anna. Ribbons and cash awards will be given to winners. For questions, call Lee Hackney at 904-625-1109 or email vabchlee@gmail.com
Tai Chi Gung with Maribeth Smith is available every Monday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Tai Chi chair exercises are scheduled

member, Amanda K. from Jonesboro and a guest from Chicago, Betty, sister of member Jean F. We shared a lovely tea party hosted by Susan S., Nancy S., and Glenda M. We learned about cultivation and care of chrysanthemums. We learned that Monty and Gail Webb of Anna have been honored as the May Garden of the Month. We encourage everyone to celebrate National Garden Week June 1-7. We anticipate the Annabelle Festival on June 14. AJGC will be hosting children's activities, speakers and have several opportunities to purchase our hand-raised heritage Annabelles. We will again be hosting the AJGC Park Garden Walk on June 26 at 6 pm. We will be honoring local young people with scholarships and sharing the love and beauty of our garden park with the community.

Les Coureurs des Bois de Fort de Chartres and sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, which manages the site, and Les Amis du Fort de Chartres. The Fort de Chartres State Historic Site marks the location of the last of three successive forts named "de Chartres" built by the French during their 18th-century colonial occupation of what today is Illinois. The third fort, erected in the 1750s, served as the French seat of government and its chief military installation in the Illinois Country. The historic site features a reconstruction of portions of the third fort and was declared a National Historic Landmark in the 1960s. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

wastewater treatment. The new system would carry the city many years into the future. Improvements made as part of the project also are expected to save the city costs on energy needed to operate the wastewater treatment system. At last week's meeting, the city council passed a resolution approving an engineering service agreement with Horner Shifrin for the wastewater treatment improvement plant. With the project moving forward, it is anticipated that a minimum of two years would be needed before construction begins. While the Christmas holiday season is seven months away, planning already is underway for this year's Christmas in Downtown Anna celebration, which is set for Nov. 29. A new pavilion which is under construction along East Davie is expected to be available for use for the holiday season event. The city is reviewing options which are available for attractions for the event, including a skating rink and activities for children. July 4, 2026, will be the date of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. An Illinois America 250 commission has been established to highlight local stories, places and programs in Illinois. The City of Anna is an Illinois America 250 Community and is committed to celebrating and commemorating the nation's birthday. The city has received a \$2,000 Walmart Spark Good program grant that will support the Shop with a Cop/Firefighter program. Acting Chief of Police Brent Sims said he is working to update equipment for the police department's squad cars. Work also is being done on policy updates for the department.

for Tuesdays at 3 p.m. The cost is \$50 per month or \$15 for walk ins. The Southern Illinois Music Festival Antigone String Quartet is scheduled for a show at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council on Sunday, June 1 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 or \$5 for students. The Jive for Jazz interactive concert with Mel Goot as part of the Southern Illinois Music Festival is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4 at 10 a.m. The show is free and open to children of all ages. An opening reception for a photography exhibit by Brian Alwood is scheduled for Friday, June 6 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The exhibit will from from

Health department begins active tick surveillance

Vectors are insects, ticks, rats, mice, birds and other animals that transmit disease-producing organisms to humans. To prevent the human diseases caused by these vectors, the Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, works closely with local health departments, governments, mosquito abatement programs and the public to monitor and control them. In May, Southern 7 Health Department, S7HD, begins conducting active tick surveillance in the region for all species of ticks, including those causing Lyme disease. Active surveillance means that S7HD Environmental Health staff will be actively going to each of the lower seven counties in Illinois to collect ticks. The purpose of the testing will be to determine what, if any, disease the ticks are carrying and also species identification. While there may be several varieties of tick species collected, only deer ticks are submitted to the CDC for testing. All other species are tested by IDPH. Only ticks collected through active surveillance will be tested. The health department cannot submit ticks for testing that have been attached to someone. Those who are concerned about an attached tick are advised to contact their local healthcare provider for possible testing and treatment. Symptoms of Lyme disease include fever and chills, general ill feeling, headache, joint pain, muscle pain, stiff neck and a circular rash that resembles a bullseye. General treatment of the disease includes a series of antibiotics. To avoid being bit by a tick, public health officials offer the following tips: Wear light-colored, protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts, long trousers, boots or sturdy shoes, and a head covering. Apply insect repellent

