The Gazette-Democrat

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

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News Notes

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

Flag Day will be commemorated on Saturday, June 14.

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Happy Father's Day to all of the dads out there. Father's Day is Sunday, June 15.

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Be sure to attend the upcoming Annabelle Festival in Anna.

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Those attending the Annabelle Festival will have an opportunity to see progress on a major project which is underway along East Davie Street.

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Flamm Orchards of Cobden was featured in a recent New York Times article headlined "A Peach and Apple Farmer's Uphill Quest to Feed Poor Families, and His Own."

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Rendleman Orchards in Alto Pass shared on social media that peach season is almost here… just three more weeks.

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The City of Anna shared a reminder on social media about the Union County farmers market, which is scheduled on Tuesday mornings in the municipal parking lot along East Davie Street. The market offers an opportunity to buy local products.

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Local weather observer Dana Cross reports that as of Tuesday, June 10, the Union County area had already received more than 4 1/2 inches of rain for the month.

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The forecast from the National Weather Service in Paducah was calling for some dry weather to persist through the middle of this week in the region. An unsettled weather pattern is expected to return, bringing with it chances of showers and storms late this week and into the weekend. Temperatures were expected to warm back to near normal for the rest of the week and into the weekend.

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Shawnee School District No. 84 reports that its application for the Community Eligibility Provision of the National School Lunch and Breakfast program has been renewed. The renewal means that the school district's students will continue to receive free a free breakfast and lunch through June of 2029.

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Lick Creek School is voicing pride in teacher Crystal Knueven. She has been nominated in the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools' first teacher of the year recognition program. Teachers from throughout Illinois have been nominated for the award. The association said the winner would be announced after June 6.

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Congratulations to all of this who were involved with last Saturday's successful Junefest celebration in Jonesboro.

(continued on page 2)

Illinois legislative session ends with no final action on school mascot bill

By Bridgette Fox and UIS Public Affairs Reporting

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois' legislative session concluded without passage of a Native American K-12 school mascot ban, but another issue sought by Natives made its way to the governor.

Despite desire from Native Americans in Illinois, the ban on Native imagery for mascots in K-12 schools stalled in the Senate after it made its way out of the House.

House Bill 1237's Senate sponsor, Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton, D-Western Springs, said after the bill missed a deadline earlier this session, she was still gathering a consensus from other legislators. But she said many of the concerns she heard about the measure stemmed from the costs associated with schools changing mascots.

"We will continue conversations about it and see what we can do with helping them pass it," Glowiak Hilton said when the bill missed its mid-May deadline.

Native American advocates told Capitol News Illinois earlier this year about the importance of improving Native imagery.

"Our identity has been frozen in time, and it's going to stay frozen in time as long as we're portrayed as mascots and things of the past," said Matt Beaudet, a citizen of the Montauk Tribe of Indians who was in Springfield to advocate for the bill's passage.

Andrew Johnson, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and executive director of the Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, said how natives are often portrayed as mascots in school logos has a detrimental effect of "costuming."

"It really is not a sense of honor there," he said. "It is not a sense of history. In fact, it's a perversion of history to think that these mascots are maintaining any kind of that memory of Native people."

Ho-Chunk Nation Conserving Land in Illinois

A separate bill related to Native interests did make it through both Houses and awaited the governor's signature.

House Bill 1605, originally sponsored by Rep. Maurice West, D-Rockford, would amend existing law so tribal nations can join land conservation agreements with land owners.

As land conservators, a tribal nation could maintain the land and have control over what happens to it. Originally, only nonprofits, the state or federal agencies could join land conservation agreements with landowners.

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, a nonprofit in Jo Daviess County, brought the idea of land conservation forward to the Ho-Chunk Nation, which is located inside Wisconsin. The Ho-Chunk Nation was not available for comment.

The foundation owns land in the county that holds a cultural site significant to the Ho-Chunk Nation. The nonprofit owns and maintains multiple sites that are important to different tribal nations.

The foundation's executive director, Steve Barg, along with a former employee, said they were originally interested in giving the land to the Ho-Chunk, but they said the nation found the idea impractical.

"They're not going to get in a car every week and drive down four hours…to care for these places," Barg said. "That's just not feasible for them."

There were also reportedly concerns that Illinoisans would not be receptive to the nation owning land there akin to some worries people had about the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. The Ho-Chunk, like the Prairie Band Potawatomi, own casinos. However, neither nation has expressed any desire to open a casino in Illinois.

A conservation agreement offered a clearer path of collaboration, but the groups needed a law change to specifically allow tribal nations to execute one.

Barg said the Ho-Chunk and the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation have been working together for 12 years.

The groups apparently wanted to go forward with a land conservation easement because, if the foundation didn't exist one day, any provisions agreed to under the agreement would still have to be honored. It differentiates the agreement from a private contract they could have entered instead.

"We want to make sure that the purposes of protecting this land for conservation outlasts our own organization," Barg said. "If our own organization were ever to merge with an organization or cease to exist, those conservation easements held on our land by other entities would still protect the mission under which we saw that these lands were preserved."

Capitol News Illinois' initial reporting on Native American issues at the Capitol was part of the Healing Illinois 2025 Reporting Project, "Healing Through Narrative Change: Untold Stories," made possible by a grant from Healing Illinois, an initiative of the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Field Foundation of Illinois that seeks to advance racial healing through storytelling and community collaborations.

Shawnee District responds

Shawnee School District No. 84 in Union County has a Native American mascot. District superintendent Shelly Clover-Hill shared the following message on social media regarding the proposed state legislation:

June 2, 2025

We are pleased to announce HB 1237, the Native American mascot ban bill, expired over the weekend. The senate took no action on this bill before the spring session ended on June 1, 2025. This is fantastic news for over 100 Illinois school districts with Native American mascots - especially the Shawnee Redskins!

Please keep in mind this bill could be re-introduced in future legislative sessions so it is important for us to remain vigilant. Know that we will keep a close watch for any future changes and let everyone know if/when action may be needed.

Thank you to everyone who got involved by reaching out to our elected officials throughout the state. Your call to action truly did make a difference in getting this bill stopped and keeping our Redskin mascot safe. Fantastic work everyone!

Proud to be a Shawnee Redskin!

—Shelly Clover-Hill

Annabelle Festival planned in Anna



Annabelle mural

A mural celebrating the story of the Annabelle hydrangea has been on display for several years on a building along South Main Street in Anna.

The City of Anna and Union County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development invite the community to be a part of the 2025 Annabelle Festival celebration in Anna. Festival activities are scheduled to begin Thursday, today, and continue through Sunday, June 15.

Many Annabelle Festival activities are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 14, in the Davie and Lafayette streets area in downtown Anna. A pageant is planned Thursday, today, at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council (the Anna Arts Center). A landscaping with Annabelles presentation and a twilight tour are set for Friday. An Annabelle Festival disc golf tournament is scheduled Sunday at the Anna City Park.

The festival celebrates the Annabelle hydrangea plant, which was discovered in 1910 near Anna.

Here's a look at the schedule of events for the Annabelle Festival, as posted online by Union County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development:

Thursday, June 12

6 p.m. Ms. and Mister Annabelle and Little Miss and Master Annabelle pageant. Shawnee Hills Arts Council (the Anna Arts Center, located along West David Street). Walk-in registration begins at 5 p.m.

Friday, June 13

7 p.m. Landscaping with Annabelles, presented by Tom Caldwell, at the Anna-Jo Garden Club/Hindman Park, located near McDonald's in Anna.

7:30 p.m. Tombs at Twilight Tour of Anna Cemetery. Bus starts loading at 7 p.m.; bus pick up at Anna-Jo Garden Club/Hindman Park. Tour led by Marilyn Meisenheimer. Space is limited; first come, first served.

Saturday, June 14

General information will be available at the chamber's welcome booth inside the Annabelle Market along South Main Street in downtown Anna.

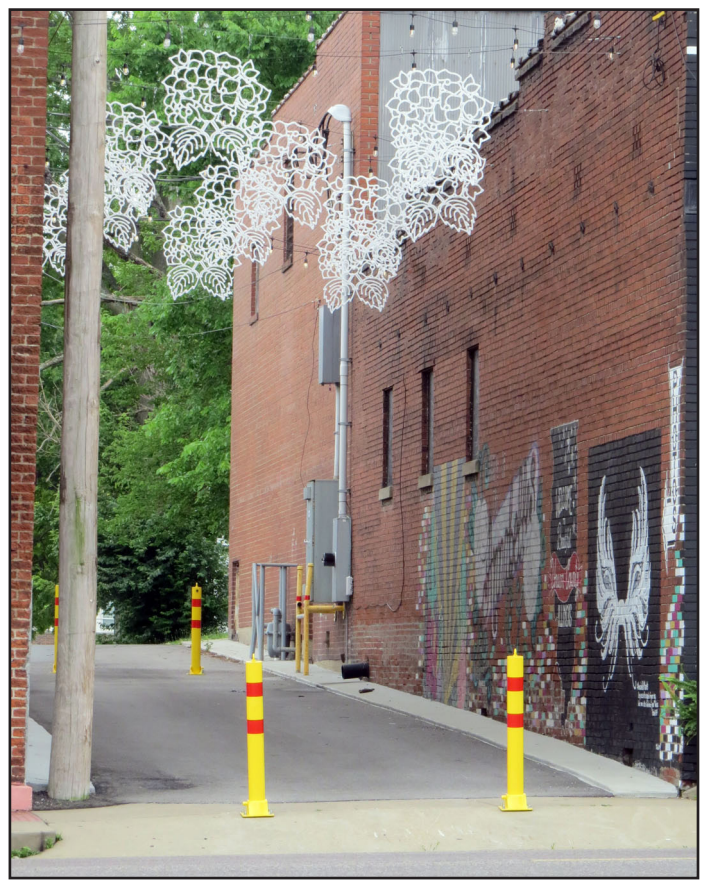
9 a.m. Pet carnival, West Davie Street. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

9 a.m. KidsFest, East Davie Street.

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Art exhibit, Shawnee Hills Arts Council.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Timeless Treasures self-guided walking tour presented by the PAST organization of Union County.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Flower show, Shawnee Hills Arts Council, sponsored by Anna-Jo Garden Club.



New blooms in Anna

The City of Anna has installed new Annabelle decor in the downtown area. The Annabelles are located in what has been dubbed as "Mural Alley" along South Main Street. The city shared in a posting on social media that the locally inspired Annabelle art installation "celebrates the natural beauty and history of our community – and honors the beloved hydrangea that shares our city's name. Designed to spark pride and curiosity, the installation is a symbol of Anna's unique charm and growing creative spirit."

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kids' crafts with the Anna-Jo Garden Club and Friends of Shawnee Hills Arts Council, at the arts council.

11:30 a.m. Reptile show, Shawnee Hills Arts Council.

1 p.m. Magic show, Shawnee Hills Arts Council.

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Free swim at Anna City Pool.

1 p.m. PAST of Union County historic bus tour of Anna. Bus starts loading at 12:30 p.m.; bus tour pick up will be at the intersection of Main and Davie streets. Books will be sold at the chamber booth inside the Annabelle Market.

2:30 p.m. Birds of prey presentation, Shawnee Hills Arts Council.

2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Music performed by Diamond Dog on the festival's main stage on East Davie Street; bring your own lawn chairs.

4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Car show along West Davie Street.

5:30 p.m. Spanish dancers, main stage, East Davie Street.

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Music performed by Deja Voodoo, main stage, East Davie Street; bring your own lawn chairs.

Sunday, June 15

An Annabelle Festival disc golf tournament is planned Sunday, June 15. The tournament is hosted by the City of Anna and overseen by the Cache River Disc Golf Club. Competition will be at the disc golf course at the Anna City Park. Play begins at 9 a.m. Walk-in registration begins at 8 a.m. Registration is available online at Discgolfscene.com.

Friends group to offer book sale at Stinson

The Friends of Stinson Library plan to have an Annabelle Festival book sale Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 13-15.

The sale will be at Stinson Memorial Public Library. The library is located at 409 S. Main St. in Anna.

An appreciation sale for members of the Friends of Stinson Library is planned from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday. Memberships will be available for $5.

The book sale will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. A bag sale is planned from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday; a paper bag can be filled with books for $5.

Proceeds help the Friends of Stinson Library to support the library's activities.

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Union County sees more severe weather

Union County experienced more severe weather, including strong winds, heavy rain, flooding, lightning and thunder, Friday afternoon, June 6. The county also was under a tornado watch. Another round of storms occurred in the area Saturday night.

Parts of the county were under severe thunderstorm warnings which were issued by the National Weather Service office in Paducah.

One warning was issued at about 1:34 p.m. and remained in effect until 2:15 p.m. The warning area included northeastern Union County, northwestern Johnson County, southwestern Williamson County and southeastern Jackson County. Locations impacted by the severe weather included Cobden, Alto Pass, Gorevville, the Lake of Egypt area and Makanda.

At 1:34 p.m., a severe thunderstorm was located over Cobden, or 7 miles north of Anna, moving east at 35 miles per hour.

A second severe thunderstorm warning was issued at about 2:17 p.m. and remained in effect until 2:45 p.m. The warning area included southeastern Union County, northwestern Pope County, Johnson County, southeastern Williamson County and southwestern Saline County.

At 2:17 p.m., severe thunderstorms were located along a line extending from the Lake of Egypt area to near Vienna to 6 miles north of Karnak. The storms were moving east at 30 mph.

The Weather Service office also issued a flood advisory for Union, Jackson and Williamson counties in Southern Illinois. The advisory was issued at about 2:12 p.m. Friday and remained in effect until 5:15 p.m.

