

THE SOUTHERN

Back on the gridiron

The first day of practice officially kicks off prep football season. **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



Pumping the breaks

Illinois leaders implement a 10-day sales tax reduction on classroom items. **LOCAL&STATE, PAGE A3**

Mar-a-Lago raided

Trump says FBI conducted search of his Florida estate. **NATION&WORLD, PAGE A7**

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New COVID-19 protocols

Local schools update their virus precautions for upcoming semester

LES O'DELL

The Southern

For the third consecutive fall, local higher education institutions are keeping a watchful eye on COVID-19 trends as they look to begin another semester of in-person classes.

At Southern Illinois University Carbondale, masks are recommended but not required in most campus buildings. However, face

coverings will be mandatory in health care settings including the Student Health Center. The campus will no longer require weekly testing for most students, faculty and staff members who have not been fully vaccinated.

Testing will be available on Tuesday afternoons. Additionally, plans are to continue enhanced cleaning protocols.

In a message to the campus community, Chancellor Austin A. Lane said, "Vaccinations and treatments have put us in a much better place than we were two years ago, and I am pleased to report the vast majority of employees and students

are fully vaccinated."

John A. Logan College is also recommending masks for high-traffic areas of the campus, but reports that since the statewide COVID-19 vaccination and testing mandate has expired, students will no longer have to provide proof of vaccination or undergo weekly testing if they are unvaccinated.

On-campus testing has been discontinued and the college is requesting those who do test positive to inform the Office of Student Affairs so that excused absences can be processed.

Jonathan Walters, spokesman for Rend Lake College said that

testing will not be required for students, faculty or staff members and the college is collecting proof of vaccinations and asks students or employees who test positive for COVID-19 to observe all recommended quarantine guidance and self-report to the college.

Southeastern Illinois College reports no change to its COVID-19 requirements or protocols for the upcoming semester.

Shawnee Community College will continue to make masks available for students, but will not require them, according to guidelines distributed by the college late last week. Additionally, temperature

checkpoints will remain at entrances to the main building at the Ullin campus.

College President Tim Taylor said Shawnee will, like the other area campuses, continue to monitor COVID-19 levels and work within recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

"We will remain vigilant and responsive to the advice of public health professionals. However, we look forward to planning new and exciting activities at Shawnee Community College that will benefit our students and the people in the communities we serve," Taylor said.



MARILYN HALSTEAD, THE SOUTHERN

Claire Stretch of Goreville (left) works on her Basset Fauve de Bretagne dog Bonnie while Boo, her male dog, and Kim Miller watch.

Round of a-paws

Crab Orchard Kennel Club completes its 64th dog show

MARILYN HALSTEAD

The Southern

MARION — Crab Orchard Kennel Club's 64th dog show brought nearly 500 dogs to town for the two day event at The Pavilion in Marion.

COKC member Natalie Weasel of Harrisburg showed her Coton de Tulear named 'Egyptian Coton's Daimonds for Natalie'

known at home as Sia. Sia was bred by Tracy and Kent McKown of Herrin.

Weasel also showed her black poodle named 'Natalie's No Doubt.'

Weasel has been showing dogs for 10 years. She said it took about five years to learn the role of a dog handler.

Both of her breeds require specialized grooming to look their best. For owners of short-haired dogs with smooth coats, it seems a little fussy. A poodle that is being shown must have a certain cut. It takes hours to groom

them for the show ring.

Her little dog, Sia, has long white hair and also takes some grooming. Weasel said she brushes Sia every day to keep her hair in good shape.

Tom and Ruth Ann Rabideau, club members from Pittsburg, showed two dogs. Ruth Ann Rabideau has Australian Shepherds and showed 'Propwash Fired Up Patriot' Tom Showed his Wire-haired Pointing Griffon named 'Glacier's Luck Be a Lady', affectionately known as Frankie.