containing 10 percent to 30 percent DEET primarily to clothes. Walk in the center of trails so weeds do not brush against you. Check yourself, others and pets every two to three hours for ticks. Remove any tick promptly by grasping it with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and gently, but firmly, pull it straight out. Wash the bite area and your hands thoroughly with soap and water, and apply an antiseptic to the bite site. Make sure the property around your home is unattractive to ticks. Keep your grass mowed and keep weeds cut. S7HD plans to conduct tick collections in the spring and fall. Results from this spring's collection will be released this fall, with fall results released next spring. For more information, contact S7HD environmental health director Miranda Adams at 618-634-2297, extension 973114, or visit dph.illinois.gov.

Send Classified Ads and Legal Notices to classifieds@annanews.com

Stinson Summer Reading Program kick off events set

Kick off events are planned for this year’s Stinson Memorial Public Library Summer Reading Program offered. The program is scheduled from May 30 through July 31.

A kick off event is planned from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, May 30, at the main library in Anna. Stinson Memorial Public Library is located at 409 S. Main St. in Anna. The event will offer free hot dogs, a bounce house, an opportunity to sign up for the Summer Reading Program and other

activities, including “Simon Says,” which starts at 5:30 p.m.

The Cobden Lions Club is joining with Stinson Memorial Public Library for a summer reading program kick off event Monday, June 2. The event is scheduled from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the park in downtown Cobden. The kick off will feature hot dogs, chips, snack, water, bounce houses and a bubble party.

Readers of all ages are invited to participate in this year’s Summer Reading Program. Age-specific reading

challenges will be offered for Little Learners, ages 0 to 5; kids, ages 6 to 12; teens, ages 13 to 17; and adults, those 18 years of age and older.

The program will offer personalized reading challenges, suggested reading lists for each age group, activities, mini-games, special events and community activities. Participants will be able to earn points, badges and prizes.

Signup is available at the library and online at stinson.readsquared.com.

Anna VFW post hosting fish fry fundraiser

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 is having an all-you-can-eat fish fry fundraiser on June 6 at the Post from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Dine in, carry out and drive thru orders will be available. Tickets are \$15, and children under 12 eat free (dine in only).

Everyone who attends will be given a ticket to nominate a local (within Union County) charity, school group (art club, band, Beta Club, stu-

dent council, sports, booster club, PTO, etc), church fundraising group, local fundraiser for medical needs, Anna Arts Center (they are raising money for a new roof), Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, 4H, etc.

It can be any group trying to raise money within our county.

At 7 p.m., a ticket will be drawn, and that group will receive 10% of the evening's sales plus all tips received that night.

The post hopes that the various groups will contact people within their groups to come out. The more people that nominate any group, the better the chances are of winning.

If you have any questions or would like to order drive thru please feel free to call Linda at 618-833-7737. Delivery options to the hospital, nursing home or high rise are available for 5 orders or more. Call ahead to set up a time.

Television Listings

THURSDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	Sports	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	“Meg 2: The Trench” (‘23) Jason Statham.	★★★ “Scream 3” (‘00)	★★★ “The Lodge” (‘22)
7 PM :30	9-1-1 “No Place Like”	Marriage Ghosts	Burgers	Transplant (HD)	2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs “Playoffs Conference Final”	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas		“House of 1000 Corpses” (‘03)	“The Mist” (‘07, Horror) Thomas Jane. (HD)
8 PM :30	9-1-1 “Masks” (HD)	(‘01) Matlock (HD)	Family Guy (‘31) North	Law & Order: SVU		Bang (HD)	★★★ “Nope” (‘22, Horror) Daniel Kaluuya. (R) (HD)	Phineas	100 Foot Wave (HD)	“The Devil’s Rejects” Sid Haig.	(‘10) The Chi (HD)
9 PM :30	9-1-1 “Confessions”	Elsbeth “Tearjerker”	Local Programs Local info.	Law & Order (HD)	SC (HD)	Bang (HD)		Phineas	Last of Us (HD)		
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	Sports	★★★ “Law Abiding Citizen” (‘09) Jamie Foxx.		Phineas	(‘49) 100 Foot Wave	(‘18) ★★★ “3 from Hell” (‘19, Horror) Sid Haig.	“Gangs of New York” Leonardo DiCaprio.
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(‘35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(‘35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	(‘45) The Rehearsal		
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night	Sports			Phineas	100 Foot		

