

OBITUARIES

Larry Wayne England Sr.

Larry Wayne England Sr., 80, of Vandalia, IL, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 22, 2026, at his home.

A Graveside Service & Interment will be held at 1:00 PM, Sunday, May 24, 2026 at McInturff Cemetery, Hagarstown with Rev. Doug Wodtka officiating. In lieu of flowers and gifts, memorials may be made to an organization of the donor's choice.

Online condolences can be expressed at www.hohltandfilefh.com.

Larry Wayne England was born on October 3, 1945, in Ramsey, Illinois, to Ora Otto and Genevieve Ellen (Myers) England. He married Linda Kay Schmitt on July 2, 1966, and they shared nearly 47 years of marriage, raising five children before her death on October 2, 2013. He later spent 12 years with his companion, Diana Paslay.

Larry was a union painter with IUPAT District Council #58 for 36 years. As a fan of the outdoors, he enjoyed riding his motorcycle, raising chickens, gardening, mowing his yard, and tinkering with various projects. He cherished spending time with his children and grandchildren, valuing family moments and outdoor activities throughout his life.

He will forever be remembered by his significant other, Diana Paslay of Vandalia; daughters, Tammy England of Vandalia, Beverly and husband Matt Hopkins of Pittsburg, Patsy and husband Gary Swick of Vandalia, Kelsey England-Jackson and wife, Ashley Jackson of Elgin, SC; son, Larry England Jr. and wife Hayley of Vandalia; sister, Joyce Allen of Herrick; grandchildren, Shane England, Shawn Sides, Carter Hopkins, and Mallory Hopkins; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents; wife; brother, Kenny England; sisters, Veta Gibson, Reva Goodrich, Deloris Runge, Audrey England, Brenda Daugherty, and Lilly England.

Online condolences and obituaries available at www.hohltandfilefh.com

Arrangements by Hohlt & File Funeral Home, Vandalia, IL



Marilyn "Biff" Joy Sproat

Marilyn "Biff" Joy Sproat, age 92, of the Lutheran Care Center, Altamont, Illinois, formerly of St. Elmo, passed away at 12:06 p.m. on Wednesday February 25, 2026, at St. Anthony's Hospital, Effingham, Illinois, surrounded by her loving family.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the St. Elmo Community Church, 215 N Walnut, Saint Elmo, IL, United States, 62458. Dan Laack will be officiating. Interment will take place in Maplewood Cemetery, 440 Interstate Dr, St Elmo, IL 62458. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Elmo Community Church, St. Elmo Public Library, or donor's choice. Online condolences may be left at www.pagelfuneralhome.com

Marilyn was born June 29, 1933, in Vandalia, Illinois, the daughter of Lawrence Adam Abbott and Minnie Elizabeth Abbott nee Heather. She married Jack Sproat on November 10th, 1951, in Vandalia, Illinois. She spent many years self-employed as a tax preparer. She enjoyed reading books, visiting with friends and family, and loved to walk through graveyards, looking at different stones. Over the years, she served the St. Elmo community and the Lord in many ways. She was a Sunday School teacher, on the Board of the St. Elmo Library and the First United Methodist Church of St. Elmo.

She is survived by two sons, Mark Sproat (wife Lisa) of Glen Ellyn, Illinois and Dave Sproat of Lisle, Illinois; two daughters, Beth Feezel of Bartlesville, Oklahoma and Sally Sproat of Las Vegas, Nevada; Mardeanna Meadows-Sproat beloved former daughter in law of Effingham; grandchildren, Bennett and Tim Sproat, Paige and Logan Meltabarger (wife, Bailey), Reagan (husband, Matthew) Hanson, Payton (fiance, Garrett Hoene) Sproat, Mike (wife, Tina) Feezel, Matt (wife, Tracy) Feezel, Jennifer (husband, Josh) Malwick, Julie (husband, Johnny) Bradam, numerous great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack; her parents, Lawrence and Minnie, and sisters and brothers in law Fern and Ralph Sperry, Madelyn and Charlie Metzger, Marjorie "Marky" and Willard Grubaugh, Opal and Charles McNeely and Oral and Lester Forbes.



Lisa Ann Corry

Lisa Ann Corry, 52, of Vandalia, IL, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at Anderson Hospital in Maryville.

Per Lisa's wishes, cremation rites will be accorded. A Private Interment will take place at Fairlawn Cemetery, Vandalia. In lieu of flowers and gifts, memorials may be made to an organization of the donor's choice. Online condolences can be expressed at www.hohltandfilefh.com

Lisa Ann Corry was born on June 26, 1973, in Vandalia, Illinois, to Ronald Corry and Jo Ann (Kistler) Corry. She graduated from Vandalia Community High School and earned an associate's degree in business. Throughout her career, she held administrative roles at various companies, most recently working for Kroger.

