

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Anna, Illinois

\$1.00

Volume 179, Number 7

News Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area.

Congratulations to the Anna Junior High School girls' basketball team, which defeated Vienna last week to win a regional championship. Anna is scheduled to open Class M state championship finals play Friday, Jan. 23, at Rend Lake College in Ina, with tipoff set for 7:15 p.m. against All Saints Academy.

With winter weather possible this weekend, an Anna School District 37 winter formal planned on Saturday may be subject to rescheduling. The district announced on social media that administration will make the final call on Thursday. The district also noted that if the event has to be postponed, it will be rescheduled.

Anna School District 37 is planning to host Dental Safari visits on Feb. 23 and Feb. 25.

Dental Safari also is scheduled to visit Anna-Jonesboro Community High School on Feb. 20.

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School's 2026 prom is set for the night of May 2 at the Southern Illinois Airport near Murphysboro. The theme for the prom will be "Around the World." Ticket sales open March 25-27.

The Anna-Jo Garden Club will be hosting the first of its "Conservation Corner" speaker series on Monday, Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council in Anna. This month's speaker will be Zack Rowatt, USDA-NRCS, speaking on the topic of water quality.

Shawnee School District 84 is congratulating 2026 homecoming queen Claire Boyd. The district also is congratulating Shawnee Best award winners Nick and Jerri Schaefer.

Due to an unexpected power outage, Shawnee School District 84 in Wolf Lake dismissed classes at 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 15.

Star Karaoke will be at the Anna VFW on Friday, Jan. 23 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Kindergarten and 1st grade students at Lick Creek School have been learning about team work.

A chili cookoff is planned from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at Fuzzy's in Cobden. Proceeds will benefit the Cobden Spay/Neuter Coalition. A silent auction also is planned at The Green Mug next door to Fuzzy's.

Due to damage sustained at the Shawnee Community College baseball field in March of 2025, followed by additional damage in December, the college's baseball team will be playing its 2026 season away from campus. Most games will be played at Mt. Dew Park in Marion.

(continued on page 2)

Union County Sheriff to award college scholarship

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association, ISA, has announced that it will award more than \$58,000 in college scholarships to students throughout the State of Illinois who plan to pursue higher education during the 2026–2027 academic year.

Scholarships may be applied toward tuition, books and required fees. Applicants must be enrolled full-time at a certified institution of higher learning. Online enrollment is acceptable.

Sheriff David Wilkins of Union County will award one scholarship in the amount of \$500.

The ISA scholarship program is open to all qualified applicants without regard to race, age, creed, color, sex or national origin.

Eligibility requirements include: Applicants must be permanent residents of Illinois. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student during the 2026–2027 school year (excluding summer session)

Applications are available at the Union County Sheriff's Office, from school guidance counselors or online through the Illinois Sheriffs' Association website at <https://www.ilsheriff.org/youth-2/>.

The sheriff's office is located at the Union County Courthouse on W. Market St. in Jonesboro.

ISA noted that students must complete the application, answer a required essay question and return all documentation to the sheriff's office in their county of permanent residence no later than March 13, 2026 (applications must be postmarked by this date).

For additional information, students can contact their local Sheriff's Office, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association ([ilsheriff.org](https://www.ilsheriff.org)) or their high school advising center.

Moderate drought conditions continue

A Thursday, Jan. 15, update posted online by the U.S. Drought Monitor showed that most of Union County was continuing to experience moderate drought conditions. Abnormally dry conditions were reported in the southern/southeastern part of the county.

The northwestern corner of Johnson County was experiencing moderate drought conditions. Abnormally dry conditions were reported in the rest of Johnson County.

Moderate drought conditions were reported in all of Jackson County and in nearly all of Williamson County. A small area in southeastern Williamson County was experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Abnormally dry conditions were reported in all of Alexander, Pulaski and Massac counties.

Possible winter storm, dangerously cold weather in forecast for region

Temperatures were expected to moderate by the middle of the week after several days of frigid cold in the Union County area. More cold weather and a potential winter storm are in the forecast by Friday night, Saturday and Sunday.

Winter Storm

The National Weather Service office in Paducah advised Tuesday morning that confidence was growing for a winter storm to impact portions of the region this weekend.

"Accumulating snow is most likely at this time, but some ice remains possible," the Weather Service office reported on its website.

As of Tuesday morning, the Weather Service said that unanswered questions about the possible winter storm include snowfall totals, placement of the heaviest snow and the track of the parent storm, along with the start time for the event.

The Weather Service was advising the region's residents to monitor the forecast closely and to prepare for hazardous travel conditions as early as Friday night.

Dangerously cold air also is possible by this weekend in the region. The outlook for the period from Friday through Sunday includes:

Friday: Mostly cloudy, high near 25. Chance of snow showers. Wind gusts up to 20 miles per hour.

Friday night: Cloudy, low around 6. Wind chill near 6 degrees below zero. Chance of snow showers. Wind gusts up to 20 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy,

high near 16. Chance of snow showers. Wind gusts up to 20 mph.

Saturday night: Mostly cloudy, low around 9. Wind chill near 3 degrees below zero. Chance of snow showers, mainly before midnight.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 22.

Sunday night: Mostly clear, low around 6.

Recent Frigid Conditions

Recent frigid weather included high temperatures around 30 degrees on Sunday, which were followed by even colder conditions on Monday, Jan. 19. The high temperature in the Union County area on Monday was forecast to be near 24. The low Monday night was forecast to be around 12.

At mid-morning Monday, the website for the Weather Service office showed the temperature in the Union County area was 21. With winds gusting up to 25 miles per hour, the wind chill was 7.

The Weather Service was calling for bitter cold wind chills in the single digits and teens again on Tuesday morning.

Somewhat milder temperatures were in the forecast for Tuesday, with a high near 35; on Wednesday, with a high near 45; and on Thursday, today, with a high near 40.

The recent cold weather has been accompanied by some light snow. A few flakes of snow were seen early Saturday afternoon in the Union County area. The Weather Service office reported that areas of flurries and light snow were moving through the re-



Icy Sunday afternoon

Icicles were seen last Sunday afternoon in rock outcroppings near the Quetil Trail in Alto Pass.

gion at the time, with a trace of accumulation possible.

During the cold weather, the Weather Service has been advising everyone to wear extra layers for any outdoor

activities, especially morning school bus stops. The Weather Service also reminded everyone to bring pets indoors and to make sure they are dry and warm.

2025 climate highlights for region

Precipitation totaled 46.65 inches during 2025 in the Union County area. Statistics kept by local weather observer Dana Cross showed that snowfall last year totaled 18.3 inches.

April was the wettest month in 2025. August was the driest month. August and September were the hottest months of the year. The coldest month was February.

Here's a look at monthly weather statistics recorded for last year:

January: The high temperature was 60 degrees, which was recorded on Jan. 29 and 31. The average high was 39. The low for the month was 3, recorded on Jan. 21 and 22. The average low was 20.

Precipitation totaled 4.33 inches. The most precipitation in a 24-hour period was 1.58 inches (which included snow and ice pellets) on Jan. 5. Snowfall for the month totaled 6.3 inches. The most snow in a 24-hour period was 4 inches on Jan. 10.

February: The high for the month was 70, recorded on Jan. 26 and 28. The average high was 46. The low for the month was 5 degrees below zero on Feb. 21. The average low was 26.