MAY 29, 2025

FRIDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	Sports	Bang (HD)	“John Wick” (‘14) (R)	Big City	Carmichael	“Love & Mercy” (‘15)	“Gladiator” (‘00) (HD)
7 PM :30	Shark Tank (HD)	NCIS: Sydney (HD)	UFL Football St. Louis Battlehawks at DC Defenders (Live)	Place	NBA Countdown (HD)	Bang (HD)		Big City	(‘26) ★★★ “Inception” (‘10) Leonardo DiCaprio. (HD)	“The Imitation Game” (‘14, Thriller) (HD)	The Chi (HD)
8 PM :30	(‘01) 20/20 Investigative news. (HD)	Fire Country (HD)		Dateline NBC Investigative news. (HD)	2025 NBA Play-offs “Western Conference Finals” (Live)	★★½ “White House Down” (‘13, Action) Channing Tatum.	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (T) (HD)	Phineas and Ferb			Couples
9 PM :30		S.W.A.T. (HD)						Phineas	Real Time with (HD)	(‘54) “The Florida Project” (‘17)	“The Come-back Trail” (‘20) Robert De Niro.
10 PM :30	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	(‘38) “Magic Mike’s Last Dance” (‘23) Salma Hayek. (HD)	Resident Alien (HD)	Phineas	The Last of Us (HD)	“The Light-house” Willem Dafoe.	Couples
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(‘35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(‘35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)		(‘08) 9-1-1 “7.1” (HD)	Phineas	(‘52) Real Time with		Couples
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night				Phineas			

MAY 30, 2025

SATURDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local	Local Programs	MLB Baseball “Regional Coverage-Teams TBA” (Live) (HD)	Local Programs	College Softball (Live) (HD)	Wom Soccer	“John Wick” (‘28) ★★★½	Big City	To Be Announced	(5:10) “In Time” (‘11)	“Dark” (R)
7 PM :30	2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs “Teams TBA” (Live)	Tracker “The Disciple”		Destination X		Postgame	★★★ “John Wick: Chapter 4” (‘23, Action) Keanu Reeves. (R) (HD)	Big City	“Mountainhead” (‘25, Drama) (HD)	“Unstoppable” (‘10, Thriller) (HD)	“Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol” (‘11)
8 PM :30		48 Hours (HD)		Yes, Chef! (HD)	UFC Fight Night (Live)	Bang (HD)		Phineas and Ferb		★★★ “Birds of Prey: And the” Margot Robbie.	“Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation” (‘15) Tom Cruise.
9 PM :30		48 Hours (HD)	Local Programs	Dateline NBC (HD)		Bang (HD)		Phineas	(‘02) The Last of Us		
10 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	Next Level Chef (HD)	Local		Bang (HD)	“The Hunger Games” Jennifer Lawrence.	Phineas	(‘54) “Mountainhead” (‘25, Drama) (HD)	“The Purge: Election Year” (‘16)	The Chi (HD)
11 PM :30	Local Programs		Local Programs	Saturday Night Live (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)			Phineas			

MAY 31, 2025

SUNDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	NHRA Drag Racing “New England Nationals”	American Ninja Warrior “Womens” (HD)	Sports	“Librarian” (‘08) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	(5:25) “Movie”	(5:56) “Mountainhead” (‘25) Steve Carell. (M)	(‘02) The Knick (HD)	“BlackKkKlansman”
7 PM :30	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)			2025 NBA Play-offs Minnesota vs Oklahoma City (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	“Movie”		“Problemista” (‘23) Julio Torres.	(‘10) The Chi (HD)
8 PM :30	“Inside Out” (‘15, Comedy) Amy Poehler. (HD)	Tracker (HD)	Secret Service (HD)	America’s Got Talent “Auditions 1” (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		To Be Announced	“Table 19” (‘17) Anna Kendrick.	The Chi “More Life”
9 PM :30		Watson	Local Programs		SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)	Day of the Jackal	Wizards	To Be Announced		MobLand (HD)
10 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	Last Week	“Dinner for Schmucks” (‘10) Steve Carell.	The Chi
11 PM :30		Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	SportsCenter (HD)	“The Librarian: Quest for the Spear” (‘04)	Law & Order: SVU	Kiff	To Be Announced		“The Last Samurai” Tom Cruise.
							Law & Order: SVU	Kiff	Last Week		