At 2:12 p.m., the Weather Service advised that Doppler radar indicated heavy rain due to thunderstorms. Minor flooding was ongoing or expected to begin in the advisory area. At the time the advisory was issued, between 1 and 1.5 inches of rain had already fallen. Additional rainfall amounts of up to 1 inch were expected over the area.

The tornado watch was issued at about 1:10 p.m. Friday by the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla. At the time it was issued, the watch was in effect until 8 p.m. Counties in Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky were included in the watch area. The Southern Illinois counties under a tornado watch included Union, Alexander, Massac, Hardin, Pope, Johnson and Pulaski.

Shortly before 3 p.m. Friday, a map posted on the website for the Weather Service office showed the following watches, warnings and advisories which were in effect for the region: a severe thunderstorm warning, a flash flood warning, a severe weather statement, a flood warning, a tornado watch, a flood advisory, a special weather statement and a hazardous weather outlook.

Stormy weather occurred Saturday night. At about 9:31 p.m. Saturday, the Weather Service advised that strong thunderstorms would impact western Union County, western Jackson County and northwestern Alexander County in Southern Illinois, as well as northeastern Bollinger County, eastern Perry County and Cape Girardeau counties in Southeast Missouri.

At 9:31 p.m. Saturday, Doppler radar was tracking strong thunderstorms along a line extending from near Ava in Southern Illinois to near Altenberg, Mo., and near Millersville, Mo. The storms were moving southeast at 30 mph. For a brief time subsequent to the alert, southwestern Union County, northwestern Alexander County and east central Cape Girardeau were under a severe thunderstorm warning which was issued by the Weather Service.

At 11:23 p.m. Saturday, the Weather Service issued another severe thunderstorm warning. The warning was southeastern Union County, northeastern Pulaski County, northwestern Massac County and southern Johnson County. At that time, a severe thunderstorm was located near Dongola, or 9 miles southeast of Anna, moving east at 25 mph.

More stormy weather occurred early Monday morning in the region. The Weather Service advised that additional daily thunderstorm chances return to the forecast Thursday afternoon (today) through the weekend.



Heavy rain falls Friday

Water was rushing through a creek near the intersection of Brown Section and Rhine roads west of Cobden last Friday afternoon after heavy rain fell in the region. At the time the photograph was taken, Union County was under a flood advisory which had been issued by the National Weather Service office in Paducah.

Recent Cobden Village Board meetings had busy agendas

Agendas were busy for regular meetings of the Cobden Village Board of Trustees which were held during the month of May. Meetings were held May 5 and May 19 at Cobden Village Hall. Highlights from minutes of each meeting follow.

May 5 Meeting

At the May 5 meeting, the oath of office of village president was administered to Larry J. Hackethal by village clerk Karen M. Winzenburger. Hackethal was elected in April.

Outgoing village president Paul Z. Tomazzoli expressed his appreciation to the board, employees and community for the support he received during his time in office. Tomazzoli was presented with a gift from the village in recognition of his 12 years of service as village president.

The oath of office was administered to newly elected trustees Jean A. Britt, Austin Sellars, David A. Stewart and Dennis Maze by the village clerk.

Village president Hackethal's appointment of Andrew Brumleve as a village trustee was approved by a consent vote. Brumleve filled a vacancy created by Hackethal's election as village president. Brumleve's oath of office was administered by the village clerk.

Hackethal's appointment of Karen M. Winzenburger as village clerk, collector and budget officer was approved by a consent vote.

The village president's appointment of Timothy R. Smith as police chief, reappointment of Ron Flamm to the cemetery board of managers and committee appointments all were approved by consent votes. The appointments also included Larry J. Quertermous as fire chief and Larry J. (L.J.) Hackethal as assistant fire chief.

In other business at the May 5 meeting:

Improvement work on Mountain Glen Road in the village is scheduled to begin soon. It was agreed that the village would replace individual driveway approaches when reasonable.

The board approved a motion to accept an estimate in the amount of $2,620 from Terrence Walsh for the installation of cameras in the park in downtown Cobden. Cameras are being installed in an effort to reduce vandalism and littering in the park.

Village scholarship committee minutes were presented. The trustees voted to approve the committee's recommendation for the awarding of the R.G. Williams Award to Mackenzie Jackson and the Homer Forby Awards to Landen Richardson and Zitlalli Tomas.

May 19 Meeting

Trustee Stewart presented a proposal for an event planned on Sept. 20 to promote the village and its businesses. The event will be held in the park in downtown Cobden.

At the May 19 meeting, the village board approved a resolution for an Illinois Department of Transportation permit for construction of a sewer main along and under old U.S. Route 51.

City of Anna provides assistance in aftermath of recent tornado

The City of Anna provided assistance to those in Williamson County who were impacted by a recent devastating tornado. The city's response was noted at last week's regular meeting of the Anna City Council. The meeting was Tuesday evening, June 3, at Anna City Hall.

The city has joined the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network. The network is a statewide mutual aid system that is available to all public works agencies. The system allows for mutual aid and support during natural or man-made disasters. The system operates by coordinating personnel and resources when needed for those who require assistance. IPWMAN is composed of hundreds of member agencies that are committed to working together during times of crisis.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that during the early evening hours of Friday, May 16, a violent and destructive EF-4 tornado with peak winds of 190 miles per hour impacted southern Williamson County. The tornado left seven persons injured and caused extensive damage as it swept over a path that was 16.57 miles long.

The City of Anna provided a truck and personnel to assist with the clean up and recovery effort through the mutual aid system.

In other business at last week's meeting:

Acting Police Chief Brent Sims reported that the department has been busy with investigative work.

Note also was made at the meeting about the upcoming Annabelle Festival. The festival is set for Thursday, today, through Sunday, in Anna. The festival celebrates the Annabelle hydrangea plant, which was discovered near Anna. It was noted at the council meeting that this has been a good year for Annabelle blossoms.

Wellness on Wheels Van Clinics planned

Southern 7 Health Department has announced the schedule for June Wellness on Wheels, WOW, Van Clinics in the Southern Illinois area. The schedule includes visits to Union County.

The schedule for the month includes:

June 18. Wolf Lake city hall, Wolf Lake, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Lotus Naturescapes, Ware, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

June 25. Cornerstone Grocery, Golconda, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Dollar General Store, Golconda, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Free services available on the WOW Van include NARCAN training, blood pressure checks, home colorectal cancer tests (FIT), medication disposal packets, COVID test kits and condoms.

Charged services which are available include blood lead, hemoglobin and cholesterol screenings; STD tests (including chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis); HIV, pregnancy and TB skin tests; TD/Tdap shots for adults; well water tests; and hereditary genetic cancer testing.

Charged services, excluding a well water test, require a health insurance card. All services, both free and charged, will be offered while they are available on day of service.

Flu shots will be provided to patients based on vaccine availability the day of the clinic and while supplies last during flu season. Health insurance cards are required. Those requesting a COVID booster are advised to contact their local Southern 7 public health clinic for details.

Through a grant funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, S7HD provides many healthcare services through IDPH Wellness on Wheels Van Clinics.

The WOW Van rotates throughout high, health-risk communities each Wednesday in the lower seven counties in Illinois.

The WOW Van, a multi-disciplinary mobile unit, is available to S7HD through a partnership with IDPH to provide health screenings and other services. IDPH partners with health agencies and hospitals to provide staff and services on the WOW Van at sites where people can come for medical services.

No appointment is needed for services. Walk-ins are welcome. Clinic dates, times, and available services are subject to change without notice.

For information about WOW Van services, upcoming dates and how to become a sponsoring location, contact Sharyl Betts at 618-634-2297, extension 970154, download the Southern 7 app or visit www.southern7.org.

News Notes

(continued from page 1)

Jonesboro, Anna and Cobden all appeared to be busy places last Saturday morning, with lots of traffic…both on foot and in vehicles.

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An opportunity to showcase projects was offered at a Union County 4-H general show, which was scheduled to be held on June 5.

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Union County Country Club in Anna hosted the David Parks Junior Golf Program June 3-9. Golfers ages 7 to 17 were invited to participate. The last day of the free program was scheduled to include a golf scramble and a meal.

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Anna School District 37 is accepting applications for the post of head coach of the junior high baseball team.

***

Anna School District 37 reported that summer workouts for junior high softball were scheduled to begin this week.

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Cobden High School is voicing appreciation to businesses which supported its co-op program this year.

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The Cobden School District is offering a free community lunch program during June (except for weekends and June 19) for students and families.

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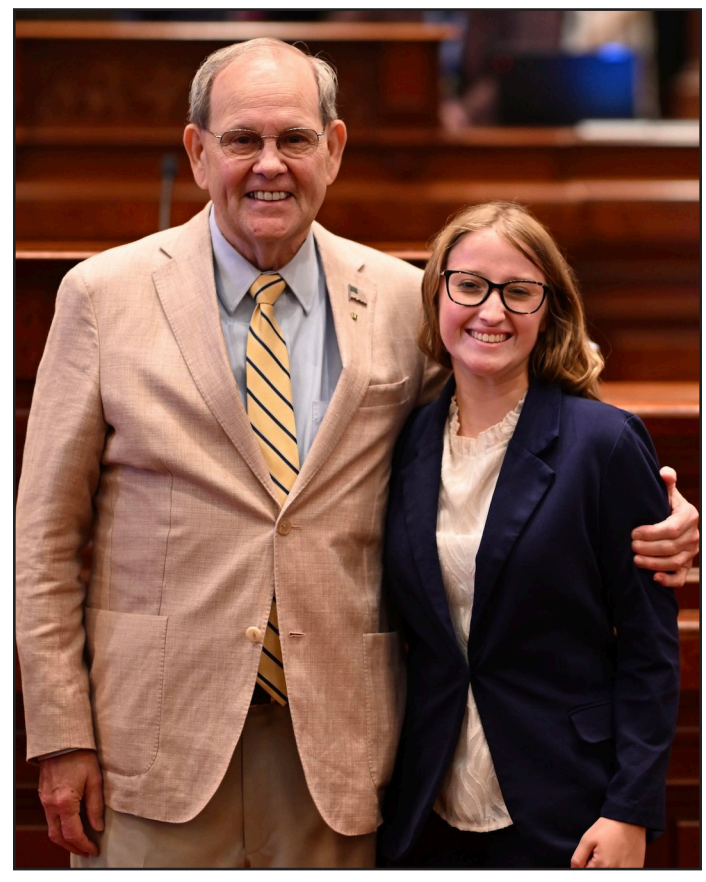
The Cross of Peace on Bald Knob Mountain near Alto Pass hosted this year's Blessing of the Jeeps on Saturday, June 7. Organizers shared on social media that an estimated 600 Jeeps were on hand and added that the work of volunteers contributed to the success of the event.

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Illinois State Police Troop 10, which serves Southernmost Illinois, reported the recent seizure of more than 85 pounds of cannabis during a traffic stop.

***

The Anna First Baptist Church will be hosting the New Beginnings Quartet from Anna on Saturday, June 21 at 6:30 p.m.



Legislator hosts A-JCHS student

State Rep. Paul Jacobs, R-Pomona, welcomed Elizabeth Hill, a junior at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School, as his page on Friday, May 30. This is the second year Hill has served as a page in Springfield. She plans to study criminal law eventually, but has not decided on whether to focus on criminal prosecution or criminal defense. Photo provided.

SIU Simmons Law School offers mobile legal clinics for senior citizens this summer

The Southern Illinois University Simmons Law School is planning to offer a series of mobile legal clinics in the region to provide free, onsite assistance for senior citizens who want to prepare health care power of attorney.

The legal clinic's Senior Summer Sessions were scheduled to begin Tuesday, June 10, at the Murphysboro Senior Center and will run through July 31, with site visits to each of the 13 southernmost counties the clinic serves. Participants must be age 60 or older and live within those 13 counties.

Dale Aschemann, a clinical assistant professor of law who oversees the clinic, noted that the law school has a long history of serving elderly individuals in the region. The idea for the senior summer sessions developed through discussions with Angela Upchurch, law school acting dean and professor of law, on opportunities for the clinic to "affirmatively engage with senior centers and remind the various regions of Southern Illinois that our school is not only part of their community but active in trying to make a positive difference in their community," he said.

Upchurch and Aschemann each noted the experience will also benefit the four law school students enrolled in the program for the semester. Law school faculty will also be present to assist, if needed.

"This is an incredible educational opportunity for our students," Upchurch said. "Because the work is more discrete than in the traditional clinic, we can provide students with the critical legal skill development early on in their legal education. It is a wonderful experience for them and for the community members that they will be helping."

To participate, those interested need to sign up at their local senior center and fill out an information sheet before the scheduled visit to ensure that all necessary details are available. Each participating senior citizen will be assigned a student to assist them and will leave with a completed power of attorney for health care, which is a document authorizing a person to act on behalf of another in matters of health care.

During each individual session, people will learn the importance of obtaining powers of attorney and the consequences of not having one when a person doesn't have the ability to speak for themselves, Aschemann said.

While health care powers of attorney will be the focus of each visit, the legal clinic will add people to its wait list for other estate planning services such as wills, property powers of attorney, transfer on death instruments, and consultations or assistance with guardianships for adults with disabilities and minor guardianships, Aschemann said.

"Beyond a positive community experience, students will have an opportunity to work on interviewing skills and become familiar with basic estate planning concepts through the doctrinal portion of the class," Aschemann said. "Very importantly, students will be introduced to the idea of meeting clients where they are, both geographically and where they are in their lives."

The Simmons Law School Senior Summer Sessions schedule for area counties includes:

Pulaski County: Thursday, June 12, 9:20 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Southern Pride Senior Program, Smiles Senior Center, 412 S. Blanche St., Mounds, 618-645-6149.

