

Gargantuan Flag Unfurled At Iconic Western Landmark To Celebrate USA’s 250th Birthday

A massive American flag the size of a football field has been hung from the iconic Hoover Dam in the lead-up to the nation’s 250th birthday, after desert winds briefly forced it to come down for safety. The display was temporarily taken down last week after powerful desert gusts reached 55 mph. Officials said crews carefully rolled up the 2,000-pound flag to protect it from damage before reinstalling it once conditions calmed.

The enormous installation, measuring 300 feet wide and 150 feet tall, was first unveiled on Memorial Day as part of nationwide celebrations leading up to America’s semiquincentennial on July 4. It is set to remain in place through the Fourth of July, weather permitting.

By night, the landmark transforms into a glowing tribute to the US, illuminated by more than 550 automated LED lights powered entirely by the Hoover Dam’s hydro-electric energy.

The flag itself required five days of sewing preparation and has previously flown at major NFL events

Salute To America

(From Lacon Front Page)

11:00 a.m. Registration opens at 10:30 a.m., and all LEGO kits will be provided. Contestants will compete in three age divisions: 5-8 years old, 9-12 years old, and 13-17 years old. Each division is limited to the first 10 participants to register. One winner will be selected from each age group and will receive a trophy along with the opportunity to advance to the Illinois State Fair LEGO Contest.

Another exciting new addition is MINGO - Music Bingo! This interactive event will take place from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Commercial Building. Participants can enjoy rounds of bingo featuring country, rock, and Disney music while competing for prizes awarded throughout the afternoon.

Longtime fairgoers will be thrilled by the return of a cherished tradition - Harness Racing, beginning at 1:00 p.m. This year marks 105 years of racing excitement at the Marshall-Putnam Fair. If you’ve never experienced harness racing, now is the perfect time to see these magnificent horses and skilled drivers in action.

Admission to the races is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children ages 6-12. Box seats are available for \$5 per seat. Guests are also invited to participate in the popular "Pick-a-Winner" contest. Those who correctly select the winning horse will have the chance to win prizes, including Fair Bucks redeemable at vendors and events throughout the fair, as well as additional surprises and goodie bags donated by 505 on Edwards.

The grand finale of Premiere Sunday will be the Marshall-Putnam County Fair Pageants. The

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for the Indianapolis Colts and Las Vegas Raiders.

Rising 726 feet high and spanning 1,244 feet across, the Hoover Dam generates hydroelectric power for roughly 1.3 million people across Nevada, Arizona, and California. Built during the Great Depression under President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Public Works Administration, the Hoover Dam stands as one of America’s most enduring engineering triumphs. More than 21,000 workers built the dam, which was once the tallest structure of its kind in the world.

Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo praised the installation as a reflection of American strength and progress as the country nears its 250th birthday, highlighting the spirit of innovation and resilience tied to both the state and the nation.

To view the image decorating the Hoover dam, see https://share.google/2yZNiVTcQYbiyR6Dh

Information provided by Google and the Chief Senachwine Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution.

Little Miss Pageant begins at 3 p.m., followed by the Junior Miss and Miss Pageants at 4:30 p.m. Contestants will compete for the honor of being crowned the 2026 Marshall-Putnam Fair Royalty.

With activities for all ages, great food, shopping, entertainment, and cherished traditions, Salute to America Premiere Sunday promises to be an unforgettable start to fair week.

For more information about Premiere Sunday or any upcoming fair events, contact the Fair Office at (309) 364-2814 or stop by during business hours, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WE ARE ONLINE

If you would like to subscribe to the online edition, or the print edition of the Lacon Home Journal/ Toluca Star Herald simply log on to: www.laconhomejournal.com to sign up.

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF MARSHALL - LACON, ILLINOIS**

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff

vs.

VANESSA F. GAETA; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS AGENCY
THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN
OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendant

25 FC 14

CALENDAR
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on July 22, 2026, at the hour 10:15 a.m., Hasselberg Grebe Snodgrass Urban & Wentworth, 310 Fifth Street, Lacon, IL 61540, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 06-28-277-013.