JUNE 1, 2025

MONDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Sports	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	(‘19) Last Week (HD)	“Black Adam” (‘22)	“The Godfather” (R)
7 PM :30	Jeopardy! Masters	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Lego Masters (HD)	American Ninja Warrior “Qualifiers 1” (HD)	The Point	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous		★★½ “Blue Beetle” (‘23) Xolo Maridueña. (HD)	MobLand (HD)
8 PM :30	Jeopardy! Masters	FBI “Riptide” (HD)	The Quiz with Balls		2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs Edmonton vs Dallas (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		To Be Announced	★★★ “The Hunger Games” (‘12) Jennifer Lawrence. (HD)	The Chi
9 PM :30	Jeopardy! Masters	FBI: Most Wanted	Local Programs Local info.	Yes, Chef! (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	To Be Announced		“Gods of Egypt” (‘16) Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.	(‘45) “The Hunt for Red October” (‘90) Sean Connery.
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Dad (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	(‘45) To Be Announced	“Hunger Games: Catching” (‘13)		
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(‘35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(‘35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Dad (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey		“House Party” (‘23)	“First Blood” (‘82) (R)
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Dad (HD)		Bluey			

JUNE 2, 2025

TUESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Behind LIVE	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	ESPN Original Documentaries	MLB Baseball Cleveland Guardians at New York Yankees (Live) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	(5:05) “Movie”	To Be Announced	“Edge of Darkness”	“Raiders of the Lost Ark” Harrison Ford.
7 PM :30	Celebrity Wheel of	NCIS “Close to Home”	The Cleaning Lady (HD)	America’s Got Talent “Auditions 2” (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	(‘05) “Movie”	“A Perfect Get-away” (‘09) (HD)	“Triple 9” (‘16, Thriller) Casey Affleck. (R) (HD)	
8 PM :30	Jeopardy! Masters	NCIS: Origins (HD)			Countdown		Law & Order: SVU		(‘40) “Mountainhead” (‘25) Steve Carell. (HD)		“Temple of Doom” (‘84) Harrison Ford. (HD)
9 PM :30	(‘01) The Game Show	NCIS: Sydney (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Destination X (HD)	WNBA Basketball Dallas vs Seattle (Live) (HD)	MLB Baseball New York Mets at Los Angeles Dodgers (Live) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	(‘05) “Movie”		(‘56) ★★★½ “Anthropoid” (‘16) Cillian Murphy.	“Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade” (‘89)
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local			Law & Order: SVU	(‘50) TBA	(‘44) J. Carmichael		
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(‘35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(‘35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	(‘40) TBA	“Midsommar” (‘19)	
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night	Sports						

JUNE 3, 2025

WEDNESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NCAA Women’s (Live)	Bang (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Big City	(‘19) Last Week (HD)	(5:25) “Wilson” (‘17)	“Hard Truths” (‘24)
7 PM :30	Celebrity Wheel of	Hollywood Squares	MasterChef (HD)	Chicago Med (HD)	College Softball “WCWS Finals Game 1” (Live) (HD)	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite “Fyter Fest”	“Walking Tall” (‘04) Dwayne Johnson. (HD)	Big City	“Pride & Prejudice” (‘05) Keira Knightley.	★★★ “RoboCop” (‘14, Action) Joel Kinnaman.	“12 Years a Slave” (‘13) Chiwetel Ejiofor. (HD)
8 PM :30	Jeopardy! Masters	Raid The Cage (HD)	(‘02) Secret Service	Chicago Fire (HD)				Big City			
9 PM :30	Celebrity Jeopardy!	The Equalizer (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Chicago P.D. (HD)		All Elite Wrestling: Collision “Fyter Fest 2025”	(‘55) ★★★ “Gridiron Gang” (‘06, Drama) Dwayne Johnson. (HD)	StuGo Kiff	(‘10) Pee-wee as Himself (HD)	(‘58) “Drag Me to Hell” (‘09) (HD)	(‘15) “Bridge of Spies” (‘15, Drama) Tom Hanks. (HD)
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)			Jessie	(‘50) Pee-wee as Himself (HD)	“Skin” (‘18) Johnse Allende Jr.	
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(‘35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(‘35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Family		Bluey			“Run & Gun”
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night	Sports	Family		Bluey			