Williamson County (Marion): Tuesday, June 17, 9:10 a.m. to noon. Marion Senior Citizens Center, 507 W. Main St., Marion, 618-997-9019.

Union County: Tuesday, July 1, 9 a.m. to noon. Sunshine Inn, located at Faith Community Church, 101 Richview, Anna, 618-833-6734.

Alexander County: Tuesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Happy Days Senior Center (located in the Mighty Rivers Worship Center), 225 Poplar St., Cairo, 618-734-1050.

Massac County: Thursday, July 17, 9:40 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Happy Hearts, 701 Pearl St., Metropolis, 618-524-9755.

Johnson County: Thursday, July 24, 9:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Whistlers & Whittlers, 60 State Route 37 North, Vienna, 618-658-9669.

Williamson County (Herrin): Tuesday, July 29, 9 a.m. to noon. Williamson County Programs on Aging, 1201 Weaver Road, Herrin, 618-988-1585.



60th Wedding Anniversary

Carol Roesch and Joe Bernard were married June 12, 1965 in Springfield, Ill. They are the parents of four children: Joe, Jeff, Jaime and Jill. They are also Blessed with ten grandchildren and one great grandchild. The couple resides in Dahlgren, Ill.

"The Preaching Pen"

Are you a "True Friend" of Jesus?

Throughout life, we have occasions to meet several people. Whether at work, social activities, or even at the grocery store, we come across people we know each day. But how many of them would we consider to be our "true" friends?

In John 15:10, Christ outlines who he considers to be his friend. "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." Our Savior put it in clear, easy-to-understand wording. We can sum it up in one word: love. We are to love our fellow man just as much as Jesus does. Christ explains the reason why in John 13:34-35. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Who do we love our lives? It is easy to love those of family, friends, and colleagues. It is easy to love those with whom we share interests, hobbies, or some other earthly connection. Luke 6:32 reminds us, "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them." If we are true friends of Jesus, we will love as he did; love all men.

Ryan Thornsberry,
Anna Church of Christ

Bake-off winners recognized

This year's Junefest celebration in Jonesboro included a bake-off contest for the first time. Junefest was celebrated Saturday, June 7.

In its first year, the contest had 12 entries. The entries were judged by members of the Jonesboro Public Library board. Winners included, by category, as provided by organizers:

Pies

First: Kisha Hileman, chocolate lasagna pie.

Second: Kasi Needling, frozen toasted coconut pie.

Cakes

First: Nick Brown, lemon curd cheesecake. Nick also earned the honor of grand champion in the bake-off.

Second: Karen Robinson, carrot cake.

Third: Olivia Mix, banana snickerdoodle bundt.

Cookies

First: Jersey Shepard, caramel cheesecake cookies.

Second: Brandi Boyd, s'more cookies.

Third, tie: Olivia Mix, white chocolate raspberry scones.

Third, tie: Ella Bailey, fresh strawberry cookies.

Weather

High 88, low 61;
4.59 inches of rain

The Union County area received 4.59 of inches or rain during the period of June 3-9.

Temperatures ranged from a high of 88 degrees to a low of 61 during the period.

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

Tuesday, June 3: high 86, low 63.

Wednesday, June 4: high 88, low 68. 0.74 of an inch of rain.

Thursday, June 5: high 84, low 68. 1.64 inches of rain.

Friday, June 6: high 77, low 66. 1.48 inches of rain.

Saturday, June 7: high 76, low 68. 0.27 of an inch of rain.

Sunday, June 8: high 82, low 68.

Monday, June 9: high 80, low 61. 0.46 of an inch of rain.

Junefest celebrated in Jonesboro

Jonesboro hosted its 2025 Junefest celebration Saturday, June 7. Activities for all ages were offered at the Jonesboro Fire Department station and in the parking lot next to the Jonesboro Post Office.



Entries in a Junefest bake-off contest were judged by members of the Jonesboro Public Library board. The contest had 12 entries. Judges included Jaime Watkins, Ben Isaacson, Melissa Lingle and JoAn Dallas.



Nine teams entered a Junefest corn hole tournament. The event was held in front of the Jonesboro Fire Department station.



Bounce houses were among the variety of activities offered for children who came to be a part of Junefest.



Illinois Department of Natural Resources herpetologist Scott Ballard presented a reptile show to an enthusiastic audience. Ballard showed a desert tortoise, a Costa Rican black milk snake and a Gila monster. Those attending the show even had a chance to touch a reptile.

Worship at Kornthal

Worship at Kornthal will be held 2 p.m. Sunday, June 22nd. The service features special music.

Kornthal is located 2 ½ miles south of Jonesboro off Illinois 127. Hope to see you there.

THE FIRST STATE BANK OF DONGOLA
Old and Reliable, Established 1906
Member FDIC
Honoring Juneteenth
Banks Closed On June 19th
108 SE Front Street, Dongola • 827-3541
Ullin • 845-3395
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

ASB
Anna STATE BANK
Member FDIC
100 E. Vienna • Anna • 833-2151
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Honoring Juneteenth
Banks Closed On June 19th

P.AS.T. features timeless treasures for Annabelle Festival

P.A.S.T. of Union County will have an information table a the Annabelle festival on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the corner of East Davie and Main St. (in front of T & I). The following sites will be highlighted:

Brick House Grill, 308 S. Main St. (Not pictured)

Many different businesses have been in this location at lot 133 of the original plat of Anna. Adolph Walters' hardware store was here in 1916 before moving to 207 S. Main. P.N. Hirsch bought the property in 1936. His national retail business had begun in Jonesboro. In 1983 the chain of stores was sold to Dollar General.

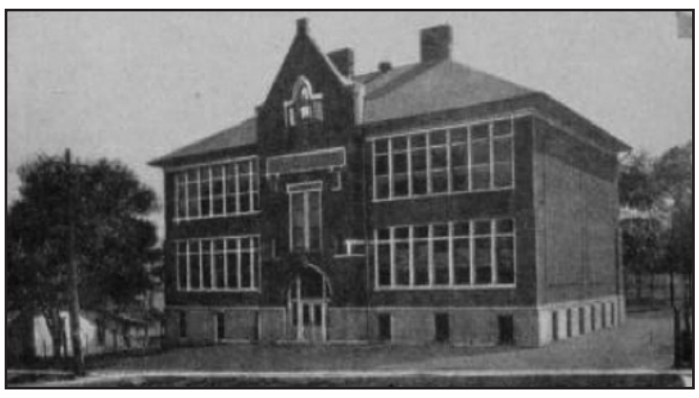
Upstairs was the home of Teen Town from 1952-1965. Terry and Kasey Rueffer purchased the building in 1989 and opened the Anna Mercantile. In 1998 Nicole DeBoer bought the building and remodeled it for a restaurant named "Alexine's." The building was purchased by Tricia Aydelott and her sister Julie Hopkins in 2007 when Brick House Grill was established.



Quick's Skating Rink, 216 E. Davie St.

In 1885, William Bruchhauser, a German immigrant, established Anna Roller Mills at this location. This began the history of later Phoenix Flour Mills which expanded and relocated. This name is still found on the building front.

The Pearl Motor Company moved to this location in 1941 and had a showroom with a used car lot and body shop across Freeman Street (pictured). The building was then purchased by COAD leasing and sales in the late 1970s. Lonnie and Joyce Brown purchased the building in 1996 and converted it to the Old Skate Barn, selling to family in 2016. Its current owners, the Quick's, operate the skating rink.



Davie School Inn, 300 Freeman St.

In 1910, the W. Davie School opened its doors. It was named after Winstead Davie, founder of the city of Anna (named after his wife Anna). It served as a school for nearly 90 years.

The building sat vacant for nearly 5 years and fell into disrepair. It was purchased by Gary and Andrea Dahmer in 2002, carefully renovated, and converted to a bed and breakfast. In 2017, it was purchased by current owners Lyle and Tammy Woodrum who continue to operate the 11-room Inn. The gymnasium serves as a venue which can be rented. Many rooms are school-subject themed and have the original hardwood floors, chalk boards and teachers cabinets.

It was recently named the most romantic small-town inn in Illinois, one of the top ten most unique places to stay in Illinois and one of the 38 most unique places to stay in the world. The building is open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for free tours. Enter the main doors and ring the bell.



Crain Funeral Home, 135 W. Vienna St

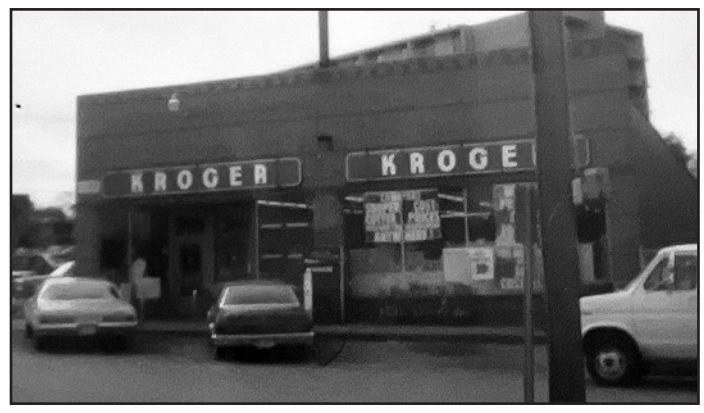
Crain Funeral Home's Anna facility is 100 years old this year. Built in 1925 as Norris Funeral Home, the spot was chosen because its location across the street from the Illinois Central Railroad depot, a vital point in shipping and receiving of decedents at that period in history.

The funeral home has been Crain since 1959, and has been expanded through the years to encompass property where the Anna Hotel once stood.



RAVE (formerly International Shoe Company & Florsheim Shoe), 214 W. Davie St.

There were two manufacturing plants of the International Shoe Company located in Anna. The first one was a factory that made women's "novelty" shoes, and the second, a wood heel covering plant. The two factories employed approximately 500 people during the 1950s. In 1931, the former Marx and Haas garment factory building was used as the base of the new shoe factory building on Davie Street. Another Florsheim factory building in Anna was located near the Transcraft factory. After the closing of the factories, the two buildings were bought by RAVE Inc. and are still in use.



Rise Performance Downtown (formerly Kroger), 208 W. Davie St.

The history of the Kroger Company in Anna dates back to the early 1920s, during which period one small store was operated and directed from St. Louis. In 1929, the Kroger Grocery and Baking Company purchased two Thrift stores in Anna, closed one, and operated the other one under the Kroger Name. The Kroger Company operated two stores in Anna and one in Jonesboro until the present modern store was opened in August 1950.

This store building on East Davie Street was used by the Kroger company until a new building was constructed on the east side of Anna. The building became a grocery store under a different name and was converted to an auto parts store. It became NAPA Auto Tire and Parts. NAPA sold the building and it was converted into a gym. Currently, Rise Performance is located in the building.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco) **By Suzan Harvel**

Welcome to the second week in June. Half the year is nearly gone and I don't feel like I've accomplished much. I believe it has rained every single week of this year. I don't know that for fact, but it sure seems like it.

This Friday we sure had a gully-washer. I made an ill-timed trip to Cape after work and nearly got caught up in some severe flash flooding on County Line Road. I, and several others, had to reverse direction up a steep hill, and just hope no one came speeding over the top. We finally got turned around, and made on our way back from whence we'd come, to choose a different route to where we were going.

I said many a prayer fording gushing creeks that were mere trickling streams earlier when I'd crossed them. It didn't help that a lot of deer decided it'd be a dandy time to stand on the edge of the road and watch traffic pass. Some folks were cut off from even getting home for a bit too. I saw places on that road with water over them that I've never seen in that condition.

Grapevine Trail also had water running across it in a couple of places that left deposits of silt behind to make the road even more slick. I hit one of those in a curve and the backend of my car tried to catch up with the front end. Thank goodness I was going slow and no one else was near me, so I could correct the skid and go on. Add in downed tree limbs and pot holes to dodge and it made for a nasty trip.

To make for an even more interesting evening, Friday night was also my night to babysit my grandchildren, as their parents had a date night for their anniversary. It's always an experience, but given the high drama of the trip over there, dealing with three under the age of eight simply wore me out.

Nobody wanted to eat the same thing for dinner and there were fights and/or high drama over control of the remote, movie choices, destroyed forts by little sister, X Box glitches that I had no idea how to fix, room invasions and illegal possession of toys. Typical kid behavior.

I picked my battles well and no blood was shed. The X Box took pity on me and started behaving, and I did get lots laughs, hugs, and enthusiastic stories out of the deal, so it wasn't all bad. However, it had been A DAY…I was so tired when I got home that night, I seriously gave thought to just sleeping in the car.

Shirley and Richard Harvel met with Tina and Darron Moore and Sue Knowlton of Poplar Bluff, Mo. in Cape for lunch on Friday. They followed them back to Mill Creek for a visit. I sat in on part of that visit before leaving on my odyssey. It was good to see them all.

Saturday was another day of exhausting stuff that I don't want to even think about. I wasn't able to attend JuneFest like I'd hoped or to attend the Daniel Chapman DAR Chapter's outing in Johnson County that I'd planned, but I sure hope everyone at those events had a great time. That day started at 5 a.m. and ended at 1:20 a.m. Sunday, so another weekend shot in the foot. Better luck next month, as every upcoming weekend this month is booked solid for me.

Mill Creek Baptist Church met Sunday with Brother Bobby Richardson leading us in worship from the third chapter in the book of Malachi. This covered the refiner's fire and what that means to our lives. Sometimes our trials are similar to refining. Too much or too little heat or attention can make all the difference.

God has reminded us that He would never allow us to deal with more than He is able to deliver us from. But, once again it's on us. We must search our hearts and confess our sins so that He can forgive us and we can put those bad actions out of the way and go on as He wishes. He is God and He never changes. We must change.