Known for her intelligence and quick wit, Lisa was lively and clever with her responses. She enjoyed spending time outdoors and was affectionately called a "sun goddess" by her friends. Her passions included NASCAR racing and was a lover of boxer dogs. In her free time, she loved crafting and furniture making. Above all, Lisa valued her relationships, especially the moments spent laughing and sharing life with her closest friends.

She will forever be remembered by her step-mother, Sara Corry; brothers, Brad Dunaway and wife Regina, Bill Corry and wife Diana, Steve Corry and wife Mary; special friends, Sarah Boatman and Angela Dunaway; God-child, Jack Boatman; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Preceding her in death were her father; mother; brothers, Kent Dunaway and Scott Dunaway; and niece, Jessica Dunaway.

Online condolences and obituaries available at www.hohltandfilefh.com

Arrangements by Hohlt & File Funeral Home, Vandalia, IL



Vandalia Board of Education Meeting

DEBORAH SIMCOX Correspondent

At the Thursday, May 21 meeting of Vandalia Community Unit District #203 meeting, these items were approved on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the regular Board of Education April 16 meeting,

- Financial reports and bills for Vandalia C.U.S.D. #203 and for OKAW Area Vocational Center,

- Destruction of Executive Session Audio Recordings older than 18 months, and

- Second Reading of Press Plus Issue 121,

- Registration Fees for 2026/2027, and

- Breakfast & Lunch Fees

(for reimbursement purposes).

Superintendent Report: Jennifer Garrison reported that they have created a Leadership Cohort with Certified Staff, who had their first meeting on Wednesday. In preparation for opening day with Staff for the 2026/2027 school year, they will be reading "The First Days of School". The Administrative Team and the External Facilitator met regarding the next steps in the process of "strategic clarity and alignment" to create a "values-based decision making filter" A retreat in June will carry on this endeavor.

Building Reports:
High School Principal

Randy Protz related that the Teachers are preparing for the next school year and submitting their supply lists. The schedules for the summer weight room and summer athletics will start next week. Teachers' schedules are prepared for the upcoming school year.

Junior High Principal Brian Kern announced that the 4th Grade Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 13 at 4 p.m.

Elementary School Vice-Principal Joe Vanzo reported that the Fall Funfest is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 8 from 5-8 p.m. Food trucks, cake walks, games & prizes, bounce houses, face painting and an obstacle course will

be among the entertainment offered for Students and their Parents.

OKAW Area Vocational Center Director Nick Casey said that the 2026/2027 Building Trades house is in the planning process.

Special Education Coordinator Keri Buscher related that regarding community involvement, the beginning stages of becoming a Unified School District include: "The Unified Champion Schools program (UCS) empowers K-12 schools and colleges in Illinois to foster inclusive learning and social environments where all students, regardless of ability, can thrive together. It's structured around three key

components, each a required element of participation."

Personal Shout Out: To all Staff and Students making the Adapted Sports Day a success. An even bigger and better event for the 2026/2027 school year is anticipated due to several Volunteers who have already reached out to help.

After the Executive Session, these Action Items were approved:

- FY26 VCUSD Proposed Amended Budget,
- OKAW Construction Conclusion and Quit Claim Deed,

- District Resignation: Josh Bogart, Maintenance Director (effective May 15); Mike Callahan, Maintenance

Assistant,

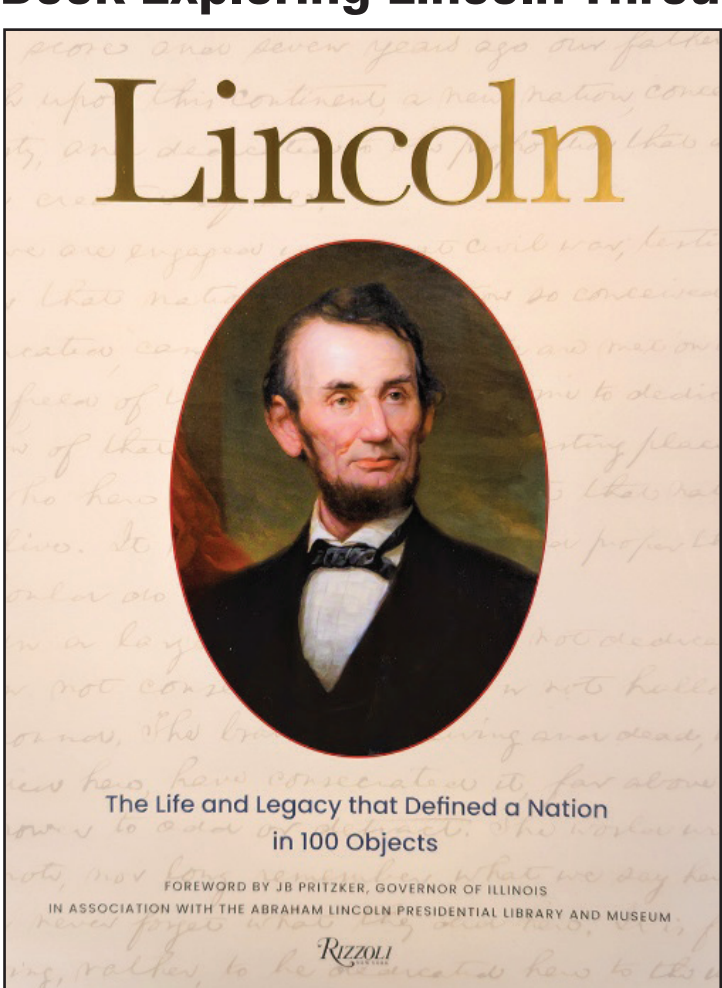
- District Employment: Chris Durbin, Maintenance Director; Abby Goeckner, Summer Custodian (4 days/week, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.); Ryan Northrop, Custodian/Bus Driver (starting June 2),