JUNE 4, 2025

THURSDAY

7:31pm	“The Not-So-Silent Partner”
CBS Ghosts	Sam and Jay are forced into an awkward situation when Mark demands to meet the silent investor in Jay’s restaurant after too many construction delays. TVPG (HD)
8:00pm	
USA Nope ★★★ (2022, Horror)	Daniel Kaluuya, Keke Palmer. As they go about their everyday lives running their California horse ranch, two siblings discover an unbelievable mystery in the skies above. R (HD)

FRIDAY

8:54pm	
MAX The Florida Project ★★★½ (2017, Drama)	Willem Dafoe, Brooklynn Kimberly Prince. Mischievous young girl, living in a run-down hotel with her wayward but caring mother, encounters adventures with her friends over the course of a summer. R (HD)
9:00pm	
PARSHO The Comeback Trail ★★★ (2020, Comedy)	Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman. Two movie producers become indebted to the mob, so they attempt to save themselves by setting up an aging actor for an insurance scam. R (HD)

SATURDAY

8:45pm	
PARSHO Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation ★★★½ (2015, Action)	Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner. Ethan and his team must use their advanced skills and resources to stop a secretive organization of elite agents and assassins from destroying the IMF. PG-13 (HD)
10:00pm	
TBS The Hunger Games ★★★ (2012, Action)	Jennifer Lawrence, Stanley Tucci. In a post-apocalyptic future, an annual event is held in which 24 young people are pitted against each other in a bloody game of survival. PG-13 TV14 (HD)

SUNDAY

8:00pm	
ABC Inside Out ★★★★★ (2015, Comedy)	Amy Poehler, Bill Hader. When Riley is forced to move from the familiarity of the Midwest to San Francisco after her father accepts a new job, it sends her emotions reeling. PG TVPG (HD)
10:00pm	
TBS The Librarian: Quest for the Spear ★★½ (2004, Action)	Noah Wyle, Kelly Hu. When a magical artifact is stolen from his library, a meek librarian sets out to ensure its safe return with the assistance of a female martial arts expert. NR TVPG (HD)

MONDAY

7:00pm	
CBS The Neighborhood	“Bienvenidos a Nosotros” Marty’s plan to go back to work is complicated by his reluctance to send Daphne to daycare; Gemma notices an issue with Grover’s Spanish class grade. TVPG (HD)
8:00pm	
HBO The Hunger Games ★★★ (2012, Action)	Jennifer Lawrence, Stanley Tucci. In a post-apocalyptic future, an annual event is held in which 24 young people are pitted against each other in a bloody game of survival. PG-13 (HD)

TUESDAY

7:00pm	
MAX Triple 9 ★★★ (2016, Thriller)	Casey Affleck, Woody Harrelson. A rookie police officer, who survives an attempt on his life by the Russian Mafia and corrupt police officers, must try to bring them down. R (HD)
9:01pm	
ABC The Game Show Show	“Over The Top” Guests reflect on the nature of American game shows to reflect on how this genre of TV entertainment comments on broader social shifts in American culture. (HD)

WEDNESDAY

7:00pm	
NBC Chicago Med	“Love Will Tear Us Apart” Goodwin’s troubles continue; Charles and his former resident clash over a depressed patient; Lenox and Ripley help a car accident victim. TV14 (HD)
8:55pm	
USA Gridiron Gang ★★★ (2006, Drama)	Dwayne Johnson, Xzibit. Wanting to end the cycle of violence and death for the youths in the inner-city, a detention camp probation officer decides to start a football program. PG-13 TV14 (HD)

Opinion and Commentary

Illinois seen as hub for innovation, nation’s digital future

By Harvey Henson
Southern Illinois University

Illinois has long been a hub for innovation. Our strategic location in the heart of the Midwest amidst a robust network of top-tier universities, and a rich legacy of collaboration among private, public, and academic sectors are just a few reasons innovation continues to thrive here.

Since 2014, the STEM Education Research Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale has played a vital role in this innovation ecosystem – building, sustaining and advancing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education across local, regional and national levels. At the heart of our mission is preparing the next generation of STEM educators and professionals and promoting STEM literacy through research, education, and service.