The competition pits each dog against standards for its breed,

which are determined by the American Kennel Club. Dogs are judged by age, sex and their wins. The judge picks the best of each category to be judged for best of breed.

The winner then goes to the ring for the best of group competition. Dog breeds are divided into seven groups. The groups are sporting, hounds, working, terriers, toy, herding and non-sporting.

The winners from each group compete for the title best in

Please see DOG SHOW, Page A4

Some Illinois schools won't test for COVID this semester

KAREN ANN CULLOTTA
Chicago Tribune

Despite the urging of the state's health department to resume school-based COVID-19 testing for students this fall, officials at several Illinois districts said this week they are halting the program due to waning interest from parents and the availability of home tests.

"We've decided not to offer SHIELD testing as we start the new school year, but we're always cautious, and will be ready to pivot back to that partnership if things change," said Mary Gorr, superintendent of Mount Prospect School District 57.

The SHIELD Illinois program offers K-12 students weekly PCR saliva screenings they can opt into with the permission of a parent or guardian. Gorr said while the free testing was not a financial burden, "it disrupted learning time and was a lot for our nurses and front office staff."

Another group who may have found the weekly screenings disruptive: parents making quick arrangements for their children to stay home from school if they tested positive on a routine screening, even if they weren't sick.

"We feel like we're turning a corner now, with all of the availability of testing and vaccines, and we hope our schools can return fully to institutes for learning," Gorr said. "The demand from parents for school testing started dwindling last year, and now, it really isn't there."

Please see COVID TESTS, Page A4

Robin's Nest finds temporary home

Now at Cornerstone Church due to flood

LES O'DELL

The Southern

Taylor Miller's daughters attended the same child care center as normal Monday, but it was not in the normal location.

Along with their friends, classmates and teachers from Marion's Robin's Nest Education Center's temporary facility inside Marion's Cornerstone Church.

during clean-up and renovations at Robin's Nest's building on Virginia Street are complete following flooding Thursday's extensive rainfall.

Cornerstone Administrative Pastor Tivo McCrary said the church recently completed remodeling of its own children's areas recently, and Robin's Nest will be using all of the facility's preschool wing and some of the elementary-aged classrooms for the next week or two.

"The area is perfect for what they needed from space to re-strooms and security," he said. "It is wonderful to have them in the

building, hearing the laughter of the kids and getting to interact with them and their families."

Robin's Nest team members worked late into the night Thursday to move equipment ranging from nap cots to cribs, food and diapers. Even though the church has much of the necessary equipment and supplies, Robin's Nest Director Jena Parson said hosting children all day, every day requires much more than children's programming during worship services.

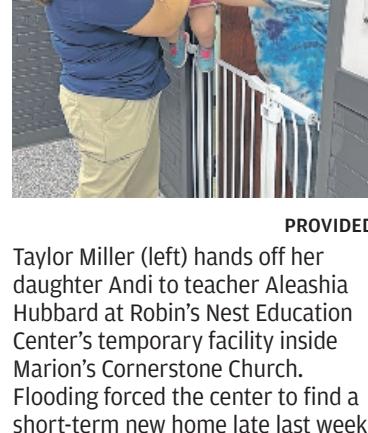
"The team and I – and especially the parents – could not be more grateful," Parson said. "Within an hour of first talking to Corner-

stone, everything came together. We literally have our own space in the building and it is phenomenal."

McCrary said providing space to Robin's Nest is simply a way for the church to serve the community.

"We want to be known for more than just helping people follow Jesus," he said. "We want to be known that we are for the community where we are, whether it is Marion or all of Southern Illinois. Our desire is to show that we love and care for and invest into the community."

Please see ROBIN'S NEST, Page A4



PROVIDED

Taylor Miller (left) hands off her daughter Andi to teacher Aleasha Hubbard at Robin's Nest Education Center's temporary facility inside Marion's Cornerstone Church. Flooding forced the center to find a short-term new home late last week.

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