Verse 7 says that we must return to Him and He will return to us. Just like highly refined gold or silver, we must reflect God's image to show we've been purified. Salvation through Christ covers our sins with the blood of Jesus.

Those added to the prayer list are: the Lynn Anderson family in his passing and Candance McCommons in the loss of her mother; Otis Burris for health; Butch Poole as he undergoes radiation treatments; Jerry "Bud" Goodman as he's been placed in hospice care; and prayers that our Vacation Bible School and others bring about changes in our children and their families.

Shawnee names honor roll, high honor roll students

The Shawnee School District in Wolf Lake has announced the honor roll and high honor roll students for the fourth quarter.

Shawnee Junior High

High honor roll

Murphy Wilson

Honor roll

6th grade: Kylee Bade, Malorie Buskohl, Titan Cobin, Bailee Duran, Alivia Holley and Dakoda Ross.

7th grade: Ella, Faulkner and Adalyn Follis.

8th grade: Hunter Ross and Joseph Willmore.

Shawnee High School

High honor roll

10th grade: Haleigh Charles, Addilyn Clark, Peyton Clymore, Nick Dallas and Sereniti Mefford.

11th grade: Alana Davis, Daisy Taylor and Emma Young.

12th grade: Gracie Davisson, Mallory Follis, Noah Mayberry, Jaeda Qualls and Jackson Rendleman.

Honor roll

9th grade: Saphyre Beasley, Eliza Ford, Eva Ford, Lillie Griffin, Aryana Heisner, DJ Rushing, Taylor Sargent, Matthew White and Connor Wilson.

10th grade: Keaton Carmack, Adyson Choate, Berkli Holtman, Zoe Myers, Emma Neilson, Aniston Nicholson and Madalyn Schuster.

11th grade: Raylyn Phelps and Cindy Price.

12th grade: Savannah Andrews, Mylee Mikel and Tim Shackles.

Jonesboro School names fourth quarter honor roll students

Jonesboro Elementary School has announced the fourth quarter honor roll and high honor roll students for the final quarter of the school year

High Honor Roll

8th grade: Lindyn Eudy, Levi Hill, Allison Leek and Smith Wilson.

7th grade: Eli Fehrenbacher and Peyton Harvel.

6th grade: Charlie Barlow, Jayden Benefield, Eli Cohen, Creighton Todd, Lawson Ury and Kaitlynn Zimmerman.

5th grade: Zella Baggott, Mahayla Dukes, Landon Hill, Emma Lambdin, Lillian Newberry, Kamiya Velasques and Dylan Walker.

Honor Roll

8th grade: Jesica Ambrocio, Kylie Dillow, Hayden Lewis, Trent Miller, Clara Mix, Scarlet Myers and Kynlee Needling.

7th grade: Colton Barnhart, Arianna Black, Reagan Cheek, Jaycee Clutts, Addison Ebberts, Hank Goss, Gavin McFadden and Ryley Nance.

6th grade: Knox Harris, Ethan Jiter, Jonah Miller, Nolan Newberry, Conner Pind, Kadence Poe, Aiden Shepard, Collin Staples and Madi Wilkins.

5th grade: Jayda Mayes, Kheaton Rains, Adelle Sherrill, RJ Turner, Samuel Warden and Nora Wheeler.

Shawnee College announces reaffirmation of accreditation

Shawnee Community College on June 2 announced the reaffirmation of its accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission, HLC. The college said in a news release that the accreditation is an achievement that underscores the confidence, strength and dedication of its faculty, staff, and leadership.

For the first time in its history, Shawnee Community College also has been placed on the Open Pathway, which reflects institutional trust, stability and a focus on continuous quality improvement.

"This reaffirmation confirms what we already know at Shawnee – our people are exceptional," said Dr. Tim Taylor, president of Shawnee Community College. "Our faculty and staff are deeply committed to student success, and this milestone validates their professionalism, passion and pride. To be reaffirmed with no findings, no follow-up reports and no additional visits is a powerful endorsement of the work happening on our campus every day."

The 10-year reaffirmation process included a comprehensive evaluation of the institution's mission, governance, academic programs, student support services and financial and operational integrity. Shawnee Community College received strong marks in all areas, with HLC reviewers highlighting the college's inclusive practices, commitment to lifelong learning and student-centered culture.

Dr. Kristin Shelby, accreditation liaison officer and dean of transfer and adult education at the college, noted the broader significance of this moment.

"The ability to move to the Open Pathway is a significant milestone in the College's accreditation history. It demonstrates that Shawnee not only meets, but exceeds the Higher Learning Commission's guiding values for institutional excellence. It was an honor to lead such a phenomenal group throughout the reaffirmation process. I'm incredibly proud of my team and the hard work and dedication of our entire campus in order to make this possible," Shelby said.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are extremely grateful to the HLC Team and the entire College community for their contributions that have made this incredible achievement possible," the college's board of trustees chairperson, Steve Heisner, said.

"Having had the honor to serve on the Board over the past 35 years and to have worked with many amazing professionals who have guided this effort in the past, when the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools was our accrediting body, we look to those efforts, also, as having laid a firm foundation for this award-winning process.

"I would want our constituents to know that over the past five years, we have made a 180-degree turnaround from our position then, and not only have we accomplished a never-before milestone, but we also have had members of the administration and board to serve as presenters at HLC Conferences telling our amazing story of success. This honor is one we celebrate, but moreover, we view it as a stepping stone to further successes as we continue to build a plan for the future to serve the constituents of our district."

Shawnee Community College extended sincere thanks to the many students, employees, board members and community partners who contributed to this achievement. Soon, the college will announce plans for a public celebration of this milestone as its focuses on the growth and development of programs.

Union County Fixin's

Steak and Bacon Cheddar Meatballs

2 Tablespoons olive oil
1 medium onion, minced
8 oz raw bacon, diced
2 lbs ground beef
6 oz cheddar cheese, grated
1/2 cup bread crumbs
3 eggs, lightly beaten
2 teaspoons salt

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Brush a 13x9 inch baking dish with 1 tablespoon of olive oil.

Heat remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add onions and bacon and sauté, stirring frequently, until golden brown. Using a slotted spoon, transfer onions and bacon to a small plate. Let cool.

Combine bacon, onions, and rest of ingredients in a large bowl. Mix by hand until all is combined well.

Roll the mixture into 24 golf ball sized meatballs, packing firmly.

Place balls in prepared baking dish and roast in oven for 18-20 minutes. Remove and allow to cool 5 minutes before serving.



Gifts for Dad he's certain to enjoy

Father's Day celebrations began on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it wasn't until 1972 that a day honoring fathers became a national holiday. Since then, children have been trying to figure out how they can show their dads and other father figures in their lives just how much they are appreciated. Plenty of hugs and high fives are customary on Father's Day, but gifts also get the spotlight on this holiday, which is held on the third Sunday in June each year.

Each year families ponder what to get the man who seemingly has everything. These Father's Day gifts are certain to please Dad this year.

Gaming gifts

The joy of gaming may not wane as Dad gets older. Once a gamer, always a gamer, and gifts that cater to Dad's love of play can be winners. Pay attention to the release dates of games that Dad wants to play, and then make sure to grab them before they sell out. Peripherals that can enhance gaming also can be ideal gifts. These include Bluetooth headphones with microphone, controller charging stations, light-up keyboards, or a comfortable gaming chair.

Sports tickets

Experiential gifts continue to win rave reviews, as people increasingly are finding that adding more "stuff" to their lives does not equate to happiness. Rather, gifts that focus on experiences instead of material things can produce lasting memories. Father's Day is a good time to grab tickets to an upcoming sports game, whether it's a high-profile Major League Baseball game at the stadium, a local event or overseas affair. June and July feature Formula 1 racing, the Worldwide International Cricket Matches, the MLB All Star Game, the Tour de France, Wimbledon, and more.

Cookout supplies

If Dad is the resident outdoor chef, adding to his assortment of cooking gear can be the perfect way to show love and affection on Father's Day. While grills and smokers may get much of the attention, a tabletop pizza oven or outdoor griddle might be welcome additions as well.

Fishing gear

The warm weather of the summer presents plenty of opportunities for anglers to reel in trophy catches. Fathers who love to fish can always use some additions to their tackle boxes, new reels and rods. Choose the correct items for the type of fish he typically goes for, as fishing for striped bass requires different gear that fishing for fluke.

Celebrate Father's Day in unique ways

Father's Day is a celebration of dads near and far. Falling on the third Sunday of June each year, Father's Day presents an opportunity for families to come together and put the spotlight on fathers who work tirelessly for their children and provide them with love and support. Father's Day also is a chance to honor the men who serve as father figures or play special roles in people's lives.

It's easy for families to fall into a routine when it comes to celebrating Father's Day. Certainly dinner and gift-giving is traditional, but there are additional ways to provide Dad with the day he deserves. Explore these creative options.

Set up a scavenger hunt

Drag out the suspense of Dad getting his Father's Day gift by hiding it and requiring him to go through a series of clues to find it. When writing up the clue cards, spouses and children can reference particularly happy moments or things around the house that are representative of Dad's love. For example, a clue may read, "Here's where we like to snuggle together to watch our favorite show."

Take it outdoors

June weather tends to be pleasant, and that means Father's Day celebrations can be held outside. Everyone can select a spot that Dad loves to visit, whether it's a hiking trail or a local park, and then plan activities around the chosen location.

Go on an adventure

Father's Day can be spent engaging in something the family has never tried before that may be exciting for Dad. Maybe he's always wanted to go off-roading on quads or try his skills at hatchet-throwing? The family can get together and choose an activity Dad will find engaging and that everyone can enjoy.

Make it a beach day

Dad might just want a break from the hectic pace of life on Father's Day. This is the perfect opportunity to



head oceanside. For those who don't live by the coast, a river or lakefront spot can be an ideal alternative. Frequently these are touristy areas, so it could be relatively easy to find an eatery where everyone can make a reservation for lunch or dinner after enjoying a relaxing day with waves lapping the shore.

These are just a few clever ways to celebrate Father's Day. Families can choose activities that honor fathers and ensure he is feeling all the love.

Celebrating Father's Day around the world

Many countries around the world celebrate Father's Day, but not all of them do so in June. The most common date for Father's Day celebrations is the third Sunday of June, when the U.S. and Canada celebrate the holiday. In 2025, that day will be June 15th. Many European countries with sizable Catholic populations, such as Spain, Italy and Portugal, celebrate Father's Day on March 19th, which is known as St. Joseph's Day on the Catholic liturgical calendar. St. Joseph was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus Christ, so he is widely recognized as the patron saint of fathers. In Scandinavian countries, Father's Day is the second Sunday in November, which many believe to be an attempt to boost the economy during a month when retail businesses are not particularly busy. In Germany, Father's Day is tied to Ascension Day, which comes on the fortieth day of Easter. Australia and New Zealand celebrate dads on the first Sunday of September, while Brazil celebrates Father's Day on the second Sunday of August. No matter when Father's Day falls, the holiday marks a great time to show dads just how special and loved they are.

Happy Father's Day
ASB Anna STATE BANK
100 E. Vienna • Anna
833-2151
Member FDIC
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Thanks FOR BEING A GREAT DAD!
Anna Tire & Auto Center
90 Richview Drive • Anna, IL
833-2122

Father's Day
Anna-Jonesboro National Bank
Dedicated to our customers, committed to our community
201 South Main • Anna, IL • 618-833-8506
512 E. Vienna St. • Anna, IL • 618-833-2922
1002 Public Square • Jonesboro • 618-833-4547
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC

Happy FATHER'S DAY
City of Anna
Mayor, Commissioners and City Employees

DAD
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
THE FIRST STATE BANK OF DONGOLA
Old and Reliable, Established 1906
108 SE Front Street
Dongola
827-3541
Ullin • 845-3395
Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Celebrate Dad!
Cardinal Corner
409 Grand Tower Road
Grand Tower, IL
618-565-1064
Your Hometown Store

Obituaries

Bonnie Elaine Vines



Bonnie Elaine Vines, a woman whose life was defined by unwavering Christian faith, a profound dedication to education, and an enduring love for her family and farm, passed away on June 2, 2025.

Born Bonnie Elaine Davis on Aug. 27, 1942, in Pennsylvania, Bonnie's journey led her to touch countless lives.

Bonnie's early life saw her move to northern Illinois at the age of 18. It was in Elgin, Ill, that she met and married Donald Lee Vines on June 30, 1963.

Together, they welcomed their only child, Jenni. The family's roots deepened when they moved to a small farm outside Harvard, Ill., and later, on April 1, 1976, established their home on a gravel road in Cobden, which would fittingly come to be known as Vines Road.

Bonnie's professional life was marked by her passion for teaching. After attending Shawnee College and Southern Illinois University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education, she began her career as a 6th-grade teacher in Cobden.

Her commitment to her students led her to pursue a master's degree in Gifted Education from SIU, after which she created the first gifted student program at Cobden Elementary.

Following her retirement from public school, Bonnie's spirit and dedication to her faith inspired her to establish the Shawnee Hills Agape Folk School in Cobden. This private Christian school later relocated to Anna and was renamed Shawnee Hills Christian Academy, where Bonnie continued her mission of shaping young minds until her final retirement from her lengthy career in education.

Beyond her professional achievements, Bonnie was widely known as the "Goat Lady." For nearly five decades, she devoted herself to raising Alpine Dairy Goats, even operating Shawnee Hills Caprine Dairy, a commercial venture, concurrently with her teaching career. Her farm was a vibrant hub, also home to large flocks of geese, ducks, and chickens, along with beloved dogs and the occasional bottle calf.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Lee Vines, who passed on May 30, 2023, and her parents, Jobie and LaRue Davis. Her legacy lives on through her daughter, Dr. Jenni Baggott and her husband, Jake Baggott, of Dodgeville, Wisc.