Precipitation totaled 3.5 inches. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 2.15 inches on Feb. 15. Snowfall totaled 11 inches. The most snow in a 24-hour period was 8 inches on Feb. 18.

March: The high was 82, recorded March 14. The average high was 66. The low was



Winter reflection, February 2025

Snow which fell in February of 2025 was reflected in a mirror along a street in Cobden. Snowfall last February in the Union County area totaled 11 inches. File photo.

21 on March 2. The average low was 39.

Precipitation totaled 2.49 inches. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 1.07 inches on March 15. A wind gust of 47 miles per hour was recorded at 1 a.m. on March 15. On March 7, a trace of rain accompanied by dust was recorded.

April: The high was 85 on April 28. The average high was 71. The low was 30 on April 8. The average low was 48.

Precipitation totaled 10.22 inches. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 2.61 inches on April 5. Quarter-sized hail

was recorded April 25.

May: The high was 85 on May 19. The average high was 74. The low was 42 on May 6. The average low was 55.

Precipitation totaled 3.8 inches. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 0.99 of an inch on May 30.

June: The high was 94 on June 21 and 25. The average high was 86. The low was 57 on June 10 and 11. The average low was 67.

Precipitation totaled 7.27 inches. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 1.64 inches on June 5.

July: The high was 95 on

July 29. The average high was 91. The low was 63 on July 2.

The average low was 71. Precipitation totaled 2.69 inches of rain. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 1.71 inches on July 13. Fog was recorded on a number of days during the month.

August: The high was 98 on Aug. 17. The average high was 88. The low was 47 on Aug. 27. The average low was 63.

Precipitation totaled 0.79 of an inch. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 0.32 of an inch on Aug. 5.

(continued on page 2)



THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

THE TALK AND COBDEN REVIEW

Serving Union County Since 1849

(USPS 215-280)

ISSN 2834-6165 (Print)

2834-6173 (Online)

Published weekly on Thursdays

by Southern Illinois LOCAL Media Group, LLC

112 Lafayette St.

Anna, Illinois 62906-0529

618-833-2158

news@annanews.com

Periodical postage paid at Anna, Illinois 62906-0529



Benjamin Marxer.....Editor

Miguel Paredes as Trustee of the Paddock Publications, Inc.

Employee Stock Ownership Trust

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year • July, 2022

In Union County.....\$54.00

Elsewhere in 629 Zip Code.....\$56.00

Out of Area.....\$64.00

Per Copy.....\$1.00

E-edition.....\$54.00



POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

The Gazette-Democrat

112 Layfayette St.

Anna, Illinois 62906-0529

Advertising rates given on application.

The Gazette-Democrat | Monday’s Pub.

www.annanews.com

facebook.com/gazettedemocrat

Rural Health Inc. offers reminder about health care coverage

Get Covered Illinois has extended the deadline for its Open Enrollment Period for 2026 health plans. Rural Health Inc. reminds area residents they now have until Jan. 31 to enroll for insurance coverage that starts February 1. The extension is designed to give Illinois residents more time to find affordable plans on the state's official marketplace.

Beginning in 2026, Illinois moved from HealthCare.gov to the state-based marketplace Get Covered Illinois, the state's official health insurance marketplace.

For those who do not get coverage through public programs or if a worker's job coverage is unaffordable, they can shop on the marketplace for a health plan that fits their needs. Get Covered

Illinois is also the only place to get financial help to cover the costs of coverage.

Anyone who needs coverage can visit getcoveredillinois.gov or contact Rural Health Inc. at 618-833-4471. A member of Rural Health Inc.'s team will help people to enroll, at no charge. The assistance is available regardless if persons are a patient of Rural Health Inc.

Rural Health Inc. is a not-for-profit organization serving Union, Johnson and Massac counties in Illinois. Rural Health Inc. is designated by the federal government as a Federally Qualified Health Center whose mission is to provide quality services to all patients in need of healthcare while being committed to the overall health and well-being of the underserved.

Valentines for Seniors Card Drive underway

Three Southern Illinois state legislators are teaming up to help spread kindness this Valentine's Day through a Valentines for Seniors Card Drive. They invite Southern Illinois residents to join them in the special project.

State Sen. Dale Fowler, R-Harrisburg, State Rep. Paul Jacobs, R-Pomona, and State Rep. Patrick Windhorst, R-Metropolis, are working together on the card drive.

The card drive encourages individuals, families, classrooms, churches and community groups to create

Valentines Day cards for seniors who are living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout the region.

Valentines Day cards can be dropped off by Feb. 6 at the legislators' district offices. The legislators and their district office locations include:

Sen. Fowler: 2 N. Vine St., Suite 600, Harrisburg. Rep. Jacobs, 600 Halfway Rd., Suite 103, Marion. Rep. Windhorst, 202 E. Clark St., West Frankfort.

Cards collected through the drive will be delivered to senior care facilities throughout the area served by the legislators. More information about the card drive is available by contacting Fowler's district office at 618-294-8951.

News Notes

(continued from page 1)

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is planning a daytime closure on the U.S. 51 Ohio River "Cairo" Bridge connecting Wickliffe, Ky., and Cairo on Thursday, Jan. 22. Weather permitting, crews will inspect the electrical conduits and junction boxes for the bridge's navigation lighting system. To facilitate the work, the bridge will be closed to traffic from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Motorists planning to travel between Kentucky and Illinois are advised to use the I-24 Ohio River Bridge between Paducah and Metropolis as an alternate route.



Regional Champs
The Anna Lady Indians basketball team have been crowned the 2026 champions of the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletics Association Class M region. The final game of the tournament was held on Thursday, Jan. 15 against Vienna in Anna. The Lady Indians will play in the first round of the state tournament on Friday, Jan. 23 in Rend Lake against All Saints Academy.

Stage set for performances of “The Odd Couple” this weekend at Shawnee Hills Arts Council

by Zack Rowatt

A classic comedy takes the stage this weekend at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council (SHAC) where the lights will fall on returning talent and new faces with the presentation of “The Odd Couple” by Neil Simon.

The play was first produced on Broadway in 1965 and follows the trials and tribulations of friends Oscar Madison and Felix Ungar as they readjust to bachelor life as each other's new roommates. Being polar opposites, their personalities clash and their cohabitation has drastic consequences for the weekly poker game and complicates their return to the dating scene.

The story deals with very real human situations, thoughts, and emotions pertaining to marriage and divorce, mental health, and identity.

The arts council originally intended to produce the play in the winter of 2025 as a part of its drama schedule, alternating plays and musicals for children and adults, but had to postpone the production. Organizers say the time and work put in by the cast have allowed performers to grow creatively and step outside their comfort zones.

The cast is led by Zack Rowatt as Oscar Madison and Ethan Dillman as Felix Ungar, and supported by poker players Tom Caldwell as Roy, Paul Vanni as Speed, Tim Simpson as Murray, and Mark Hasty as Vinnie.

Nancy Kucera as Gwendoline Pigeon and Julie White por-



“Odd Couple” cast
Top, the entire cast pictured with director Beverly Bain in the center. Bottom left, an awkward moment transpires after dinner party introductions. Bottom right, shows a spat over punctuality and kitchen utensils.

trays her sister, Cecily, rounding out the small cast. They are coached by Beverly Bain in her directorial debut. The group is a mix of individuals who are well acquainted with the stage as well as total newcomers to artistic medium.

