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COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING BLACK HERITAGE



VALERIE WELLS PHOTOS, HERALD & REVIEW

The annual Juneteenth parade in downtown Decatur featured regulars The Black Cowboys – and one cowgirl – on Saturday.

Juneteenth events in Decatur bring fun, family, friends

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DECATUR – “Absymal” local voter turnout prompted the Decatur branch of the NAACP to have a booth as the community celebrated Juneteenth at the Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater, encouraging those in attendance to get out and vote every chance they get.

“We’re not really registering people to vote, but to make a vote plan,” said Nichelle King of the NAACP. “If you don’t have a plan, you don’t have much power.”

Volunteers handed out cards that will help residents find out where to vote, who’s running and what they stand for, and plan for how to get to the polls.

“Really, for us, it’s about educating the public,” she said.

The Devon’s annual Juneteenth event was held Friday, with a full schedule of entertainment, food trucks, vendors selling T-shirts and jewelry, dancing, giveaways and a concert featuring Kapital Sound Performance.

One of those vendors was 13-year-old



Gianna Green, 4, plays a drumbeat on an upturned bucket during the Juneteenth parade downtown on Saturday.

Kaysynn Weatherford, owner of Kaysynn’s Lemonade. Her dad owns a barber shop, and she sold candy there when she was younger, which led to the idea to sell lemonade.

“I just started it one day, and I made it happen,” Kaysynn said.

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Lawren Weatherford helps her daughter, Kaysynn, mix drinks at Kaysynn’s Lemonade stand at the Devon Amphitheater during the Juneteenth celebration on Friday.

SEVERE WEATHER

Tornadoes confirmed in Macon County

NWS: Twisters strike Blue Mound, Bethany; more seen across region

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BLUE MOUND – The National Weather Service in Lincoln has confirmed Blue Mound and Bethany were both hit by tornadoes during Wednesday’s severe storms.

Both tornadoes are classified as EF1, which is the second-least powerful category. According to the report, several tornadoes were reported along with widespread damaging wind gusts up to around 80 mph, wind-driven hail as large as 3 inches in diameter and localized flash flooding.

Tornadoes were also confirmed in other Central Illinois communities including Springfield, Charleston-Mattoon, where tornadoes were classified as EF2, and Effingham, where tornadoes were classified as EF3.

The classifications of tornadoes on the Enhanced Fujita (EF) scale are determined by wind speeds, with EF0 being the lowest, with wind speeds 65-85 mph, and EF5 the highest, with wind speeds greater than 200 mph. Effingham’s storm, with an EF3 rating, had winds between 135 and 165 mph, classified as “severe.”

Farmer City received the most rain with 3.56 inches, while most areas received well over 2 inches.

The Blue Mound tornado began in northern Christian County in the Griswold Conservation Area, causing extensive tree damage throughout the property. It crossed the county line into Macon County, damaging more trees and structures in Blue Mound, including the roof of Meridian Elementary

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MIDDLE EAST

Trump: No toll on Strait of Hormuz unless imposed by US

HUMEYRA PAMUK, JANA CHOUKEIR, AHMED TOLBA AND STEVE HOLLAND
Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday that no toll will be charged for passage through the Strait of Hormuz during or after the 60-day interim ceasefire with Iran – unless the U.S. imposes one if peace talks fail.

Earlier, Tehran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps declared the strait closed, appearing to raise the stakes as both sides seek to advance the interim deal brokered by Pakistan and signed Wednesday by Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to end the war that began Feb. 28 with U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran.

Meanwhile, a high-level Iranian team and U.S. Vice President JD Vance set out for talks in Switzerland that Pakistan said will begin Sunday.

The Revolutionary Guard warned ships they would be at risk if they approach the Strait of Hormuz, a vital conduit for about a fifth of the world’s oil and gas supplies, citing what it called Israeli “crimes” in Lebanon and a U.S. violation of commitments to establish a ceasefire.

However, U.S. Central Command said 55 merchant ships transited the strait Saturday, moving large amounts of cargo and more than 17 million

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