

**BRIEFLY**

**REGION**

**Blood supplies lost in fatal crash:** Wednesday's crash in Alexander County that killed an American Red Cross worker also destroyed a number of blood bags stored in the back of one of the vehicles involved.

Officials say they'll have to dispose of all the blood lost in the accident.

The accident, on Illinois 3 south of the Alexander-Union county line, claimed the life of 28-year-old Cape Girardeau resident Jonathan L. Chamberlain. He was a passenger in the Red Cross truck. His side took the brunt of a head-on impact with a semi when the Red Cross vehicle drifted over the center line.

Alexander County Coroner Willie Bingham said Chamberlain died of blunt force trauma from the impact. Bingham pronounced Chamberlain dead at the scene. The two drivers sustained minor injuries in the crash. Both were treated and released from an area hospital. The driver of the Red Cross truck was cited for improper lane usage.

**Man given 87 months for meth:** A Carterville man is going to prison for his role in a methamphetamine manufacturing conspiracy in Southern Illinois, U.S. attorney A. Courtney Cox announced Friday. Joshua B. Duckworth, 30, was sentenced to 87 months in prison, four years supervised release and fined \$500. Duckworth previously pleaded guilty to a three-count indictment that alleged he took part in meth making operation between August 2006 and October 2008 in Jackson, Williamson and Union counties.

**Man admits trying to sell crack:** A Harrisburg man has admitted in federal court he tried to sell crack cocaine in the Williamson County area in 2009.

Edward L. Fletcher, Jr., 50, pleaded guilty to a one-count indictment of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine on Thursday, U.S. Attorney A. Courtney Cox said. The charge stems from a violation that took place March 30.

Fletcher faces up to 10 years in prison, fines as high as \$4 million and eight years supervised release. He is being held without bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for April 30.

— Caleb Hale

**MURPHYSBORO**

**Vegas Style comes to Murphysboro:** The Murphysboro Knights of Columbus will host two separate events Jan. 30.

Both will be at the Murphysboro Knights of Columbus Hall, which is at the southernmost end of Seventh Street, near St. Andrew Catholic Church.

The Knights will host a sit-down dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. with choice of steak, pork chop, grilled chicken breast, fried shrimp, chicken alfredo or shrimp alfredo. Prices range from \$10-\$15 per entrée and include salad, potato, bread, tea and coffee.

The group will host a Casino Night from 7 to 10 p.m. Those attending will have the chance to win prizes, including a \$150 gift certificate to the Casino Queen in East St. Louis. Admission to the casino night is \$15 per person or \$20 per couple, including all the chips you should need to gamble the night away. Blackjack, roulette, craps and Texas hold 'em all will be played. Drinks will be available for purchase.

Persons younger than 18 attending Casino Night must be accompanied by a parent. Call 618-687-2126.

— The Southern

## School official finds petitions invalid

### Unit 2 to continue with plans to build new school

**BY MARK FITTON**  
THE SOUTHERN

Marion Unit 2's designated election official, school district Secretary Sharon Wilson, has reviewed petitions for a voter referendum on funding for a new Creal Springs school building and found them invalid.

School Board President Todd Goodman on Friday said he'd received a letter from Wilson in which Wilson describes the petitions as

deficient and not within the requirements of the school code. As such, Wilson cannot certify the petitions for inclusion on the November general election ballot, Goodman said.

Goodman said Wilson's letter was replete with precedents, including an Illinois Supreme Court ruling.

Short of an injunction, the school board plans to proceed with construction of the new school as it decided in December, Goodman said, adding that he had consulted with the board's attorney.

The board intends to replace the cramped, dilapidated school building built in 1912. Members in December unanimously approved issuing \$12 million in bonds

payable over 12 years to finance construction of a 60,000 square-foot-structure on land the district has already purchased.

The school district in a February 2008 tax referendum won passage for the current 1 percent sales tax in Williamson County, which is to be used for school construction.

However, Ron Osman sued, arguing the ballot measure was flawed and unconstitutional.

He and fellow Marion attorney Tom Wolf then circulated and submitted petitions calling for a voter referendum on funding. The number of signatures from registered Unit 2 voters due on Wednesday was 1,352.

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PAUL NEWTON / THE SOUTHERN

Motivational speaker Byrd Baggett speaks Friday at the Community Leaders Breakfast at John A. Logan College.

## No dress rehearsals

### Speaker brings message of living out your legacy

**BY BECKY MALKOVICH**  
THE SOUTHERN

CARTERVILLE — Motivational speaker Byrd Baggett was preaching to the choir Friday as he delivered a message on the importance of becoming "a part of something greater than self."