Showtimes are 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23; 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, at 125 W. Davie St. in Anna.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. They may be purchased at the door or online at shawneehillsart.com.

SHAC leaders say they take pride in offering free community performing-arts opportunities for the community and are thankful for the support of its sponsors. Participation helps build confidence, improve focus and memorization, and create connection through storytelling. These opportunities frequently draw in talent and participation from the greater Southern Illinois region as well as Kentucky

and Missouri.

Future theater opportunities at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council include auditions for a spring production of “9 to 5 Jr. (dates to be announced), a free 3-week drama camp in June (details forthcoming), and an annual children's musical in the fall, typically produced in early December.

Those interested in acting, directing, or set design should watch out for announcements on social media or the above website and are to reach out through either platform.

Climate highlights



Dusty rain, March 2025
Dusty rain was recorded in the Union County area in early March of 2025. File photo.

(continued from page 1)

September: The high was 98 on Sept. 14. The average high was 85. The low was 42 on Sept. 8. The average low was 58.

Precipitation totaled 2.67 inches of rain. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 1.43 inches on Sept. 22.

October: The high was 88 on Oct. 2. The average high was 73. The low was 32 on Oct. 31. The average low was 49.

Precipitation totaled 5.39 inches. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 1.87 inches on Oct. 7.

November: The high was 77 on Nov. 14. The average high was 59. The low was 19

SEALED BID NOTICE

Larry Taylor, will be accepting sealed bids for the following properties:

90± tillable acres in section 21, T14S R1W Alexander County, Illinois.

That will be accepted up until 5:00 pm on 03/02/2026. Sealed bids can be mailed to the attention of Larry Taylor at 14748 Elco Road, Ullin, IL 62992.

If the bid holder's bid is accepted by Larry Taylor, the bid holder will be notified and will be responsible for closing on the real estate transaction within thirty (30) days of the close of the sealed bid. The property(ies) being bid on is as is and where is with no warranties whatsoever. Any due diligence, title work, or legal advice shall need to be obtained separately for the Notice. No promises, other than a conveyance by Deed, is being made as a part of this bid process.

Any petitions regarding the bid process can be made with Larry Taylor at 14748 Elco Road, Ullin, IL 62992 or by phone or email at 618-202-0459 Larrygt2312@hotmail.com

Illinois Republican governor hopefuls share stage for first time at candidate forum



Candidates meet at forum

Ted Dabrowski pitches his candidacy for governor as his primary opponents, video gambling mogul Rick Heidner, former state Sen. Darren Bailey and DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick, listen during a forum sponsored by the Tazewell County Republican Party on Jan. 15. Capitol News Illinois photo by Brenden Moore.

By Brenden Moore
Capitol News Illinois

WASHINGTON, Ill. – Far ahead of his Republican primary opponents in the most recent public polling, Darren Bailey told a half-filled Central Illinois auditorium in that he expected to be “the punching bag.”

Instead, Bailey walked away relatively unscathed from a candidate forum Thursday evening, Jan. 15, as the four Republican candidates for governor struck a conciliatory tone with one another. The four candidates preached unity after years of intraparty conflict, called for an end to the state’s robust protections for immigrants and took aim at Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker while pitching themselves as the most electable candidate in a general election.

It was the first time the candidates – Bailey; former conservative think tank president Ted Dabrowski; video gambling mogul Rick Heidner; and DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick – shared a stage. It came just a few weeks ahead of the kickoff to early voting, and two months before Republicans choose a nominee to take on Pritzker, who is seeking a third term, in November.

“We’ve got to make sure that we commit ourselves right here – that on March 18, we stick together and we work together,” Bailey, the party’s 2022 nominee, said.

The fireworks were few and far between, with the candidates largely in alignment on their conservative visions for the state. Dabrowski took a few swings, suggesting Bailey, who lost to Pritzker by 12.5 percentage points and more than 500,000 votes in 2022, did not have enough appeal to win in the vote-rich Chicago suburbs. He also suggested Heidner’s past donations to Democrats were at odds with conservative values.

Winning in Chicago Area

The Illinois GOP hasn’t won a statewide election in more than a decade, has been relegated to the superminority in the state legislature, holds just three of the state’s 17 congressional seats and occupies just two of the seven Illinois Supreme Court seats.

That reality framed the forum’s opening question: how the candidates planned to reverse the party’s fortunes in the suburban collar counties – once GOP strongholds that have drifted away as the party’s grown more rigid in its conservatism on social issues like abortion and gun rights. President Donald Trump also remains deeply unpopular in the northeast corner of the state.

“I know, and I feel confident that all of us are going to do well downstate,” Dabrowski said. “The question is going to be: Who can do well enough in Cook County and in the suburbs?”

Dabrowski, a resident of Wilmette and the son of immigrants from Poland and Ecuador, suggested that he could appeal to voters from Chicago’s wealthier North Shore communities to the

patchwork of ethnic enclaves in the city and suburbs.

He said this sets him apart from Bailey, a farmer from downstate Xenia who lost all but one of the suburban collar counties while referring to Chicago as a “hellhole” over the course of his failed 2022 campaign.

Mendrick said his election as sheriff of the state’s second-most populous county is proof of his viability in this race. Both he and Dabrowski also suggested Republicans would appeal in Chicago’s African American community over the issue of immigration. “They’re all flipping red,” Mendrick said. “They’re all going with Trump. The sanctuary state (policy) is driving them.”

However, a poll conducted by Emerson College earlier this month found Trump with an 82 percent disapproval rating among the state’s Black voters. By contrast, 71 percent approve of Pritzker’s job performance. Immigration ranked a distant sixth in terms of what the group believes are the most important issues facing the state. Mendrick added, however, that he’s “always ignored the polls.”

Whether it’s shown in a poll or an anecdote from the campaign trail, the top issue on voters’ minds is cost of living. The candidates criticized the state’s high property tax rates and each suggested implementing caps, though they were vague on how they would fill in funding gaps that could create for school districts and other local taxing bodies.

Bailey said that if they focus on that issue and can get Republican voters who’ve sat out past elections to the polls, they have a chance.

“We’ve got the message: affordability,” Bailey said. “Our property taxes are too high, energy costs are too high. We need more police officers on the streets. We need to repeal the SAFE-T Act. We need to improve education for our children. And people all over the state agree and believe in that. That’s how we will win in November.”

Ending Sanctuary Status

However, none of the candidates appeared willing to move off their conservative positions to win over voters despite Illinois’ Democratic lean. Dabrowski suggested instead that “Democrats are going to meet us” due to “extreme” policies from Pritzker, then listing off topics such as transgender girls having access to girl’s bathrooms and sports.

The state’s immigration policy was also front-and-center, with the candidates criticizing state spending in recent years on health care for undocumented immigrants and to address the migrant crisis caused by the busing of migrants from border states like Texas to Chicago in 2023 and 2024.

“We’re being washed out with a dependent society,” Mendrick said.

A February 2025 audit found the state had spent over \$1.6 billion on an immigrant health care programs

from 2021 through 2024. Lawmakers and the governor ended the program that provided Medicaid-like benefits to immigrants aged 42-64 in the current fiscal year. The state also paused enrollment in an ongoing program serving immigrants age 65 and older.

Heidner, who jumped into the race in late October but whose campaign had been radio silent up until this week, added that undocumented people are “coming here and then just feeding off of us.”