Commonly known as 509 VINE ST., VARNA, IL 61375.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgement of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney,
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC,
13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004
(708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 25-352799

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Publish June 18, 25, July 2, 2026

Three Sheets in The Wind . . . by Mary

For a long time now, longer than I ever thought, I’ve been coming here to the Lacon Home Journal to work. I’ve been so lucky. Like so many people who work for a living, I’ve had a few projects I didn’t want to do and didn’t like to do, but I did them. Fortunately, those jobs were few and far between.

I remember complaining about the “church” news we used to have in the paper almost weekly. My dislike and my complaint had nothing to do with the news, the churches, or the fact that it was up to me to assemble, and type. I complained because, in those days, we had to change the “film” thing to reduce the size of the type, and I didn’t like doing that, but I did it.

I typed a lot. Without the internet, e-mail and text messages, with very, very few exceptions, the content of the weekly paper had to be typed then physically placed on flats that were then printed. Some days it was eight hours of typing including, of course, lunch, coffee breaks, visits, walks around the building, quick errands for my mom. Did I mention this was and is a very, very good place to work even if my fingers were quivering after a day of typing and I didn’t like changing that film for the church news. A very good place to work.

The classifieds were a big deal, too. More than once a year, our classified ad basket would be overflowing, and we would have at least a page full of garage sales. Subscribers would look forward to that list. Shoppers would “mark” the sales, and look for some of the “special” items mentioned in the sales. I, too, made my list of sales to visit. Friends and family and community shoppers would start at the first hour, the first sale, usually at 8:00 mark downs, on Saturday.

Funny thing, this week a friend from out of town asked me when the Lacon Garage Sales were going to be. At the time, I didn’t know, but found out that they were actually over. Disappointed, my friend had missed them. This friend also missed the Marshall County Tractor Show which was last weekend.

The blessing of the Lacon Home Journal is not that it’s where I work. It’s because the county meetings, the school board meetings and the city council meetings are made public through the reporting by the paper. Your tax dollars, spent by these boards, committees and

councils are available to you for the 50 cents cost of a paper. There are community service announcements, events, school news and pictures. The Journal publishes pictures from the school, from students with FFA, student of the month, anniversaries, birthdays and obituaries.

During the holiday season, looking forward to a Midwest Winter, it’s the Lacon Home Journal that asks for help for members of this community.

If you ask, from your engagement, to your wedding, your new baby, your 50th anniversary, the Lacon Home Journal will share your pictures with your community and you may have them permanently, not lost in the cloud.

I realize there are many wonderful, helpful, useful things about the Internet, about Facebook and Google. You say, it’s free. Free to advertise, free to inform. Isn’t it also free to mislead, free to take advantage of unsuspecting people. A big difference, separating the electronic and the printed is “delite.” One might argue with a friend “I saw it on Google. Look, I’ll show

you. Oh, it’s gone.” Or, “I read it in the paper. It’s right here.”

With something to sell, or, for instance, a garage sale, you are able to reach a lot of people on the Internet. An ad in the local classified will reach lots more people who don’t have Internet, who can’t find you on Facebook, who line up their garage sale list in the paper and check them off as they go. It’s sure worth the couple of dollars spent.

I’m not just talking about the “classifieds.” The Lacon Home Journal is the best place to advertise the Tractor Show, Car Shows at the Marina, events all over our community.

We talk about them often. We vow to support them. And, the Lacon Home Journal is one of them, a “small business.”

King Crossword —
Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	H	A	T	H	A	C	R	I	B
H	U	B	Y	O	G	A	I	D	A
C	R	U	M	P	E	T	S	T	S
D	I	O	R	A	N	K	L	E	
A	C	H	L	S	H	O	M	A	
I	M	A	N	P	A	R	A	P	E
M	O	B	A	R	I	F	S	G	F
S	N	I	P	E	T	S	A	G	R
C	A	P	O	N	B	L	A	H	
H	O	R	N	T	R	U	M	P	E
A	N	A	G	O	K	H	A	L	O
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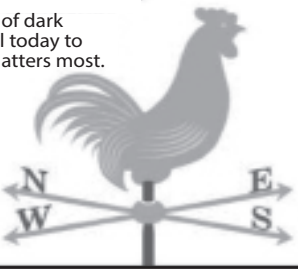
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