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES

She is also survived by her four cherished grandchildren: Robbie Williams (fiancé Olivia Bowles) of Birmingham, Ala., Ryan Baggott of Southeast Missouri, Alisha Morti (husband Daniel) of Carterville, Ill., and Richard Baggott of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Bonnie is also survived by her sister, Cindy Vines of Anna; five brothers: Doug, Randy (wife Rindy), Barry, Jeff (wife Donna), and Bruce, all residing in Pennsylvania; and sister-in-law Shirley Vines of Jonesboro. Her extensive family included many nieces, nephews, and cousins, all of whom held a special place in her heart.

Bonnie possessed a rare gift for connecting with people, and it was often said that she knew no strangers.

This remarkable quality was perhaps best exemplified during a pilgrimage to Israel, where, in a serendipitous encounter, a shopkeeper recognized her from many years earlier, remembering her as the "Miss Bonnie" who provided his family with goat's milk when he was a young child in the United States. This unforgettable moment speaks volumes about the indelible mark Bonnie left on those she met.

Her unwavering faith, her profound impact as an educator, her dedication to her family and farm, and her extraordinary ability to touch lives will be her lasting legacy.

Funeral services were on Friday, June 6, at the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with Pastor Jason Forby officiating. Interment followed at the Ebenezer Hall Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are preferred to the Union County 4-H. Envelopes will be available at the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home.

Carroll Henson



Carroll Henson, age 79, of Dongola, passed away on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at Deaconess Union County Hospital.

He was born on Nov. 19, 1945 to Vern and Ruth (McCluskey) Henson in Salem, Ill.

On Jan. 30, 1971, Carroll married Donna Garrison and they spent over 50 years together until her passing in 2021.

Carroll was a Registered Nurse having worked at Choate Mental Health for over 22years. Prior to his nursing career, he spent 30 years as a carpenter in Elgin, Ill.

Carroll spent three years serving in the United States Army as an Airborne Ranger during the Vietnam era.

Carroll was a loving and caring husband and father to his wife and to his children.

Survivors include his son, Doug Henson; daughter, Lynette Henson; granddaughter, Leanna; sister, Teresa Halterman; along with nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Along with his parents and wife, he is preceded in death by his son-in-law, Thomas Hickam; siblings, Marilyn Leach, Melba Mixon, Louise Mobley, Loretta Money, Elise Lowell, and Vern Henson.

Crain Funeral Home

Funeral Services were held on Monday, June 9, with Pastor Henry Miller officiating at Crain Funeral Home in Dongola.

A private inurnment will take place at a later date at Mt. Pisgah Cemetery in Wetaug, Ill.

The cremation of Carroll Henson will be personally handled by the staff of Crain 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.crainsonline.com.

Mona Jane Acuff



Mona Jane Acuff, age 74 years, a resident of rural Vienna, Ill., passed away Monday afternoon, June 2, 2025, at 12:37 p.m. at Deaconess Regional Healthcare in Marion, Ill.

Janey, as she was affectionately known to family and friends, was born Nov. 26, 1950 in Blytheville, Ark. She was the daughter of Robert and Lessie Mae (White) Rhodes.

On July 9, 1970, Janey was united in marriage to Ronnie Lee Acuff in Dongola, Ill.. He preceded her in death on Nov. 20, 2003.

Janey is survived by: her children – Candace McCommons (Keith), Joseph Scott Acuff (Kristie Treat), Rhonda Goines (Josh); grandchildren – Ashtyn Greer (Matt), Faith Acuff (Jack), Sam Acuff (Abby), and Grace Acuff (Draven); great grandchildren – Andy Greer and Maci Greer; her sisters – Geneva Smith, Janice Westmoreland, Peggy Rhodes (Dick), Ocie Oswald, and Linda Rhodes; sisters-in-law – Martha Rhodes and Candy Rhodes; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors. Janey was also anticipating the upcoming births of 2 great grandchildren.

Janey loved and cherished her beloved canine companion, Maggie.

In addition to her parents and husband, Janey was preceded in death by: siblings – Edgar Rhodes, Loretta Wilson, Kenneth Rhodes, Troy Rhodes, and Hobert Rhodes; as well as brothers-in-law – Mike Oswald, Joe Westmoreland, Woody Wilson, and Don Smith.

Janey was a 1969 graduate of Cobden High School. She earned an associate degree in medical coding from Shawnee Community College at Ullin, Ill.

Janey was employed in the finishing department at Florsheim Shoe Company in Anna for a number of years. She was later employed by Ensign-Bickford Industries as an assembly line worker where she assisted in the manufacture of non-electric detonators.

Janey had a zest for life and is remembered for her fun-loving, joyful and positive nature. She had an inner strength that helped her to meet life's challenges and adversities with a firm and steadfast faith. Janey was loved by all who knew her. She had a desire to take care of others.

Janey was an amazing cook. She is especially remembered for her fried chicken, her meatloaf, and chili. Sunday dinners were the highlight of the family's week. Janey cherished time spent with her grandchildren.

She also loved sitting on her porch, watching the birds at her feeders as well as enjoying her roses and peonies. Janey would also spend quiet and peaceful "time with Jesus" on her porch. She was of the Christian faith.

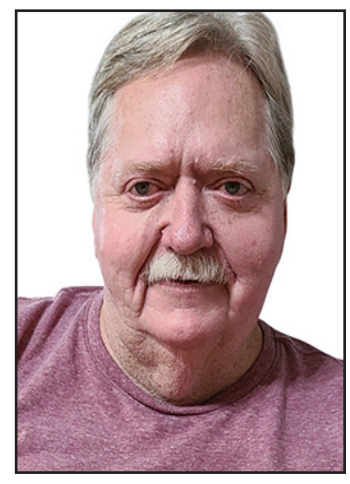
Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon, June 8 at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. Pastor Jay Franklin officiated. Burial will be in the American Legion Cemetery in Dongola.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1905 or online at www.stjude.org or to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675 or online at www.woundedwarriorproject.org

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

Arrangements have been entrusted to Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna, Ill.

Claude Lynn Anderson



Claude Lynn Anderson, 70 of McClure, Ill. passed away on June 1, 2025, at St. Francis Medical Center.

On Oct. 2, 1954, in Anna, Ill. Lynn was the 6th child born to Edward Dwain and Frieda Ermal (Dickerson) Anderson.

Lynn retired from Union Pacific Railroad in 2005 after 31 years of being a railroader and Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Local #965.

Lynn was a lifelong resident of rural McClure. He was very passionate about family genealogy and discussing genealogy with his cousins. Lynn enjoyed gardening and bargain shopping at any thrift store.

Born of the Baptist faith, Lynn loved gospel music and gospel singing.

Lynn is survived by his sister; Bernell Abercombie, of Tamms, Ill., sister in laws Joyce Anderson, of Anna,Ill. and Pam Anderson, of Percy, Ill., as well as many nieces, nephews, and other family and his beloved cat Savanna.

Lynn was proceeded in death by his parents, brothers Dwain Bryant, Dale Irvin, David Lee, Clinton Gordon and Larry Lyle. One sister in law Georgia and brother in law Bob Abercombie.

Funeral services were held on Friday, June 6. Burial was at Cumins Cemetery in rural McClure, Ill., following funeral services. Rev. Buddy Walls officiated

Jones Funeral Home Tamms is in charge of the arrangements.

Karen Treece

Karen Treece, age 73 of Anna, passed away Saturday, May 31, 2025 at Mercy Hospital in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

She was born April 18, 1952 in Portland Maine, the daughter of Ralph and Ina Mae (Russell) Bowie.

She married Larry Treece on July 6, 1984 at Kornthal Church in Jonesboro.

Karen is survived by her loving husband, Larry Treece of Anna; son Joshua (Kellie) Treece; two grandchildren, Claire and Caden Treece; siblings, Denis Bowie, Blaine Longley, and Charles Longley; other extended relatives and many friends.

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES

She was preceded in death by her father, Ralph Bowie; mother and stepfather, Ina Mae and Russell Longley; daughter, Melissa (McLaird) Kinder; and brother, Robert Longley.

Karen was the medical records supervisor for the Fellowship House in Anna for thirty-four years. She graduated in 1970 from Waterville High School. Karen will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.

There will be no service at this time.

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

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

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship Sunday, June 8 with Bro. Perry Wright leading our opening prayer.

Our announcements and prayer list was gone over and our prayer list was prayed over.

Our Call to Worship was on "The Church."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

Our Worship Team led us in three songs, "At the Cross," "What a Beautiful Name" and "Come Jesus Come."

Pastor Lupe's sermon was titled "The Book of Revelation" "Blood Wine."

Highlights included, Revelation Chapters 14 through 16, portraying God's final warnings and judgments before the return of Christ. In Chapter 14, three angels deliver messages of gospel proclamation, warning against worshiping the beast, and announcing impending judgment, followed by a symbolic harvest of the earth.

Chapter 15 introduces seven angels with the final plagues, showing a heavenly scene where those victorious over the beast sing praise to God.

Chapter 16 describes the outpouring of the seven bowls of God's wrath, bringing devastating judgments upon the unrepentant, including sores, darkness, and the drying of the Euphrates River. Together, these chapters emphasize God's justice, the urgency of repentance and the certainty of His triumph over evil.

Our Sunday School starts at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning and is for all ages. Our Worship Service and Children's Church begins at 10.15 a.m. Our Prayer Time is at 6 p.0.m on Wednesday evening and our Youth Program is from 5.30 to 7 p.m. also on Wednesday evening. Our bus runs for all of these services and programs. Please call our church office Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9 am to 3 pm to be put on a list and to ask about our other programs.

We continue to have our yard sales on Saturday from 8.30 a.m. to noon to help support our Mexico Mission trip.

We will have a Southern Gospel Concert on June 21, at 6.30 p.m. with New Beginnings Quartet. Concert is free, we will take a love offering.

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

Our Facebook.com/AnnaFirstBaptistChurch Our email isfbcanna409@gmail.com.

We invite you to any and all of our services and programs. We pray God will bless you and your family. Please give us a call or stop by to visit if we can be of any help or if we can pray with you.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on June 8. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team.

The message, "Surrender To The Power Of the Holy Spirit" from Hebrews 10:25, Revelations 3:20, Romans 6:23, 1 John 1:8, James 4:7, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1-4. Titus 3:5-6, Galatians 5:16, 2 Corinthians 5:20, was brought by Pastor Wright.

Celebrating birthdays this week are June 10 - Ruth McClure, 12th Ben Thompson, Yvonne Ramage

The evening service was held on June 8 at 6 p.m. The message, "Jesus Is The True Foundation" from Isaiah 28:16, Ephesians 2:19-20, Matthew 7:24-25, Psalm 18:1, was brought by Pastor Wright.

Sunday, June 15, Father's Day

Breakfast, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning service, 10:35 a.m., no evening worship.

Wednesday, June 18

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.

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On June 8, our Youth, along with Youth Leader, Kerry Shipley, and Chaperone Isabet Tehandòn, gave a presentation of their experiences at Youth camp during the morning service. They had a wonderful experience both socially and spiritually.

Then, Pastor Perry Williams' sermon addressed what is wrong with the Church universally.

He read the scripture that warns us not to take the Lord's name in vain. His message explained that our lifestyles sometimes do not show the importance of Christ in our lives. Are we showing the world we are not who we say we are? His text was found in the twentieth chapter of Exodus.

Music Director, Dee Rose, led in worship accompanied by The Praise Team, Sharon Morgan, Marion Hill, Rodger Goines and Joyce Hill. Our pianist was Debbie York. Debbie York and Dee Rose also presented a duet, "When He Was on the Cross, I was on His Mind."

Our service was sent via transmitter station 87.9 FM for those who want to listen via the radio. The service was also live streamed on Facebook, so if you missed it, you still have an opportunity to view it. Please check our Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, for the videos and latest info on church events.

This week's activities include our Men's Bible Study on Monday, June 9 at 6 p.m. and our Senior Adult Group, "LLL" meets on Tuesday, June 10, 11 a.m.; and on Wednesday, June 11, our Church will join with the Illinois State Police Youth Camp to have a service for the Youth at 6 p.m. at Touch of Nature Center near Little Grassy.

View Obituaries Online at annanews.com



Gospel night

Gospel singing takes place at Casper Church on the first Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. Participants this month included, from left, David Isom, Trey and Sarah Morrison, Norma and Danny Weaver. Photographer Martha Ann Webb.

4-H general show kicks off in Union County

By Jordi Oliver, University of Illinois Extension

Local youth presented their 4-H projects at the Union County Extension Annex during the first general show of the season on Saturday, June 5. Participants represented counties across southern Illinois, including Johnson, Massac, Union, Pulaski and Alexander.

General project shows are a staple of Illinois 4-H, providing youth with an opportunity to exhibit what they have learned through hands-on projects in areas such as science, visual arts, civic engagement, cooking and more. Each participant prepares their project for evaluation, demonstrating not only their technical skills but also their personal growth, communication, public speaking and goal-setting achievements.

4-H members are encouraged to attend any of the general shows offered each Thursday throughout June, regardless of county affiliation. Upcoming events include:

June 12: Johnson County Extension Office from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

June 19: Massac County Extension Office from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

June 26: Pulaski/Alexander Extension Office from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All 4-H members within Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski and Union counties are welcome to participate and present their projects at any or multiple locations. Standout projects may be selected to advance to the Illinois State Fair in Springfield later this summer.

For more information about upcoming events, contact your local county extension office or visit extension.illinois.edu.