The state’s TRUST Act, signed by then-Gov. Bruce Rauner, a Republican, in 2017, generally prohibits state and local law enforcement from assisting the federal government with immigration enforcement unless a federal criminal warrant is presented. All four said they support repealing the law and would withhold state funds from cities like Chicago that maintain sanctuary ordinances.

“We can’t be a sanctuary state,” Heidner said. “I’m on board with President Trump. I mean, we cannot house the world when we can’t take care of all our own citizens.”

They signaled support for Trump’s crackdown on illegal immigration. A targeted campaign in the Chicago region last year led to the arrests of 4,500 people in the country without authorization. But it also led to violent clashes between armed, masked federal agents and protesters.

Dabrowski said that Pritzker was “the one fomenting a lot of this problem in Illinois” by not cooperating with federal immigration authorities and by describing them as “jackbooted thugs,” among other names. There was no mention of language utilized by Trump, who has referred to protestors as “insurrectionists” and “domestic terrorists.”

“If we would have opened our doors for ICE to come in, they would have been in and out of here probably six to eight weeks to get the worst of the worst out of here,” Heidner added.

Democrat Donations “Huge Mistake”

Though chummy with one another for most of the night, Dabrowski took Heidner to task for campaign donations to prominent Democrats, including a \$25,000 contribution to Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson in 2023 and a \$2,500 donation in 2015 to Kim Foxx, who was running for and later elected Cook County state’s attorney.

“I still can’t square up the values with giving money to somebody like Brandon Johnson and Kim Foxx, who have such different values, I think, from what we’re saying here – and I think that’s something that maybe needs to be answered,” Dabrowski said.

Heidner, who operates businesses in the city of Chicago, said he supported Paul Vallas in the 2023 mayoral election but agreed to help Johnson pay off some campaign debt.

“It was like cutting my arm off,” Heidner told the audience.

As for Foxx, the two-term state’s attorney who was one of the chief supporters of the

state law that ended cash bail, Heidner had no defense, calling it a “huge mistake.”

“That one there I really can’t even forgive myself for, so I apologize for that,” Heidner said.

Though Bailey leads in recent polling, Dabrowski and Heidner have raised more cash. Heidner has donated more than \$1.25 million to his campaign while Dabrowski has raised more than \$1.5 million, mostly from a series of large donors.

Dabrowski said he’s the one who can compete financially with Pritzker in a general election – but also will be principled.

“There’s too many people who are breaking off and doing things with Democrats,” Dabrowski said. “We have to be principled with the conservative values that we all need and trust.”

Bailey, however, said that Republican voters should give him another shot.

“I have been that steadfast rock for you since 2019,” Bailey said. “I’ve stood, I’ve not wavered in my convictions, I’ve been your voice, and I intend to, hopefully, continue to be that voice of reasoning to all of Illinois, and especially the Democrat Party. We can win Illinois. We have the blueprint.”

Dabrowski Support Grows

Earlier in the day, more than a dozen current and former Central Illinois Republican lawmakers endorsed Dabrowski, touting his credentials as a conservative policy wonk. They said they believe he can raise the money and build the broad support needed to end the party’s decade-long shutout from elected statewide office.

“There’s one person who has the best chance to get Illinois back on track as our governor, and that same person has the best chance to beat JB Pritzker,” said state Rep. Travis Weaver, R-Peoria, referring to Dabrowski. “When you thoughtfully consider who has the ability to win new voters, repair our state, attract support statewide and unite our party, the choice is clear, period.”

Dabrowski also added support from state Sens. Li Arrellano, R-Dixon; Chris Balke-ma, R-Channahon; Sue Rezin, R-Morris; and Sally Turner, R-Beason; and state Reps. Regan Deering, R-Decatur; Bill Hauter, R-Morton; Kyle Moore, R-Quincy; Brandun Schweizer, R-Danville; and Dennis Tipsword, R-Metamora.

It furthers the consolidation of establishment support around Dabrowski – and away from the party’s 2022 gubernatorial nominee, Bailey.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Administrator, guardian appointed for region

The governor’s office has announced that Rebecca O’Neill will continue to serve as the public administrator and public guardian of Alexander, Perry, Franklin, Hardin, Pope, Pulaski, Jackson, Randolph, Johnson, Saline, Massac, Union and Williamson counties. The appointment is pending confirmation by the Illinois Senate.

O’Neill currently serves as owner and principal attorney of her own practice, Rebecca J. O’Neill, Attorney at Law. Previously, O’Neill taught for 31 years at the Southern Illinois University School of Law’s Elder Clinic. She taught students how to practice law while providing free legal services to elderly.

During her career at SIU Law, O’Neill received numerous honors, including the Governor’s Aging Award, the Excellence in Education Award, the Leaders Among Us Award, the Lindell W. Sturgis Memorial Public Service Award and the Human Rights Defender Award, Southern Illinois Chapter of the United Nations.

O’Neill earned her bachelor of science degree in marketing and political science from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and her juris

doctorate from the Southern Illinois University School of Law.

Public administrators administer the estate of a person who dies owning real or personal estate and no person in Illinois has the prior right to administer the estate. If person was a nonresident of Illinois, the administrator may take such measures to protect the estate. Public guardians are appointed for disabled adults needing guardianship services to monitor their care and administer their estate

Book sale set at Stinson

The Friends of Stinson will hold their annual winter book sale on Feb. 6 to 8. The library is located at 409 S. Main Street in Anna.

The three-day event begins with a Friends Appreciation Sale on Friday, Feb. 6, from 4 to 6 p.m.

A public sale will follow on Saturday, Feb. 7, running from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The final day, Sunday, Feb. 8, features a bag sale from 1 to 3 p.m.



Sunday music

Anna First Baptist Church hosted the singing group Riven Music and Ministry on Sunday Morning. Pictured are, from left, Scot Womble, Gary Brannaman, Hunter Segers and Keziah Segers.



Happy birthday

Rev. Lupe and Yadira Lopez were honored at a meal after church on Sunday at Anna First Baptist Church with Rev. Lupe celebrating his birthday.



Volunteers

A special thanks was issued to Jean Denny, Louise Mowell, Rod and Menda Cash, Cissi Cuthbertson and Dale Denny for the meal they prepared for everyone after church on Sunday at Anna First Baptist Church. Photos by Martha Ann Webb.

Obituaries

Amy Lea (nee Perry) Duringer

Amy Lea (nee Perry) Duringer, 56, of Goreville, Ill., passed away on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, in St. Louis, Mo. surrounded by her family.

Amy was born on Feb. 14, 1969, in Carbondale, Ill.

Amy married the love of her life, David Duringer, on Oct. 22, 1994. Together they built a life filled with love, laughter, and shared purpose.

Amy was deeply committed to education and justice. She earned her undergraduate degree in English from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, followed by a master's degree in English and a law degree — also from SIU Carbondale.

She dedicated her professional life to advocating for others, especially the elderly and vulnerable.

Most recently, Amy served as the Supervising Attorney for the Office of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, working from the Champaign area down to southern Illinois for three years.

Prior to that, she practiced law privately beginning in 1994 and later accepted a fellowship position with Equip for Equality, where she focused on elder justice and worked in partnership with the state's organizations for diversity and inclusion. She served in that role for two years. Amy was a passionate advocate for elder justice throughout her career.

She was a member of Mount Hebron Presbyterian Church and attended Boskydell Baptist Church. Professionally, she was a member of the Williamson County Bar Association and an Inn of Court member.