In this instance, the members of the choir were those in attendance at Friday's Community Leaders Breakfast, sponsored by The Southern Illinoisan and the Southern Business Journal.

The 300 business, community and young leaders in the audience already devote much of their time and talents to the betterment of the region, said Dennis DeRossett, publisher of The Southern and the SBJ.

"You believe in and support the One Region One Vision concept we've been pushing (at

the breakfasts). We grow stronger through collaboration," he said.

The strength of Southern Illinois as a region rather than a collection of cities, towns and counties operating individually positions the area to grow economically and better compete in a world economy, he said.

Baggett's message of "Legacy Living: The Power of Your Story," fit right in with the message of the breakfasts.

"Are you living the story you want to leave behind? Life is not a dress rehearsal. You only get one chance," Baggett said.

Leaving a legacy of a life well-lived was the focus of his speech, illustrated through what he called the "Seasons of Growth."

Those seasons include self, when "it's all about me," he said; drought, where "into self is a very lonely place"; new growth, with its lesson that letting go allows growth; and significance, the season of "being a part of something greater than self."

"The most important question is this: I want to be

'Are you living the story you want to leave behind? Life is not a dress rehearsal. You only get one chance.'

**BYRD BAGGETT**  
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER AT THE COMMUNITY LEADERS BREAKFAST

remembered as the person who ...," he said. "What do you want to put in that blank?"

Also at the breakfast, Bob Chambers, president and owner of Silk Worm Inc. of Murphysboro, accepted the annual Southern Illinois Enhancing Development, Growth & Expansion corporate recognition award.

The SI EDGE award is given to a business or industry that shows consistent job growth, provides stable, solid and sound employment, is in the private sector, is a good corporate citizen, gives back to the community and is located within the Southern Illinois region.

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## election 2010

### Five vying to become sheriff of Williamson

**BY SCOTT FITZGERALD**  
THE SOUTHERN

MARION — The operation and maintenance of a new jail soon to break ground is foremost on the minds of five candidates who have filed in this year's primary election for Williamson County sheriff.

Candidacy announcements began as early as August as news circulated that former sheriff Tom Cundiff was not seeking another term in office.

How to operate the new jail in a cost-efficient manner was not the only topic candidates spoke about. There were issues of more sheriff's department visibility in the county and establishing more citizen groups to help the department bond with the public.

### 'Hats for Haiti' raises more than \$1K for aid

### West Frankfort students help out with relief effort

**BY BECKY MALKOVICH**  
THE SOUTHERN

WEST FRANKFORT — West Frankfort students wore Hats for Haiti on Friday and raised more than \$1,000 for a mission to the earthquake-stricken

country in the process.

**INSIDE:** Drop off your teddy bears at Century 21 in Carterville. Page 6A

Students in the Frankfort Community Unit District No. 168, as well as those at Ezra Christian School and St. John The Baptist Catholic School, paid a dollar to don caps during the school day, Frankfort High teacher Alan Summers said.

"We had a goal of \$400, but figured we would raise only about \$200," Summers said. "We surpassed our overall goal and then some."

The Haiti relief drive was inspired by a West Frankfort resident's upcoming medical mission to the country that was devastated by a Jan. 12 earthquake. Dee Arview, a registered nurse, will be part of a medical team leaving for Haiti Feb. 28, Summers said.

"When we heard she will be part of a mission to set up a medical clinic, we thought the

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## Herrin Tigers honored for volunteer work

**BY SCOTT FITZGERALD**  
THE SOUTHERN

HERRIN — Age was no factor Friday for award recipients at the 67th annual dinner meeting of the Herrin Chamber of Commerce in Herrin Civic Center.

Outgoing chamber president Mark Collins identified the Herrin High School Tiger football team as recipients of the 2009 President's Award for their volunteer efforts to help the chamber get ready for HerrinFesta immediately after the May 8 storm.

"The chamber knew they needed additional manpower. That manpower turned out to be the Herrin Tiger football team," Collins said, noting the players helped put the downtown piazza in order by erecting fences, carrying picnic tables, helping pitch tents and other things necessary to convert a parking lot into a festival site.

"They (football team) were tireless in their work. They kept smiles on their faces. They did whatever was asked of them. We will not forget, and will always appreciate what they did for the Herrin Chamber in 2009," Collins said.

Another young person honored was Jessica Cogdill as Young Citizen of the Year for her selection in LEAD SI founded by CONNECT SI and



MARY THOMAS LAYTON / THE SOUTHERN

Mary Fox (left) has been awarded Citizen of the Year. Herrin City Clerk Marlene Simpson presented the award to Fox during the 67th annual Herrin Chamber of Commerce annual dinner meeting Friday night at Herrin Civic Center.

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