We believe Illinois is a powerful engine for American leadership in innovation. But that leadership can no longer be taken for granted.

A recent report from the Lexington Institute warns that America’s technological edge is facing serious threats from global competitors – chief among them, China. The Chinese government has made its ambitions clear: to lead the digital economy. To that end, China has already invested more than \$2.8 trillion in strategic technologies like artificial intelligence, while also engaging in aggressive efforts to steal American intellectual property and trade secrets.

Perhaps most alarming is China’s projected advantage in workforce development. Over the next decade, it is expected to outproduce the United States by 27.5 million STEM graduates. Meanwhile, unfilled STEM positions in the United States continue to rise, creating critical gaps in our high-tech workforce.

This moment demands serious reflection. Are we prepared to cede leadership in digital innovation to an authoritarian regime – one that promotes AI tools rooted in censorship and revisionist history? The answer must be no. We envision a digital future built on democratic values, grounded in facts, and supported by an open and accessible internet. – where freedom of expression is a cornerstone, not a casualty.

Securing America’s tech leadership starts here in Illinois.

Our state has already made significant strides. We’re leading in emerging technologies like quantum computing, electric vehicle manufacturing, and agricultural innovation. Illinois has been recognized as a national tech hub, attracting millions in federal grants and spurring continued investment from the private sector.

But we can’t let up. What’s needed now is bold and sustained commitment from policymakers at every level...local, state and federal...to strengthen and expand America’s innovation ecosystem.

We must accelerate investments in critical technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced computing, and quantum science. At the same time, we must resist the urge to overregulate. While it’s important to address risks, excessive regulation can stifle the very innovation we’re trying to foster – particularly for startups and entrepreneurs, many of whom call Illinois home. A thoughtful, measured approach to policy will ensure innovation continues to thrive here.

Equally vital is a renewed national focus on STEM education. Technology is reshaping every sector of our economy, and we must prepare students, beginning in early childhood and continuing through higher education, to be fluent in the language of the digital age. Every student deserves access to high-quality STEM learning opportunities so they can help build and lead our future.

In recent years, STEM has evolved into STEAM – adding Art to acknowledge the creativity and design thinking essential to innovation. I like to think the "A" also stands for All of Us. Because this future belongs to all of us. Building it will take all of us. And protecting it demands strong leadership and smart policy that empowers all of us.

Harvey Henson is director of STEM Education Research Center at Southern Illinois University. The Illinois Press Association distributed this op-ed.

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Weather without any drama...and some other stuff, too...

Well, now, that was a nice change of pace. Early Sunday morning, Mother Nature treated us to some lightning...some thunder...some rain...all without a bit of drama...not even the sound of a tornado warning siren for a soundtrack...

A few days during the past week were even a bit on the “cool” side, at least for the end of May. I checked a couple of times, just to see...and we did not have any wind chills. I did hear a couple of comments about how cool it was on Memorial Day.

I still think we are going to wake up one morning in the not too distant future to learn that the high temperature for the day will be in the 90s, accompanied by some good ol’ Southern Illinois humidity. Can’t wait...

At least the wind keeps on blowing...and blowing... Meanwhile...

If you happen to be of a certain age, as in “old,” you might remember an advertising jingle about a summer cold from long, long ago...back before the internet existed...at least in the way we know it in the year 2025.

Back in those “good ol’ days,” we had a choice of something like three television networks to watch. If we were really lucky, we even got to watch those networks on a “color” television. Yes, kids, there was actually a time when the only colors on televisions were black and white...and shades thereof.

We have digressed...as often happens in this space.

The advertising jingle about a summer cold came to mind a couple of times this past week because yours truly seemed to be experiencing such a malaise. I think the jingle from back in the old days made mention of a summer cold being a different kind of critter. I can only agree. It just has not seemed right to be dealing with sinuses and coughing in the final days of May. Oh, well... Maybe we will just consider the whole thing a Critter Sighting...of sorts...

Meanwhile...

How ‘bout some Critter Sighting Updates for this week?

A worm that looked like it was about a foot long, when it was all stretched out, on the sidewalk in front our house. Yup.

Speaking of worms...I would still like to figure out why those critters seem intent on meandering onto the street whenever we have heavy rain.