In her younger years and throughout college, Amy enjoyed competitive English Pleasure Equestrian Riding. She also loved reading, spending time with her family, and caring for her beloved fur babies. Some of her favorite quiet moments were spent sitting on her porch watching wildlife and



enjoying her favorite shows, Law & Order and Criminal Minds.

Amy is survived by her loving husband, David Duringer; her twins, Savannah Duringer and Chance Duringer; her mother, Karen Boner; her brother, Theb Sexton (Melody Fo), her sisters, Kim Chamness and Nadia Boner; her niece and nephews, David Winicky, Allison Chamness, and Teddy Sexton; along with other relatives, dear friends, and her precious fur baby cat, Apollo.

She was preceded in death by her father, Gary Perry; her brother, Matthew Holder; her stepfather, Lee Boner; her grandmother, June Brewer; her grandfather, Clyde E. Brewer; her grandmother, Clara Faye Perry; her grandfather, Ernest Perry; and her cousin, Jimmy Morrison.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Blue Funeral Home of Goreville, under the direction of Binkley-Ross. Visitation was held on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at the Goreville funeral home, located at 812 South Broadway, Goreville, Illinois.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Jan. 15 with interment following at Mankinda Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Boskydell Baptist Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, the American Cancer Society, or the Heather Treat Memorial Fund.

Online condolences may be shared at www.binkley-ross.com.

Greg Corzine, age 70, of Dongola, passed away on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at the Deaconess Illinois Union County Hospital in Anna, Ill..

He was born on May 15, 1955 to Wendell Orlan and Myra Colleen (Fisher) Corzine in Anna, Ill.

After graduating Dongola High School, Greg joined the United States Marine Corps where he served from 1973 until 1980.

He then returned to Dongola and worked at Corzine Hardware and Appliance Center serving the area until his death and never turning anyone away. Greg attended Shawnee College and Southern Illinois University.

Greg served as Mayor of Dongola from December 2011 to Present and served as a Village Board Member for many years prior to his serving as Mayor.

Greg was a proud veteran and he was a member of the American Legion and the Marine Corps League in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Greg was also an active member of the Wetaug Church of Christ and involved with the American Legion Cemetery.

Survivors include his brother, Cris Corzine; several cousins; one aunt; and many friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral Services were held on Monday, Jan. 19 with Brent Miller officiating at Crain Funeral Home in Dongola.

Interment with Military Honors followed the service at the American Legion Cemetery in Dongola, Ill.

The family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to Wetaug Church of Christ and/or the American Legion Cemetery.

Crain Funeral Home in Dongola is in charge of arrangements.

To view the obituary or to leave an online condolence for the family visit www.crainonline.com

Roy Ray Long, Jr., age 75, of Perks, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026 at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born on Jan. 16, 1950 to Roy Ray, Sr. and Elsie Viola (Johnson) Long in Cairo, Ill.

On July 4, 2001, he married Tressie Faye Long and spent over 19 years together until her passing in 2021.

Roy had worked in Maintenance. He loved to watch Western and supernatural shows. He also loved fishing and listening to music, most of all, he loved spending time with family and friends and entertaining everyone with stories and jokes.

Survivors include his children, Shleena Long, Joseph Long, David Long, Rosa Cabellero, and Gerald Long; along with numerous grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his son, Lonnie Long; brother, Lew Gene Long; sister, Bonnie Sue Long; and cousin who was like a brother, Mike long.

Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, Jan. 14 with Bon Reynolds officiating.

Interment will follow the service at the Masonic Cemetery in Grand Chain, Ill.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna, Illinois is in charge of arrangements.



brother, Cris Corzine; several cousins; one aunt; and many friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral Services were held on Monday, Jan. 19 with Brent Miller officiating at Crain Funeral Home in Dongola.

Interment with Military Honors followed the service at the American Legion Cemetery in Dongola, Ill.

The family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to Wetaug Church of Christ and/or the American Legion Cemetery.

Crain Funeral Home in Dongola is in charge of arrangements.

To view the obituary or to leave an online condolence for the family visit www.crainonline.com

Roy Ray Long, Jr.



is preceded in death by his son, Lonnie Long; brother, Lew Gene Long; sister, Bonnie Sue Long; and cousin who was like a brother, Mike long.

Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, Jan. 14 with Bon Reynolds officiating.

Interment will follow the service at the Masonic Cemetery in Grand Chain, Ill.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna, Illinois is in charge of arrangements.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

Being sick for the week hasn't been pleasant. I usually wait until at least February to get my dose of sinus infection, bronchitis, ear infection, strep or whatever combo comes around. Mine came early this year, with both the sinus and ear infection. Oh, the joy. At least I was sick during my week off, right?

The good news is I am now caught up on all my shows, have read the book I got for Christmas, and have caught up with my backlog

Union County Fixin's

White Chicken Chili for Two
2 teaspoons canola oil
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons chili powder
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts or 3 thighs, cut into 1-inch chunks
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 1/2 cups chicken broth
19 oz. can of Cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
3 Tablespoons cilantro, chopped fresh
2 Tablespoons green onion, sliced
4 teaspoons lime juice
Dollop of sour cream

Heat canola oil in large saucepan on medium high. Combine flour, chili powder, garlic powder, and cumin in a plastic resealable bag. Add chicken and toss until coated. Add chicken to pan. Reserve flour mixture.

Cook, uncovered for about five minutes, stirring occasionally, until browned on all sides. Remove to a plate and cover to keep warm.

Add onion to same saucepan. Cook for three minutes, stirring often until onion is softened. Add chicken and reserved flour back into skillet and stir and heat for one minute.

Slowly add broth, stirring constantly until smooth and starts to boil and thicken. Add beans. Stir and reduce heat to medium-low. Cook uncovered about three minutes longer. Add remaining ingredients. Stir to combine

By Suzan Harvel

of emails. I've also slept so much my back and hip hurt like I fell down a flight of stairs. I can only hope this passes soon. I dislike taking naps and that seems to be all I'm doing.

A tea party and open house will be held at the historic St. Anne's Church, 507 South Main Street, in Anna, Illinois, on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. All who are interested in viewing a part of Anna's history are invited to join with other like-minded individuals, who share a love of history and this area.

Diana Scherer, Alice Stearns, Ethan Dillman, and Mary Ellen Ecker, who serve on the St. Anne's Committee, as part of P.A.S.T. of Union County, have put this tea party together to welcome the community in viewing and hearing about an important piece of the past. Parking can be found near the library and downtown areas and the church is just a short walk down Main Street, nestled between beautiful historic homes.

P.A.S.T. of Union County will hold its monthly meeting at the Heritage House in Jonesboro on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. New and prospective members are welcome to attend.

Those added to the prayer list of Mill Creek Baptist Church this week were: Debbie Cobb, Junior Tripp and Lula Belle Tripp, Nicholas Bowie, Steven Zinn and Doris Keller; all for health concerns. Also remember the families of the many who have passed lately: Randy Livesay, Betty Quick, Kathy Dillow, Greg Corzine, Agnes Thurston, Roy Ray Long, Jane Baggott, Rita Ramage and Paul Gibson.

Warning issued about text scams

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is warning Illinoisans to look out for text message scams claiming to be from the "Illinois State Department of Motor Vehicles."

The messages threaten to suspend vehicle registration and driving privileges, while falsely claiming that enforcement actions would begin Jan. 17.