- District Maternity Leave: Molly Reeter (approximately from August 13 to October 22), and

- District Coaches/Volunteer Coaches: Tom Reams, 6th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18 at 6 p.m. at the Administrative Board Room of the Vandalia High School.

Book Exploring Lincoln Through Presidential Library's Treasures Wins Two National Awards



'Lincoln: A Life and Legacy' museum exhibit also honored

A book that explores Abraham Lincoln's enduring impact through the historic treasures at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has earned national awards from two history groups, while a museum exhibit based on the book was honored by an Illinois museum organization.

"Lincoln: The Life and Legacy that Defined a Nation in 100 Objects" received the "Award of Achievement" from the Lincoln Group of New York. The award is given each year "to the individual or organization that has done the most to encourage the study and appreciation of Abraham Lincoln."

The book also earned the Baroness/Lincoln Award from The Civil War Round Table of New York. The group's awards chair called the book "a visually stunning and meticulously researched volume."

"Lincoln: The Life and Legacy that Defined a Nation in 100 Objects" was written by the ALPLM's executive director, Christina Shutt, and its head of acquisitions, Dr. Ian Patrick Hunt. It uses the presidential library's collection of documents and artifacts to tell Lincoln's story and show the impact he had on Americans. It was published by Rizzoli New York in 2025.

A museum exhibit based on the book ran from Sept. 26, 2025, until April 26, 2026. It included many of the artifacts

highlighted in the book, along with historic photos brought to life with modern technology. The exhibit was honored with a Superior Achievement award from the Illinois Association of Museums.

"We are honored that both the book and the exhibit have been recognized in this way," said Shutt. "Clearly, people remain hungry for new insights into Abraham Lincoln and his impact, both on the people of his era and the nation today."

The Civil War Round Table of New York was founded in 1951. The Baroness/Lincoln Award was first handed out in 1962. Past recipients include such historians as Doris Kearns Goodwin, Jon Meacham and Harold Holzer.

The Lincoln Group of New York was founded in

1978 and began bestowing its award of achievement in 1988. Recipients include David Herbert Donald, Eric Foner and Ronald C. White, as well as Goodwin, Meacham and Holzer.

The mission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is to inspire civic engagement through the diverse lens of Illinois history and share with the world the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. We pursue this mission through a combination of rigorous scholarship and high-tech showmanship built on the bedrock of the ALPLM's unparalleled collection of historical materials - roughly 13 million items from all eras of Illinois history.

Fish Fry
Friday, June 5
4:30-7 p.m.

Altamont VFW
Post 7676
618-483-6344
Hwy 40, Altamont

Exchange or Have Yours Rebuilt
Starters • Alternators
Generators
We Also Sell
Rebuilt Water Pumps

WE SELL USED GOLF CARTS

**K & W AUTO
ELECTRIC**

217-347-5712
Rt. 40 Between
Effingham & T-Town

Online Only Farmland Auction

Online bidding is now live for an incredible 170 ACRE land auction in Montgomery County. This ground is being sold in 5 separate tracts, ranging from 10 acres a tract to 60+ acres a tract. The ground is located just east of the Route 127 and Route 185 Intersection, along Route 185. There is open tenancy for the 2027 farming year, with over 150 total acres through all 5 tracts as being tillable. All acreage subject to survey. Check our website for updates.

Tract 1: 43+/- acres
Tract 2: 10+/- acres; included is a foundation of a house and barn on this tract
Tract 3: 25+/- acres
Tract 4: 58.5+/- acres
Tract 5: 33+/- acres

Head to our website for more information, pictures & to bid!

Aumann Auctions
217-563-2523
aumannauctions.com

**VANDALIA LAKE AREA
COMMUNITY
YARD SALE**

June 4th 4-8, June 5th 8-4, June 6th 9-2
See facebook event for additional details