If you will need an accommodation to participate, please email extension@illinois.edu. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

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

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First Love



Photo Credit istockphoto.com/InspiredFootage

A little girl will judge all her loves by her first love…her father is her hero and sets the stage for her expectations of the men in her life. Conversely, a daughter makes her Dad feel ten feet tall; the admiration in her eyes as she looks up to him inspires him to be all that he can be. Dad's love is unconditional; he will always remember that miraculous little bundle of red and wrinkled humanity that stole his heart at first sight. He can set a spiritual example for his daughter. Our Heavenly Father set the first example of unconditional love. Worship with your dad this Father's Day and give thanks to your Heavenly Father together.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Acts 2.1-18	Acts 2.29-47	Acts 5.12-42	Romans 8.1-17	Romans 8.18-39	Romans 12.1-21	Romans 14.1-23

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Wednesday
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Union County Housing Authority is taking applications for USDA Rural Development for one bedroom apartments and two bedroom apartments in Wolf Lake, IL. Rent is based on income. For information call 618-833-5129 or Email: Robbin@ucha.email or sara@ucha.email. Union County Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

TAKING APPLICATIONS

Union County Housing Authority is taking applications for USDA Rural Development Sites for one-bedroom apartments in Jonesboro, one-bedroom apartments in Dongola, and two bedroom apartments in Dongola. The applicant(s) must be at least 62 years of age or have a disability to qualify. Rent is based on income. For information call 618-833-5129 or Email: Robbin@ucha.email or Sara@ucha.email. Union County Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

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

HELP WANTED

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

FARMERS STATE BANK OF ALTO PASS, a state chartered bank, Plaintiff v. HUDSON & HUDSON LLC, et al., Defendants, No. 2025-FC-7

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

NOTICE is hereby given to unknown owners and non-record claimants of the real estate described in the Complaint for Foreclosure filed in the above entitled case, defendants in the above entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of 735 Illinois Compiled Statutes 5/2-206, 5/15-1218, and 5/15-1502, that the above entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said Court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against said Defendants is JULY 14, 2025, and that the following information applies to said foreclosure proceeding:

1. The name of the Plaintiff and the case number are identified above.

2. The court in which said action was brought is identified above.

3. The name of the titleholder of record: Hudson & Hudson LLC.

4. The legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:

TRACT 1:

A parcel of land being a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 12 South, Range 1 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Said parcel is also a part of property described and recorded in Book 118, Page 103 in the Union County Courthouse in the name of Juanita Denny, as Trustee under the provisions of a trust agreement dated March 15, 1973, identified as Trust No. 4056-73-1, and also known as Tri D Development Land Trust. Said Parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at an iron pipe found at the Southeast Corner of said Quarter-Quarter Section, said corner being established per survey of J.T. Blankenship, IPLS No. 699, for Dale Denny, dated June 6, 1966; thence N 0 degrees 33' 33" W 1007.81 feet along the East line of said Quarter-Quarter Section to the Southeast corner of an existing utility easement; thence N 88 degrees 41' 32" W 278.65 feet along the South line of said utility easement to an iron rod set, this being the point of beginning; thence along new lines the following two (2) calls: thence S 1 degree 55' 21" E 213.36 feet to an iron rod set; thence N 88 degrees 41' 15" W 190.60 feet to an iron rod set in the East line of a new 50' access and utility easement; thence along said new easement the following two (2) calls: thence N 1 degree 55' 21" W 18.31 feet to an iron rod set; thence along a curve to the left with chord bearing N 22 degrees 03' 40" W 144.07 feet, a radius of 209.22 feet, and an arc of 147.08 feet to an iron rod set in the South line of said existing utility easement; thence along said existing utility easement, the following two (2) calls: thence N 47 degrees 47' 54" E 90.74 feet to an iron rod set; thence S 88 degrees 41' 32" E 170.94 feet to the point of beginning.

TRACT II:

A perpetual, non-exclusive easement for roadway and utility purposes, for the benefit of the foregoing "tract 1" (The dominant tenement) being a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 12 South, Range 1 West of the Third Principal Meridian, City of Anna, Union County, Illinois being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at an iron pipe found at the Southeast corner of said Quarter-Quarter Section, said corner being established per survey of J.T. Blankenship, IPLS No. 699, for Dale Denny, dated June 6, 1966; thence N 0 degrees 33' 33"W 1345.81 feet to a concrete right-of-way marker found in the South right of way line of Dog Walk Road; thence N 88 degrees 41' 32" W 456.70 feet along the south right-of-way line of Dog Walk Road to a concrete right-of-way marker found in the South right-of-way line of Lick Creek Road; thence along the South right-of-way line of Lick Creek Road along a curve to the right with chord bearing S 46 degrees 54' 01" W 310.20 feet, a radius of 8634.42 feet, and an arc of 310.22 feet to an iron rod found, this being the point of beginning; thence along new easement lines the following seven (7) calls: thence S 42 degrees 12'00" E 252.63 feet to an iron rod set; thence along a curve to the right with chord bearing S 22 degrees 03' 40" E 144.07 feet, a radius of 209.22 feet and an arc of 147.08 feet to an iron rod set; thence S 1 degree 55' 21" E 18.31 feet to an iron rod set; thence N 88 degrees 41'15" W 50.08 feet to an iron rod set, thence N 1 degree 55' 21" W 15.49 feet to an iron rod set; thence along a curve to the left with chord bearing N 22 degrees 03' 40" W 109.64 feet, a radius of 159.22 feet, and an arc of 111.93 feet to an iron rod found; thence N 42 degrees 12' 00" W 252.88 feet to an iron rod found in the South right-of-way of Lick Creek Road; thence along a curve to the left with chord bearing N 48 degree 05' 44" E 50.00 feet, a radius of 8634.42 feet, and an arc of 50.00 feet to the point of beginning.

5. Common address or description or the location of the real estate is as follows: 108 Denny Industrial Drive, Anna, Illinois.

6. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:

Name of mortgagor: Lindsey Fisher Hudson a/k/a Lindsey Fisher

Name of mortgagee: Farmers State Bank of Alto Pass

Date of mortgage: March 3, 2023

Date of recording: March 9, 2023

County where recorded: Union County

Recording document identification: Document No. 2023R0356

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT BY A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Union County, Illinois
BARRETT, TWOMEY, BROOM, HUGHES & HOKE, LLP
Attorneys at Law
100 North Illinois Avenue
P.O. Box 3747
Carbondale, IL 62902-3747
Tel: (618) 457-0437
Fax: (618) 457-0411
8221-954692

SHAWNEE CUSD 84 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.

Shawnee CUSD 84	3365 State Hwy 3 N Wolf Lake, IL 62998 1157	618-833-5709	9 AM - 3 PM
School District/Joint Agreement Name	Address	Telephone	Office Hours

Also by **January 15 annually** the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the **Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024** will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at **www.isbe.net**.

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2024

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	2,047,467	208,437	373,474	81,297	111,504	135,989	52,713	384,027	22,162
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0		0	0				
State Sources	3000	2,233,949	50,000	0	343,916	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	958,445	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		5,239,861	258,437	373,474	425,213	111,504	135,989	52,713	384,027	22,162
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		4,377,943	1,046,523	559,748	561,464	106,616	241,984		380,543	42,154
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		(800,000)	900,000	9,900	100,000	56,000	0	173,000	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2023		2,734,758	62,274	522,676	96,929	54,177	255,777	2,257,031	89,026	112,225
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024		2,796,676	174,188	346,302	60,678	115,065	149,782	2,482,744	92,510	92,233
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024		2,870,629	174,188	346,302	60,678	115,065	149,782	2,482,744	92,510	92,233

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

SALARY RANGE LESS THAN - $25,000
Blanchard, Burd, Dziegielewski, R Griffin, Hudson, Livesay, Mezo, Misselhorn, S Pender, Schroeder, Spring, Swink

SALARY RANGE $40,000-$59,999
Allison, Barnes, Brown, Cantwell, Cerney, Craft, Crowe, Friend, Gregson, Hathaway, Houston, Johnson, Jones, Lomax, McKinney, Norris, J Pender, T Pender, Phillips, Roskowski, Schultz

SALARY RANGE $60,000-$89,999
RN Griffin, Marks, D Rose, Wilson

SALARY RANGE $90,000 & OVER
Clover-Hill, Reynolds, K Schaefer

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

SALARY RANGE LESS THAN $25,000
Busby, Clymore, Craver, Filbeck, Follis, Ford, Irwin, McMahan, Myers, M Pender, Roach, C Rose, Russell, C Schaefer, Shackles, Smith

SALARY RANGE $25,000-$39,999
Chapman, Derossett, Ellet Jr, J Graham, Hubbs, Jackson, McGuire, Rhymer, Schuster, Woolverton

SALARY RANGE $40,000-$59,999
Baltzell, L Graham, Koerner, Toler

PAYMENTS OVER $2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

A&W Plumbing	1,488,029
Band Shoppe	5,134
Bankcard Center	63,023
Baysinger Architects PLLC	120,464
Bendler Boiler & Mechancial Co	17,319
Beussink, Hickam & Kochel	19,105
Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL	74,839
Cape Janitor Supply	15,549
Capital One	25,953
Chapman and Cutler LLP	4,900
Clearwave Communications	2,996
Committee For Children	2,769
DE Signs Unlimited	20,015
Delta Dental of IL	17,299
E Rate Funding Services LLC	3,920
Employers Preferred Ins Co	10,557
First Southern	549,947
First Student Inc	538,760
Five County Regional Vocational Center	3,830
Gardner L&M Glass Inc	14,550
Geissler Roofing Co Inc	14,130
Glandt Roofing LLC	162,000
Great Minds PBC	32,657
Haddock Educational Technologies	4,060
HSG Mechanical Contractors	5,200
IASB	3,429
IL State Board of Education	3,208
John E Bradley Law Firm	25,000
Johnson Control	15,061
Kehrer Brothers	6,200
King's Financial	4,900
Lee's Sports	9,431
Andrew Livesay	3,450
Loving Guidance LLC	3,374
Newgen Strategies & Solutions	27,985
Osborne Office	25,882
Piedmont Pest Control	2,600
Prairie Farms	27,059
Ramza Insurance	80,849
RDA System Inc	12,663
Rebel Athletic Inc	3,568
Renaissance	44,647
Revolving Fund	34,501
Robbins, Schwartz, Nickolas, Lifton & Taylor	180,523
Rusty's Home Center	3,858
Savvas Learning Co LLC	20,272
Schemel Co Inc	9,950
School Health Corp	4,087
School Specialty	5,544
Sandra Shackles	6,000
Shawnee Valley Utilities	9,113
Shivelbine's	2,529
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Staples Advantage	2,854
Straight Line Striping LLC	3,094
Sulaiman Law Group LTD	8,000
Teachers Retirement System	13,680
Tech Guy Inc	107,089
Tipton Linen Service	6,851
Tri County Special Education	300,164
Tueth, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan & Jackstadt	27,098
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U.S. Supreme Court agrees to hear Illinois Congressman's appeal of mail-in voting

By Ben Szalinski
Capitol News Illinois

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed Monday, June 2, to hear an appeal on a lawsuit led by Illinois Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Bost challenging Illinois' mail-in voting law.

Bost and a pair of Illinois primary delegates for President Donald Trump sued the Illinois State Board of Elections in 2022, arguing that the state's law allowing mail-in ballots to be counted after Election Day violates the federal law establishing an "Election Day." Both a lower federal trial court and federal appeals court have ruled Bost lacked standing to sue.

The Supreme Court said its ruling will focus on whether Bost, of Murphysboro, in his role as a political candidate has legal grounds to sue over a state's election law, rather than if Illinois' mail-in voting law is legal, because the appeal challenges lower court rulings that Bost did not legal grounds to sue.

A favorable ruling for Bost by the Supreme Court could force lower courts to issue a ruling about Illinois' law.

"With the American people's confidence in our elections at a discouraging low point, it's more important than ever we work to restore their trust," Bost said in a statement. "I believe a big part of that effort is ensuring all votes are tallied by Election Day, not days or weeks later. I am thankful the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear my appeal of Illinois' election law."

It's not clear when the nation's high court will hear Bost's case. The court is scheduled to begin hearing oral arguments in October.

Under Illinois law, ballots postmarked by Election Day can be counted as late as 14 days after the election as they arrive at local election offices. Bost's case argues this violates the federal law establishing Election Day by allowing votes to arrive and be counted for two weeks after the polls close.

After the unfavorable lower court rulings, Judicial Watch kept the fight going to the U.S. Supreme Court after appealing in November. The conservative legal group cited conflicting rulings on mail-in voting in other states and said Bost's case is "an ideal vehicle" for the nation's high court to decide whether ballots can be counted after Election Day.

The filing cited numerous cases from 2020 challenging election laws and outcomes, some of which Judicial Watch was a part of, in efforts to block the counting of mail-in ballots.

"It is an injustice that the courts would deny a federal candidate the ability to challenge an election provision that could lead to illegal votes being cast and counted for two weeks after Election Day," Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton said in a statement.

Judicial Watch argues costs for campaigns to monitor ballot counting beyond Election Day constitute harm to candidates for public office that must be addressed by the court. But the Illinois State Board of Elections via the attorney general's office argued Judicial Watch fails to show Bost negatively suffered because of Illinois' law, and Bost's case would not be the right case for the court to use to review mail-in voting laws.

"Petitioners have never advanced any allegations that Illinois's ballot receipt deadline might materially impact their likelihood of prevailing in any election," the board argued.

In a response filing to the board's request for the court to dismiss the case, Judicial Watch argued the Board of Elections has warned ahead of elections that apparent leads in vote totals can change as late-arriving ballots are counted, meaning election results can change negatively for Bost.

But the State Board of Elections argued Illinois' mail-in voting law doesn't directly regulate candidates.