These text messages are phishing, or "smishing," attempts designed to trick residents into giving up personal or financial information. Recipients should not respond to these messages or open any links found in unsolicited texts and emails.

The Illinois Secretary of State's office does not send text messages demanding payment for traffic fines or requesting driver's license or vehicle registration information. The only text messages sent by the office are appointment reminders for scheduled DMV appointments.

"Scammers are constantly trying to find new ways to cheat Illinoisans out of their personal information and hard-earned money," Giannoulias said in a news release. "These deceptive scams are unfortunately an increasingly prevalent threat in our modern society, and they're coming from many sources, including phone calls, text messages and email communications. I encourage everyone to remain vigilant, avoid engaging with these messages and report scams to help protect themselves and others."

Illinoisans can report scam attempts to the Federal Trade Commission by visiting reportfraud.ftc.gov.

State Medicaid program faces funding crisis due to federal changes

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — A multibillion-dollar budget crisis will hit the state's Medicaid program in the next few years unless state lawmakers and Gov. JB Pritzker act to prevent it, wbudget analysts both inside and outside state government warn.

The crisis comes from changes in federal Medicaid policy that were enacted last year as part of President Donald Trump's sweeping domestic policy agenda, known officially as H.R. 1, or the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," which, among many other things, slashes one of the main funding tools many states have used for four decades to fund their share of the cost of Medicaid.

"By the time you're a few years in, you're looking at a \$4 – \$5 – \$6 billion a year hit, and that's material," Paula Worthington, a researcher with the University of Illinois' Institute of Government and Public Affairs, IGPA, said during a recent interview.

Worthington is a coauthor of a recent IGPA report that describes the upcoming changes in Medicaid funding as one of the most serious long-term fiscal challenges facing Illinois.

The funding tools at issue are known as provider taxes. Those are special taxes that states levy on hospitals, nursing homes, private

insurance plans known as "managed care organizations," or MCOs, and other kinds of health care providers.

States levy those taxes, usually on a per-patient or per-bed basis, and put the money into a fund that is used to draw down federal matching funds. The combination of state and federal funds is then used either to enhance Medicaid reimbursement rates or make direct payments to hospitals and nursing homes that serve large numbers of Medicaid patients to help sustain those facilities financially.

Capping Provider Taxes

When Medicaid was first established in 1965, it was a relatively modest program that provided health care benefits to people who already qualified for other kinds of public assistance, with costs split between the federal government and the states.

As both the size and cost of the program grew, however, states began looking for new ways to pay for their share of the cost outside of their general revenues. Provider taxes emerged in the mid-1980s as one such mechanism.

By the mid-1990s, Congress began putting controls on state-levied provider taxes. Those included rules that they be broad-based and uniform, meaning they

had to apply evenly across an entire class of health care providers and not just those that served Medicaid patients.

The idea was that states were prohibited from holding providers harmless by assuring them they would get all their money back, and then some, once the federal matching funds were drawn down.

But the federal rules also included a "safe harbor" provision. States could avoid having to comply with the hold-harmless prohibition as long as their taxes amounted to no more than 6% of net patient revenue.

That rule has effectively served as a cap on what states can levy in the form of a provider tax. But that cap is about to be cut nearly in half. Under a provision of H.R. 1, a provision that only applies to states like Illinois that expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act, that 6 percent cap will gradually be cut starting in FY 2028 until it reaches 3.5 percent in FY 2032.

Impact in Illinois

In FY 2025, according to the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Illinois spent a total of \$33.7 billion through its Medicaid program, making it one of the single largest categories of expenditures in state government.

Of that total, \$20.9 billion,

or 62 percent, was federal money while the remaining \$12.8 billion came from state funds, including both general revenue and provider taxes.

IGPA reported that provider taxes in FY 2025 amounted to \$4.7 billion, or about 37 percent of all the state funds that were spent on Medicaid. The bulk of that money, according to DHFS, came from two provider taxes, those on hospitals and MCOs.

A recent report by the nonpartisan health policy research organization KFF points out that Illinois stands to lose more than any other state when the reductions take effect because it is the only state whose hospital and MCO assessments are both above the 3.5 percent threshold.

The report by IGPA estimates that when the first reduction takes effect in FY 2028, revenues from those two assessments alone will fall \$239 million. And depending on how much health care prices and Medicaid usage grows over the next five years, total reductions from those two sources could range from \$1.25 billion to \$2 billion by FY 2033.

"But remember, that's just the state money," Worthington said. "That is not taking into account the matching funds."

Assuming the state contin-

Anna-Jo Garden Club hosts first of new monthly speaker series

The Anna-Jo Garden Club's Conservation Corner speaker series is set to start on Monday, Jan. 26 with Zack Rowatt of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Rowatt will speak on the topic of water quality in the region.

Conservation Corner is a monthly speaker series aimed at sharing practical, local knowledge about environmental topics that affect Southern Illinois.

The free speaker series is open to the public and is designed for landowners, gardeners, conservation enthusiasts, and professionals. Each session will feature a guest speaker with expertise in conservation-related fields.

Programs will be held at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council, located at 125 West Davie Street in Anna. All events begin at 6 p.m.

Future Conservation Corner programs include:

- February 23
Chris Evans of the University of Illinois Extension will present on invasive species in Southern Illinois.
- March 30
Tony Gerrard of Shawnee Community College will discuss reptiles and their role in local ecosystems.
- April 27
John Wingate of Cache River Habitat Management LLC will speak on habitat management.

There is no cost to attend, and community members are encouraged to participate in one or all of the sessions.



Historical luncheon
Darryl Parks of Anna hosted a luncheon on Saturday, Jan. 10 for the board members and volunteers of the Union County Historical & Genealogy Society. Those who attended were Patty Flamm, Alethea England, Alma Gomez, Judy and Will Travelstead, and Patrick Brumleve. The Society had a successful year at its annual Christmas Shop. Plans were discussed to team with the Village of Cobden to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary.

The sponsors on this page urge you to attend the church of your choice.



FLAMM
HEATING & COOLING

618-893-2861 • 618-534-2391

Custom Processing of Beef-Pork-Goat-Sheep
Deer Processing Oct. 1st through Jan. 30th.



5565 St. Rt. 146E
Anna, IL 62906
618-833-5986

Jason Martin, Owner
Visit our website:
triplemeats.com

Duty's Auto Glass

Windshields • Door Glasses
Back Glasses • Chip Repair

*Serving All of Southern Illinois
Over 30 Years Experience*

324 Willard Ferry Rd. • Jonesboro
833-2923 or Toll Free 866-759-2923



Anna-Jonesboro
National Bank

Dedicated to our customers, committed to our community

Member FDIC

201 South Main • Anna, IL • 618-833-8506
512 E. Vienna St. • Anna, IL • 618-833-2922
1002 Public Square • Jonesboro • 618-833-4547

SOUTHERN FS

JONESBORO LOCATION
400 SOUTH MAIN ST JONESBORO, IL 62952
618-833-2494

YOUR FULL SERVICE DEALER!