A “mystery critter.” Yup. Maybe. While motoring along Mountain Glen Road last Saturday afternoon, I caught a glimpse of a critter that decided to cross the road at the same time that a car (as in the one I was driving) and a pickup truck were approaching from opposite directions. Somehow...the critter managed to avoid the car and the pickup truck. Do not ask me how. Truthfully, I think the “mystery critter” was probably a squirrel. It was just hard to tell.

We continue to see all sorts of birds...in all sorts of colors... in our backyard. We have brown birds and black birds and red birds and blue birds and gray birds...and even birds that come in a different colors all wrapped up in a single package of feathers. Some of the birds seem to have made nests in our little corner of the world, which is a good thing. If probably helps that The Other Half has all sorts of goodies growing in her garden.

Speaking of birds...I brought this up a while back...but, once again: Why do killdeers like to hang out around...and on... railroad tracks? During one of my recent daily walkabouts, I spotted four of ‘em along...and on...the railroad tracks in the heart of our hometown. With that being said, we recently saw a spot in what amounted to a pile of rocks that killdeers had used for a nest. Four eggs were in the nest.

Speaking of killdeers...seems odd that the plural of killdeer can either be killdeer or killdeers. How can that be? After all, the plural of deer is just deer. Go figure.

Speaking of “plurals,” I spotted a family of Canada geoses out for an afternoon stroll one day last week at a local pond.

This is not an “official” Union County Critter Sighting, but the Illinois Department of Natural Resources reported May 23 that it was monitoring sightings of a black bear in southwestern Illinois.

The bear was first observed May 19 in St. Clair County. An IDNR district wildlife biologist confirmed the sighting on Tuesday, May 20, and the animal was observed again Wednesday and Thursday, May 21-22, still in St. Clair County. St. Clair County is about a hundred miles or so north of Union County. The bear had not had any interactions with humans, but was reported to have damaged some bee hives on private property.

IDNR’s wildlife division shared a reminder that while sightings of black bears in Illinois are rare, the potential exists that animals from neighboring states may be observed in Illinois over the next few months. With established populations in the adjacent states of Missouri and Wisconsin, occasional summer



A squirrel picked what seemed like a somewhat unusual place to perch atop a utility pole amidst a whole bunch of wires. For some reason, squirrels seem attracted to such locations.



Four rather noisy killdeers decided to spend some time hanging around on railroad tracks.

movements by bears into Illinois are anticipated, including past confirmed sightings in Jackson, Williamson, Saline and Pope counties in Southern Illinois, as well as in Jo Daviess and Lake counties up north.

During early summer months, IDNR says that yearling bears disperse from their birth ranges in search of food and a permanent home range. Adult males travel far and wide looking for mates, and nursing females venture further from home range core areas to meet the energetic demands of raising cubs.

I am still waiting to spot a bear in The Other Half’s garden. That would be quite a Critter Sighting... Right, Boo Boo? That’s about enough for this week...

Anna City Pool scheduled to open for 2025 season



Busy day at the Anna City Pool

The Anna City Pool is scheduled to open for the 2025 season on Monday, June 2. The pool was a busy place when the photograph was taken during a recent season. File photo.

Opening day for the the 2025 season at the Anna City Pool has been set for Monday, June 2.

The city shared on its website that the pool, located at the Anna City Park, is scheduled to be open for public swimming from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. There is no minimum number of swimmers required for the pool to open for public swimming during regularly scheduled hours.

Pricing and specials include \$3 for 3 years of age and older for the public swim; Wednesday is \$1 off day; and passes are \$25 for 10 sessions. Passes are available at the pool.

The city is welcoming sponsors for free swim days. Information is available at Anna City Hall and on the city’s website, cityofanna.org.

The pool is scheduled to be open for lap swimming from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through

Saturday. Lap sessions are \$3 per session for all ages.

The pool may be closed due to weather at the discretion of the manager.

Private parties at the pool. Parties can booked Monday through Saturday, with hours from 6 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. or 8 p.m. to 9:50 p.m. Prices are \$150 for fewer than 50 people, \$200 for 50 to 99 people and \$250 for 100 to 150 people. Parties must be booked in ad-

vance. Information is available by contacting the pool.

Private instruction swim lessons are scheduled to be available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. More information is available by contacting the pool at 833-5222 between the hours of 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

The Anna City Pool is scheduled to close for the season at 5 p.m. on Aug. 8.

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