"Illinois's ballot receipt deadline does not regulate petitioners directly as political candidates; it simply recognizes the reality that ballots cast by mail may be delayed," the board argued.

Winning elections has not been a problem for Bost. He has represented the 12th Congressional District in southern Illinois since 2015 and was reelected in 2024 with nearly 75 percent of the vote. His district did change slightly in redistricting after the 2020 census.

Judicial Watch said it worried "illegal votes could diminish his margin of victory" and make it appear that he is growing more unpopular with his constituents. The organization also argued Bost filed this case to preemptively correct perceived issues with the vote by mail law.

Republicans in Illinois and at the national level embraced mail-in voting in the 2024 election cycle after pushing back against it in recent years. The Illinois Republican Party joined the Republican National Committee's "bank your vote" initiative, which encouraged reliable Republican voters to vote early or by mail so campaign resources could be focused on turning out people who were on the fence about voting or who were undecided.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Governor announces appointment of first female state fire marshal

Michele L. Pankow, a public safety expert and seasoned fire chief, has been appointed to to serve as the Illinois state fire marshal beginning in mid-July. She will be the first woman to serve as the state fire marshal.

Pankow's appointment was announced Wednesday, June 4, by Gov. JB Pritzker. Her appointment is pending confirmation by the Illinois Senate. Pankow has spent more than 32 years in the Illinois fire service.

"With 32 years of exemplary service, Chief Pankow's unique knowledge and skillset have more than earned her this new role as Illinois state fire marshal," the governor said in a news release. "Having risen in the ranks since her first day on the job, she understands the needs of Illinois firefighters, and is versed in the public safety functions of our state. I am grateful for her ongoing commitment to Illinois, and look forward to seeing her strengthen our team."

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be appointed as the Illinois state fire marshal. After more than three decades of service with the Rockford Fire Department, I am proud to continue serving the people of Illinois in this new capacity," Pankow said. "I look forward to working alongside the dedicated team at the Office of the State Fire Marshal, as well as fire service professionals, state leaders, and community partners to advance public safety, support our first responders and strengthen fire prevention efforts across the state."

Michele L. Pankow began her career in fire service at the Rockford Fire Department in 1992, beginning as a firefighter/paramedic/EMT. Over the years, she was promoted to a training officer where she implemented state and federal regulations, and she then served as EMS operations chief, coordinating with agencies on education and recruitment.

In 2002, Pankow was promoted to lieutenant at the Rockford Fire Department, by 2010, had been assigned captain, and by 2016, was promoted to district chief. She supervised day-to-day firefighting and emergency services, managed staffing for response operations, and conducted response functions to include operations, planning, logistics, safety, and public information.

From 2017-2021, Pankow served as division chief of operations, which included being the Emergency Services Disaster Agency coordinator for the City of Rockford. In this role, she was tasked with planning and organizing fire suppression and emergency medical operations, as well as overseeing the emergency operations center.

In 2021, Pankow was sworn in as the 11th fire chief of the Rockford Fire Department, becoming the first woman chief in the history of the department. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was also awarded the American Red Cross Disaster Services Hero Award, which honors individuals for great acts of bravery, dedication and community service.

Pankow holds a bachelor of science degree in fire service management from Southern Illinois University and a master of public administration degree from Northern Illinois University.

Representative Jacobs announces annual summer reading club

State Representative Paul Jacobs (R-Pomona) announced his annual summer reading program for incoming first through fourth grade students residing in the 118th State Representative district.

"I am inviting 1st through 4th graders to participate in my 2025 'Get in the Game' Summer Reading Club," said Rep. Jacobs. "This is one of my favorite events to host each year. I encourage everyone, not just kids, to read more books and enjoy the wealth of literature available at our school and public libraries. Whether your interest is in sports, the great outdoors, science, history or art, your adventures are endless."

Students reading at least eight books by July 3, 2025 will receive an official Illinois House of Representatives Certificate of Recognition and two tickets (one for the reader, one for a parent/guardian) to a Thrillbillies baseball game at Mountain Dew Park in Marion in July for a special "Night at the Ballpark" celebrating summer readers.

The deadline to submit completed forms is the close of business on Thursday, July 3. The online form can be found at https://reppauljacobs.com/rep-jacobs-summer-reading-program.

After completing eight books, readers can fill out the form and have a parent or guardian verify that the books were read. Books with more than 150 pages may be listed twice.

Students and their parents/guardians may submit completed summer reading forms to Rep. Jacobs' Marion District Office, located at 600 N. Halfway Road, Suite 103; Marion, IL 62959.

Students and parents with any questions may call Rep. Jacobs' office at (618) 559-7018 or email Jacobs@ILHouseGOP.org.

Union meeting



Maria Britton-Sipe, retiree program coordinator from Springfield AFSCME 31, recently spoke to Chapter 90 Union at Shawnee College Extension in Anna. All retired state workers are welcomed to attend the meetings at 9 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Shawnee College in Anna in the first room on the left. Photographer, Martha Ann Webb.

Nominations welcomed for hall of fame

The Illinois Conservation Foundation, ICF, is accepting nominations for the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame class of 2025.

Each year, the foundation honors individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to conservation and outdoor recreation across the state. Since 2002, inductees have included mentors who have introduced thousands to hunting, fishing and wildlife stewardship. These leaders have championed habitat restoration, clean water and helped preserve the state's outdoor heritage for generations to come.

Nominees selected for the 2025 class will be inducted at the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Gala next spring.

An official nomination form can be be found on the ICF website at ilconservation.org. Nominations are due by July 15.

Spay/Neuter Coalition hosting raffle

The Cobden Spay/Neuter Coalition is hosting a raffle to raise funds for their organization.

The prize package, valued at over $525, includes 21 gift cards to local Union County restaurants, wineries and more. The winner will be drawn at 6 p.m. on the main stage at the Annabelle Festival on June 14.

The winner does not have to be present to win. Tickets are $1 each; 6 for $5 or 25 for $20. Tickets are available for purchase at the Cobden Village Hall during open business hours. Representatives from the coalition will also be selling tickets at the Annabelle Festival.

All proceeds benefit their nonprofit organization, which works to reduce the number of unwanted cats in Union County.

Find out more details on their Facebook event page at facebook.com/events/s/csncs-union-county-wine-dine-r/1447103350067347/.

Upcoming events set at the Anna Arts Center

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council has several events scheduled, including several as part of the Annabelle Festival on Saturday.

On Friday, June 13, the Anna Arts Center will host an open mic night from 7 to 10 p.m. The show is open to comedians, musicians and spoken word artists. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. with a $5 cover charge. Performers wishing to reserve a spot should email zj.rowatt@gmail.com.

Auditions for "The Musical of Musicals" will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. on Friday, June 13 and 5 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 14. Those wishing to audition should prepare 20-30 of a song and 30-60 seconds of reading. To schedule an audition, text Ethan at 618-851-0309.

The "Arts by the People" exhibit will be on display this week as part of the Annabelle Festival in Anna. Entry into the exhibit is open to everyone in the community with the theme of, "Anything goes - selfies, patriotic, wildlife, black-n-white, architecture and cutest pet."

The exhibit will be open for viewing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Anna Arts Center.

There is a $5 entry fee for adults and $3 for 18 and under. Entry fee must be paid with delivery of artwork. Work must be delivered by Thursday, June 12 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Ribbons and prize money will be awarded for winners in 3 categories: adult, ages 13 to 18 and ages 5 to 12. For questions, call 904-625-1109 or email vabchlee@gmail.com

Other Annabelle Festival events hosted by the Shawnee Hills Arts Council include the Anna Jo Garden Club Biggest Annabelle Bloom contest. Registration runs from 8 to 9 a.m. with a $1 entry fee. Winners will be announced at 10 a.m. You can also buy Hometown Heritage Annabelles from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The pet carnival will be held at 9 a.m. with an 8:30 a.m. registration time.

They will also be hosting a children were kids can paint a flowerpot. This activity is free.

The reptile show starts at 11:30 p.m. At 1 p.m there will be a magic show, and at 2:30 p.m., the "birds of prey" exhibit. All shows are free and for all ages.

On Thursday, June 19, a presentation on the connection between Cinco de Mayo and Juneteenth will be presented from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Anna Arts Center. The show will trace the hidden voices in music, song and dance through genealogy. The show is free.

A blood drive will also be hosted from 12 to 5 p.m. on June 19.





Jive for Jazz

A special interactive "Jive for Jazz" concert was held on June 4 at Shawnee Hills Arts Council in Anna. The event was part of the Southern Illinois Music Festival. Music educator Mel Goot gave a brief history of jazz and his musical ensemble played some popular jazz tunes.

Opinion and Commentary

Health department program promotes vaccines for children

School vaccinations are underway throughout the region and once again Southern 7 Health Department is teaming up with area Dairy Queen and McDonald's locations for its annual "Ice Cream for Vaccines" program.

Southern 7 Health Department notes that Illinois state law requires certain vaccinations for children enrolled in child care, Head Start, Pre-K, elementary and high school programs.

Every child under age 18 who is immunized through Southern 7 Health Department from June through December of this year will receive a coupon, while supplies last, for a free ice cream cone compliments of Dairy Queen in Anna or Vienna or McDonald's in Metropolis.

"We are so grateful to Dairy Queen and McDonald's for their continued support of this program. Vaccines are one of our children's greatest defenses against many serious and potentially life-threatening illnesses, and have proven to be safe and effective in protecting them from serious childhood diseases," said Shawnna Rhine, Southern 7 community outreach coordinator. "Hopefully, a little ice cream will make the process a bit easier for them."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CDC reported a concerning drop in routine immunizations for children of all ages. Vaccination rates among kindergarteners have remained high and stable for decades in the United States. However, during the school years following the start of the pandemic, coverage dropped from 95 percent to 93 percent overall – the lowest level in the last decade.

Many children who experienced delayed vaccination during the pandemic are still behind schedule. This is especially concerning given that this year's kindergartners were born at the beginning of the pandemic, the health department said.

Southern 7 Health Department encourages parents to plan early to avoid any delays in the vaccination process. "New parents often have questions about vaccines that have been around for decades," Rhine said. "By scheduling their child's vaccination appointment early parents will have plenty of time to talk with their provider, collect necessary paperwork, to confirm needed vaccines and ensure there are no delays at the vaccine appointment."

Southern 7 Health Department provides the recommended vaccinations for all ages at each of the department's seven clinic offices. These include MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), chicken pox, D-TaP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, also known as whooping cough), Hib (Haemophilus influenza), HPV (Human Papillomavirus), Hepatitis A and B, and polio. Flu, COVID-19 and HPV are also recommended, but are not required, for school admission in Illinois, the health department said.

To find out if a child is current in his/her routine vaccinations, or to schedule an appointment at a public health clinic, call 618-634-2297, visit southern7.org or download the Southern 7 app.

Department on Aging encourages awareness about abuse of elderly

June 15 is Elder Abuse Awareness Day. With reports of elder abuse on the rise in Illinois since 2022, Illinois Department on Aging, IDoA, director Mary Killough is reminding community members to learn the warning signs and speak up about suspected abuse of older adults.

"Elder abuse is sadly more common than many people realize, but it is largely preventable," Killough said in a news release. "By understanding what elder abuse is, recognizing the signs, and taking steps to prevent it, we can create safer and more supportive communities for older adults."

Elder abuse is characterized as an act causing any physical, mental or sexual injury to an older adult, including exploitation of their financial resources and abandonment. The term also applies to actions that create an environment in which harm could be expected, including harm to an older adult's health, physical and/or emotional well-being or welfare.

National studies show as many as one in 10 adults aged 60 and older will experience some form of elder abuse in a given year, with some older adults simultaneously experiencing more than one type of abuse. The trauma of elder abuse can result in serious consequences, including physical and mental health issues, loss of social and familial relationships, financial hardship and more.

Illinois' Adult Protective Services, APS, program investigates reports of abuse and mistreatment and provides support to help survivors recover by connecting them with health care resources and social services. Last year, APS agencies received more than 18,000 reports of potential elder abuse in Illinois, along with around 4,000 reports of potential abuse of adults younger than 60 with physical or developmental disabilities.

Anyone can report abuse of an older adult or person with a disability who lives in the community by calling Illinois' 24-hour APS hotline at 866-800-1409 or 711 (for Telecommunications Relay Service for persons with hearing or speech disabilities). When making a report to APS, callers should be prepared to provide the name and location of the alleged victim and details regarding the alleged abuse. APS reports are confidential, and reporters may choose to remain anonymous.

If an older adult is in immediate, life-threatening danger, call 911. To report suspected abuse in a long-term care facility, contact a long-term care ombudsman or, for nursing homes specifically, call the Illinois Department of Public Health's nursing home hotline at 800-252-4343.

Signs of potential elder abuse may include unexplained injuries, behavioral changes, such as becoming emotionally upset or withdrawn, unsafe or unsanitary living conditions and sudden changes in an older adult's bank accounts or banking practices.

To raise awareness of elder abuse, its warning signs and prevention efforts, Gov. JB Pritzker has issued a proclamation designating June 15 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Illinois..

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Cardinals…Cubs…soggy Critters…and a shameless plug…

We'll start this week with a Critter Sighting of a different kind… involving birds and baby bears…

Nice to see the Cardinals and (this was really hard to write) the Cubs as a couple of "relevant" Major League Baseball teams in the 2025 season. As of early this week, (and, again, this is hard to write), the Cubs were in first place in the National League's Central Division. The Cardinals were right behind…in second place…

The season is young, so the proverbial anything can happen. Your writer even saw a story online hinting at the possibility of an appearance by the Cubs in the World Series. I'm guessing that story probably was generated by artificial intelligence…

Meanwhile…

As near as this observer can tell, folks are pretty much ready to see the end of the ongoing rounds of downpours, severe thunderstorm warnings and other such weather adventures. We figure around 3 or 4 inches or rain fell in the vicinity of our back door during the past week or so. A fellow traveler on The Journey Through Life mentioned that he had seen something like 6 inches of rain. To say that our little corner of the world is soggy would be a bit of an understatement.