- BAG FEED/BULK FEED
- FERTILIZER/CHEMICAL
- SEED
- CUSTOM SPRAYING/SPREADING
- PROPANE
- PETROLEUM/LUBRICANTS
- GPS SOIL TESTING
- PRECISION FARMING



Josh's Heating & Cooling

P.O. BOX 775
Jonesboro, IL 62952
618-697-8490

joshuahathy@gmail.com



Pizza Hut

*Dine-In
Carryout
Delivery*



1835 E. Vienna St. • Anna, IL
(618) 833-2415
www.pizzahut.com

Cardinal Corner



409 Grand Tower Road
Grand Tower, IL
618-565-1064
Your Hometown Store

GROSS BUSTERS



Exterior Cleaning

Pressure Washing • Deck Staining • Gutter Cleaning
618.697.5968

What Goes Around



Photo Credit Istockphoto.com/AngelaHawkey

Children who are fortunate enough to share precious time with their grandparents benefit in a special way; they receive the unconditional love of those who have already had the experience of being parents. Grandparents have learned what is most important to teach their grandchildren, what is important to pass to generations to come. They want to share what they have learned through their lifetime of experience. They can share God as they teach by word and example the importance of prayer and worship. Visit God's House with your grandchild this week.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Psalm 119.81-96	Psalm 119.97-112	Psalm 119.113-128	Psalm 119.129-144	Psalm 119.145-160	Psalm 119.161-176	1 Cor. 1.1-17
--------------------	---------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	------------------

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

©2025 Keister-Williams Newspaper Services, P.O. Box 8187, Charlottesville, VA 22906, www.kwnews.com



glamour
Cleaning Co.

GIVE US A CALL....WE CLEAN IT ALL

618.697.7030
618.697.9502



B H K

BEUSSINK, HICKAM & KOCHER P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

139 W Vienna St – Anna, IL 62906
(618) 833-2721

Serving the area for over 35 years

Gurley & Son Heating & Air Conditioning



INSTALL CONFIDENCE

1540 Old Hwy. 51N • Anna, IL
(618) 833-5211
"Hope to see you in church Sunday"



WHITNEY
ACCOUNTING

(618) 833-2145
105 Transcraft Drive - Anna, IL

WINTERS
ROLL-OFF



Michael Winters - Owner
618-614-0885

Unwanted Clutter
Hauling Service
Dumpster Rentals

Serving the community since 1979!

DUTCH GUTTERING
CALL FOR SUMMER SPECIALS!
618-351-1881

Seamless Aluminum Guttering
Gutter Clean Outs • Leaf Guards
Roof Repairs • Home Improvement
Service and Repair • Siding & Overhang



ASB

Anna
STATE BANK

100 E. Vienna Street • Anna, IL
833-2151
www.annastate.com

Member FDIC



**Union County
Abstract Office, Inc.**

Chicago Title Insurance Company
Susan T. Holderfield, President
304 West Market Street • P.O. Box AC
Jonesboro, Illinois 62952
(618) 833-6521

Community Integrated Living, Inc.

*Improving the lives of the
individuals we serve.*

201 E. Chestnut St. • Anna, IL
618-833-2500
www.communityintegratedliving.com



FARMERS
STATE BANK

55 N. Elm St. • Alto Pass, IL
(618) 893-2464
www.myfsb.com

Member FDIC



A&G
AUTOMOTIVE, INC.



ASE
CERTIFIED

109 Transcraft Drive
Anna, IL 62906
833-8755



**THE FIRST STATE BANK
OF DONGOLA**

Old and Reliable, Established 1906

108 SE Front Street • Dongola, IL 62926
618-827-3451

Member FDIC



MIDWESTERN
PROPANE GAS CO.

Anna, IL • 833-6300
Mike Jones, Manager

Apostolic Lighthouse Church



EST. 1943

Breakfast and Sunday
School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship service
at 10:45 a.m.
Midweek service
Wednesday at 7 p.m.

423 S. Front St.
Cobden, IL 51-3GC



You're Invited!
**CrossPointe
Church**

409 S. Green St, Anna, IL 62906 (Corner of West Spring and S. Green St)

**Sunday
Worship Service
10:30am**

**Wednesday
Bible Study
7pm**

To support your community Church Page, contact Meta for more details at 1-800-293-4709.

The Gazette-Democrat

Classified Section

Anna Office

618-833-2158

classifieds@annanews.com

AD DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. MONDAY

CLASSIFIED RATES

Classifieds35¢ per word

\$8.00 minimum for each paid ad per week

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY RATES

Per inch\$14.00

HELP

WANTED

City of Anna, Part Time SRO - Police Officer The City of Anna, IL is accepting applications for the position for a Part-Time School Resource Officer. Under the direction of the Chief of Police and in coordination with School Administration, the School Resource Officer will work to improve school safety and security. This is a part time position with an hourly rate of pay of \$25.00. The hours of this position coincide with the school calendar, not to exceed 1,560 hours per calendar year. Minimum qualifications for an interested candidate are as follows; must be a U.S. citizen, have a valid driver's license, possess a valid Illinois FOID card, have certification from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, must pass a medical and criminal background check, and reside within 30 minutes of the corporate limits of Anna. Applications will be available for interested candidates at Anna City Hall or online at cityofanna.org. Please return resume and employment application to the Human Resources Department at Anna City Hall, 103 Market Street Anna, IL 62906 or by email to mmcreynolds@cityofanna.org. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

Anna First Baptist Church is looking for a Part-time Custodian – 20 hours per week, Monday through Thursday. If interested, applications can be picked up at the church office located at 409 Morgan Street in Anna.

MISC.

OVARIAN cancer after use of TALC products such as BABY POWDER or SHOWER TO SHOWER, you may be entitled to compensation. Contact Charles Johnson 1-800-535-5727

LEGAL

NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER ASSUMED BUSINESS

NAME ACT

State of Illinois

SS

County of Union

Notice is hereby given pursuant to “An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Name in the conduct of Transaction of Business in the State,” as Amended that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Union County,

Filed this 12th day of January, 2026, under the Assumed Name of SLB Excavating with the place of business located at 945 Cook Ave., Jonesboro, IL 62952, and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietors of said Business is:

Owners: Stuart L. Busby

Address:945 Cook Ave., Jonesboro, IL 62952

Stephanie L. Cox

Union County Clerk

8221-961248

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.

13279592

8221-961012

Want to search

Illinois legal notices?



Subscribe now to have legal notices emailed to you based on YOUR custom search criteria!

PNI PUBLIC NOTICE ILLINOIS

www.publicnoticeillinois.com

A public service provided by Illinois Newspapers & the Illinois Press Association

U.S. Supreme Court allows Bost to challenge mail-in ballot counts

By Ben Szalinski
Capitol News Illinois
U.S. Rep. Mike Bost’s lawsuit challenging Illinois’ election laws can proceed because he is a candidate for office, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

Bost, a Republican from Murphysboro, was challenging a ruling in lower courts that he lacked legal standing to sue the state over its mail-in ballot policy. The nation’s high court ruled 7-2 that the lower courts erred and that Bost has an “obvious” stake in election laws as a candidate.

Bost and a pair of 2020 Illinois primary delegates for President Donald Trump sued the Illinois State Board of Elections in 2022, arguing that the state’s law allowing late-arriving mail-in ballots to be counted up to 14 days after the polls close violates the federal law establishing an “Election Day.” The ballots must be postmarked by Election Day.

The court’s ruling on Jan. 14 did not weigh in on the merits of Bost’s argument. Rather, it allowed his legal challenge to proceed at the lower level of the federal court system.