Our recent wet weather has been good for The Other Half's 2025 agricultural enterprises. Especially the weeds and various other vegetation which are growing where she would rather not see such things growing. It sure would be nice if somebody could come up with a nice recipe for a poison ivy salad. We have a great crop of that stuff.

Meanwhile…

Speaking of rain and stormy weather…last Friday afternoon, yours truly decided it was time to actually "do something" on what had otherwise been a rather lazy last day of the "work week."

It would have been nice to get a few chores done in the great outdoors last Friday. Mother Nature did not cooperate. We had another severe thunderstorm, complete with the usual gulley washing deluge, strong winds, lightning and thunder…all of which were repeated last Saturday night and one more time in the wee dark hours of very early Monday morning.

After the rain took a pause Friday afternoon, I decided to get in the car and take a trip out in the countryside to see what there might have been to see, which, as it turned out, included a few soggy Critters.

While heading west on Mountain Glen Road, I spotted a red-headed woodpecker. The somewhat soaked red, white and black bird made a stop atop a fence post along the road. I wanted to offer the bird an umbrella, but it was a bit late for that.

I left Mountain Glen Road for a short drive on Kaolin Road. I wanted to see how our downpour had affected a creek which flows under a bridge along Kaolin Road. While heading in the direction of the bridge, I saw an armadillo crossing the road. And then, another armadillo crossed the road. They may have been looking for a chicken. I also saw a box turtle crossing the road. Presumably, the reptile was following the armadillos in their search for the chicken that crossed the road. I did not see a chicken crossing the road.

Thanks to the heavy rain, the creek under the bridge on Kaolin Road was a brown, swollen torrent of water rushing and roaring through what "normally" is a rather tranquil setting in a hilly woodland.

Friday afternoon's after-the-downpour journey took me west on Brown Section Road, all the way out to Rhine Road. I saw more tumultuous creek water, a lone white-tailed deer in a field of corn stalks, lots of crows and an egret in another field partially covered in water.

On the way back home, I spotted a black vulture, with wings spread wide, perched on the bare branches of a downed tree not far from the road. I'm thinking the vulture was eye-balling me with a meal in mind…it was, after all, almost time for supper.

After all of the rain, we were supposed to get a bit of a break during the middle of the week. I am thinking that all kinds of Critters, including those with two legs, four legs, six legs, eight legs and maybe even a hundred legs, would have been grateful for some dry time. Then again, have you seen the forecast?

Meanwhile…

We'll finish up this week with yet another shameless plug. Yup. The Friends of Stinson Library are planning to have an Annabelle Festival book sale Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 13-15. Friday's sale is for members of the Friends. The sale is open to the public on Saturday, and there's a bag sale Sunday afternoon. Check it out. Summer is a great time to do some reading…especially on a rainy day.

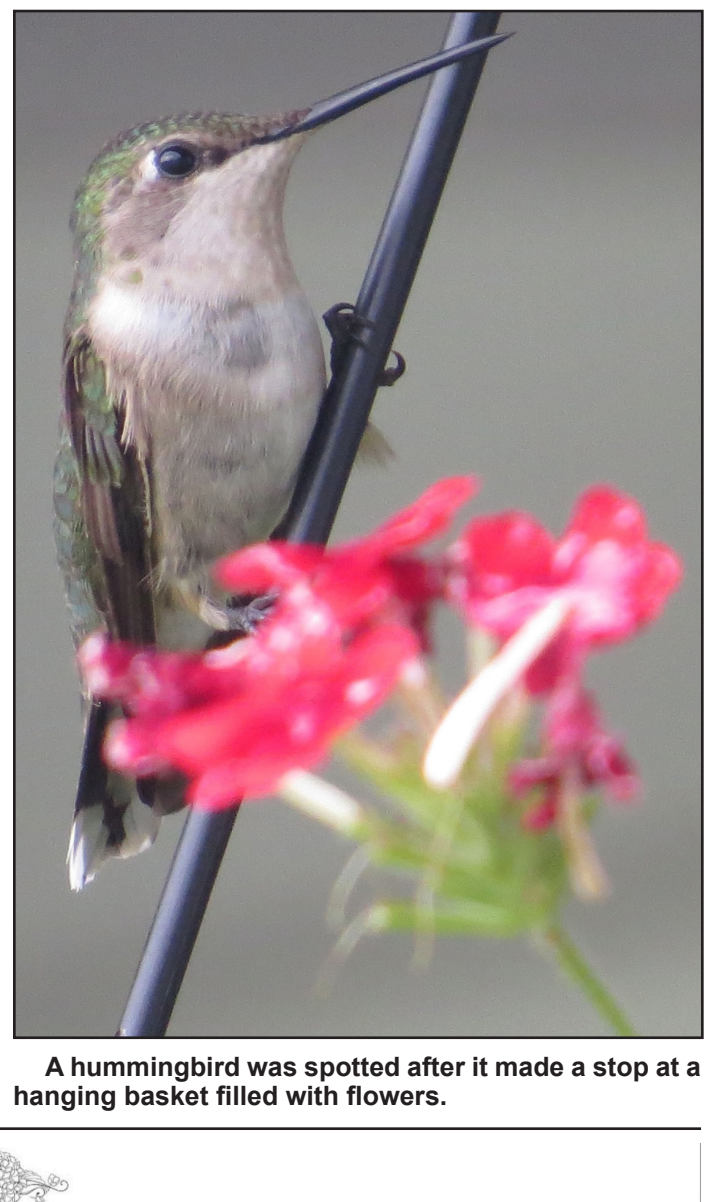
Speaking of reading…I have been making my way through a book titled "The Fifties," which was written by author and journalist David Halberstam. "The Fifties" was written in the nineties…as in 1950s and 1990s. I believe my copy of "The Fifties" came from a library book sale. Anyway, if you don't think that history repeats itself, pick up and read a copy of "The Fifties"…



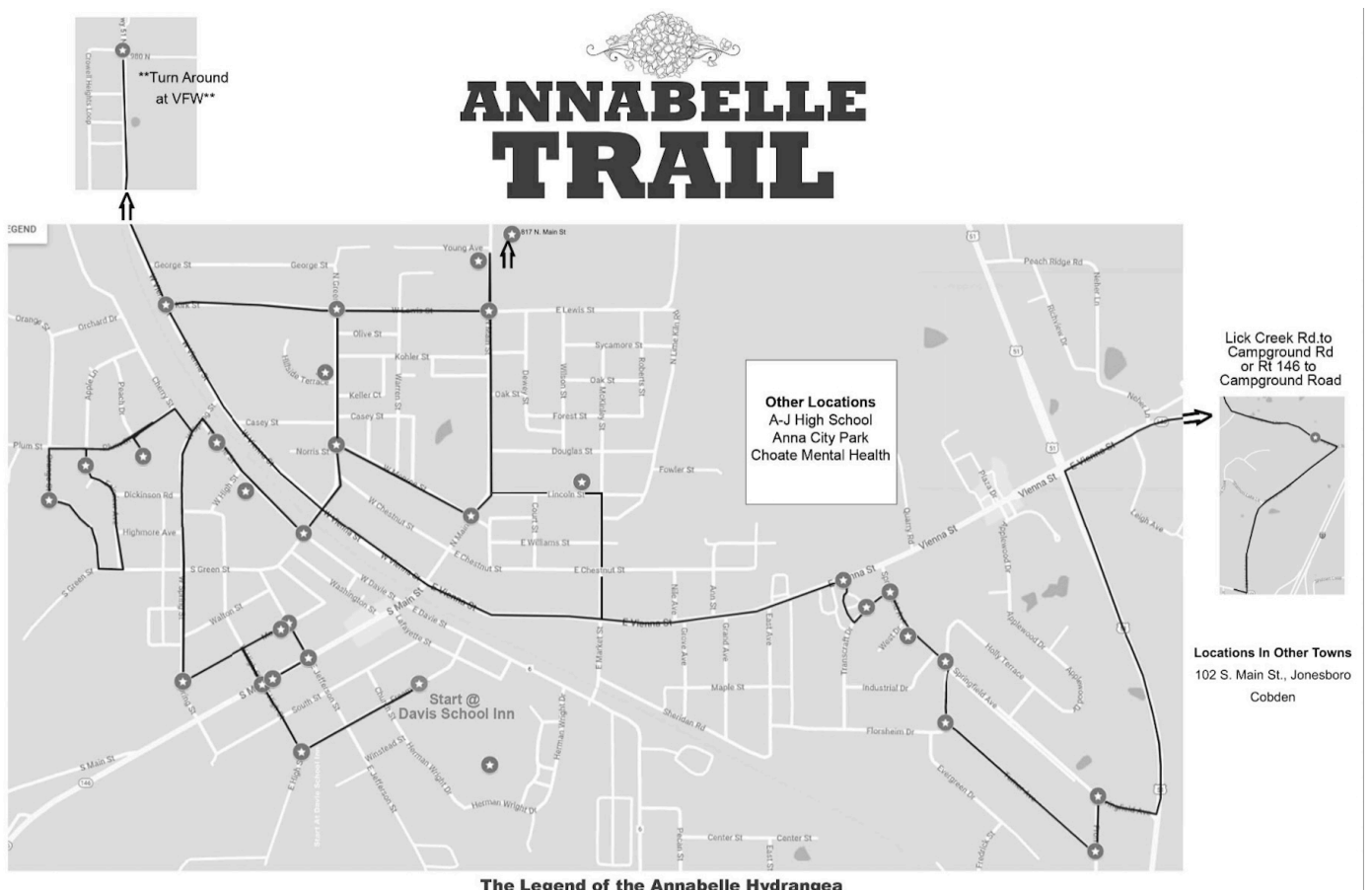
Why did the box turtle cross the road? Perhaps to look for someplace dry. Or, maybe, to follow the chicken…



A black vulture may have been attempting to dry out following last Friday afternoon's downpours.



A hummingbird was spotted after it made a stop at a hanging basket filled with flowers.



The Legend of the Annabelle Hydrangea

It is said that Harriet Kirkpatrick, of the famous Anna Pottery family, discovered the beautiful hydrangeas in 1910 while riding her horse in the woods near Anna. She and Amy Kirkpatrick went back and dug up some of the plants and took them home to put in the family's yard. The Kirkpatrick family generously shared the plants with friends and neighbors. About 50 years later, Bon Hartline of Anna, who is probably best know for his collection of 100 genera of American hybrid holly shrubs and trees, became interested in the "Annabelle". He invited his former University of Illinois professor, Dr. J. C. McDaniel, to visit Anna to study the plant. Dr. McDaniel classified and registered it as "Hydrangea arborescence" in 1960. It is said that he originally gave it the common name of "Ballerina" because of the flowers very round shape. However, it is thought that "Annabelle" was chosen for the two "belles" from Anna who discovered the beautiful plant over 100 years ago.

Annabelle Trail map

An Annabelle Trail is featured during the Annabelle Festival in Anna. This year's festival activities are scheduled Thursday, today, through Sunday, June 15. A map from the Union County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development website highlights the Annabelle Trail, where Annabelle hydrangeas can be seen.

Flag Etiquette

From the Veterans of Foreign Wars website

The American flag has a long history, and the members of our organization have spent nearly as long defending and honoring our nation's most iconic symbol of freedom. Whether you're looking for the historic details of how the U.S. flag came to be, or the rules and regulations that encompass her daily flight, we're here to ensure you can find the information you need.

Displaying the Flag

On Same Staff - U.S. flag at peak, above any other flag.

Salute

All persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the armed forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Special Rules

Do not let the flag touch the ground.

Do not carry the flag flat, or carry things in it.

Do not store the flag where it can get dirty.

Do not fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free.

Do not fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.

Do not use the flag as clothing.

Do not use it as a cover.

Do not draw on, or otherwise mark the flag.

Illumination Guidelines

Per Federal Flag Code, Section 2, paragraph (a), it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

Flag Day commemorated on June 14

Many people in the United States honor this day by displaying the American flag at homes and public buildings. Other popular ways of observing this holiday include: flag-raising ceremonies; Flag Day services; school quizzes and essay competitions about the American flag; musical salutes; street parades; and awards for special recognition.

Although Flag Day is a nationwide observance, it is not a public holiday in many parts of the United States.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress replaced the British symbols of the Grand Union flag with a new design featuring 13 white stars in a circle on a field of blue and 13 red and white stripes – one for each state. Although it is not certain, this flag may have been made by the Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross, who was an official flag maker for the Pennsylvania Navy. The number of stars increased as the new states entered the Union, but the number of stripes stopped at 15 and was later returned to 13.

In June 1886 Bernard Cigrand made his first public proposal for the annual observance of the birth of the flag when he wrote an article titled "The Fourteenth of June" in the old Chicago Argus newspaper. Cigrand's effort to ensure national observance of Flag Day finally came when President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation calling for a nationwide observance of the event on June 14, 1916. Flag Day did not become official until August 1949, when President Harry Truman signed the legislation and proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day.

The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation to: call on government officials in the USA to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on Flag Day; and to urge US residents to observe Flag Day as the anniversary of the adoption on June 14, 1777, by the Continental Congress of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

The American flag, also nicknamed as "Old Glory" or "star-spangled banner", has changed designs over the centuries. It consists of 13 equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white, with a blue rectangle in the canton bearing 50 small, white, five-pointed stars. Each of the 50 stars represents one of the 50 states in the United States and the 13 stripes represent the original 13 colonies that became the first states in the Union.

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