The U.S. judicial system typically requires plaintiffs to demonstrate that a law negatively affects them in order

to give them standing to challenge it in court. Lower courts, including the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in a 2-1 decision, ruled Bost was not harmed, largely because he won the 2020 election handily with 60 percent of the vote.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion overturning the decision.

“Candidates have a concrete and particularized interest in the rules that govern the counting of votes in their election, regardless whether those rules harm their electoral prospects or increase the cost of their campaigns,” Roberts wrote. “Their interest extends to the integrity of the election – and the democratic process by which they earn or lose the support of the people they seek to represent.”

Bost had also argued he had standing because he faced the financial harm of having to pay staff to monitor ballot counting beyond Election Day.

“We have won this initial battle, but the fight for election integrity continues,” Bost said in a statement.

While Bost’s case heads back to the lower courts, another related case may be settled first. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case challenging Mississippi’s law that allow ballots to be counted for 14

days after Election Day. A ruling on that would likely have implications for Illinois.

Bost’s Right to Sue
The Jan. 14 ruling rejects the state’s argument to the court in October that Illinois’ law regulates voters, rather than candidates. But Roberts, a conservative jurist, wrote Bost has an “obvious” stake in the state’s election laws as a candidate for office.

“The counting of unlawful votes – or discarding of lawful ones – erodes public confidence that the election results reflect the people’s will,” Roberts wrote. “And when public confidence in the election results falters, public confidence in the elected representative follows. To the representative, that loss of legitimacy – or its diminution – is a concrete harm.”

Roberts said elections are like a track race where a runner would be harmed by a rule-change extending the race beyond its original length.

But liberal Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, who was joined in her dissent by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, wrote that example oversimplifies elections.

“It is far from obvious that a runner with a track record like Bost’s – who expects to win both races based on sound statistical analyses of

his current and past performance” would be harmed in a way that requires the courts to get involved in his race, Jackson wrote.

Jackson argued the ruling now means candidates are no longer required to demonstrate how a law harms them in order to challenge it.

Jackson wrote the majority “complicates and destabilizes both our standing law and America’s electoral process” by “carving out a bespoke rule” granting candidate-plaintiffs standing “simply and solely because they are ‘candidates.’”

Conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett wrote a concurring opinion in favor of Bost and was joined by Justice Elena Kagan. Barrett wrote she disagreed with Roberts that Bost had standing simply because he is a candidate for office but was sympathetic to Bost’s argument that he suffered financial harm from the law.

Both Jackson’s and Barrett’s opinions argue the majority improperly allowed candidates to challenge laws without suffering real harm.

Implications of the Ruling

Justices on both sides of the ruling also disagree over how the majority’s ruling will impact the judicial system’s involvement in elections.

Roberts wrote he believes the decision will help courts avoid ruling on the merits of election laws in the immediate aftermath of an election because candidates can challenge the laws earlier in the process, rather than waiting to lose an election.

Jackson said it will have the opposite effect because it “opens the floodgates to exactly the type of troubling election-related litigation the court purportedly wants to avoid.”

She said it will allow candidates who lost their election in a landslide to file lawsuits after the election is over. Though the justices debated in October how the court should decide if any metrics should govern candidates’ standing, Roberts’ ruling did not suggest one.

“All he (any candidate) must do is assert that an election rule somehow deprived him of a fair process – even if that rule played no role in the election’s outcome or otherwise caused him harm,” Jackson wrote.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

County clerks: recent postal service changes could disrupt mail-in voting

By Jenna Schweikert and Nikoel Hytrek
Capitol News Illinois
PEORIA – New postal service changes to postmarking and transportation rules could disrupt mail-in voting in the 2026 election, Illinois county clerks warn.

Ahead of the March primary election, county clerks are telling voters not to rely on past processes and to mail their ballots as early as possible, no later than one week before Election Day.

Clerks from around the state discussed how to educate voters at the annual Illinois Association of County Clerks and Records Conference on Thursday in Peoria.

One new rule, which took effect Dec. 24, states that the date a postmark is applied to a piece of mail may not reflect the day it was received by the Postal Service.

Currently, 14 states, including Illinois, will accept mail-in ballots if they are received within a certain period after Election Day if they are postmarked on or before Election Day.

Clerks warned that uncertainty about when ballots will now be postmarked necessitates voters to act earlier. The way postmarks are ap-

plied is not changing, the USPS says. Mail is only postmarked at distribution centers, and that will remain the same.

But in an effort to improve mail delivery efficiency, some localities’ mail may be sent to a different distribution center than in the past, which can increase the amount of time it takes for the USPS to receive and then postmark mail at these centers.

“It’s a question mark of when will it actually get through a distribution center. So I’m advising my voters to make sure that they get their vote-by-mail ballot in the mail no less than a week before Election Day,” John Ackerman, the Tazewell County clerk, said.

In the city of Peoria, for example, the distribution center is in Peoria. Tazewell County’s center, Ackerman said, is in Champaign, although Peoria is geographically closer.

To educate voters about the change, he said, his office will include yellow index cards with the recommendation in the vote-by-mail packets sent to voters.

Voters can also request a manual postmark from their local post office or drop off their ballot at the election official’s office.

But if election officials can’t rely on postmarks to reflect accurate dates, a number of mail-in ballots that were mailed prior to Election Day may not be counted at all clerks said.

Ballots also will no longer be automatically considered priority mail, increasing the amount of time it will take to deliver the mail.

“We’ve utilized that successfully over the years to make sure that all those ballots not only are delivered, but they are received in time. Changing that status dramatically changes how that will impact us as well,” Ackerman said.

These changes will be most felt during the recount process, when candidates are “scrambling,” Ackerman said. The clerks generally agreed this could change the outcome of a race.

Clerks also said they are concerned about changes impacting voter trust in elections, especially because voter guidance is now going to be different depending on the county’s location and distribution center.

“We’ve told all of our voters, get your vote-by-mail ballot in your box by Election Day to be postmarked for Election Day, we will process it now. We’re ripping the

rug out from underneath that,” Ackerman said. “That leads to distrust. When you can’t give a solid date, you can’t give a solid answer, when you can’t reply back to them with facts, when it’s left for interpretation. That erodes the trust that we’ve been trying to rebuild.”

In the past, when this potential change was proposed, the clerks said they were able to speak to federal lawmakers to advocate for its reversal.

In late September 2025, a delegation of clerks traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers and staff about changes to federal funding for election infrastructure and learned lawmakers didn’t know about the potential changes, Ackerman said.

“They were all unaware that this change was going to take effect. They were unaware, in my opinion, of the impacts it would have on vote by mail,” he said.

This time, however, clerks didn’t know the changes were proposed until days before they were implemented.

“It is our goal to get to the public being 100 percent trusting of our system, but that’s something we’ve strived diligently to do to repair that relationship, and I

think this hurts that,” Ackerman said.

To be sure your vote has been counted, voters can call their county clerk’s office, or some counties offer ballot tracking online.

County clerks emphasized that voting by mail is still safe and secure, but it might take more work and planning.

Kathy Michael, the McLean County clerk, said voters can request to have their ballot manually postmarked at the post office when they return it.

“Just mail it early or go into the post office. I don’t want to say it’s that simple. I don’t want to make it simple, but that’s all you have to do,” she said. “Don’t be discouraged and not do it and not vote...Get it postmarked, and you can go off on your vacation and not worry about it.”

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. Jenna Schweikert and Nikoel Hytrek are students in the public affairs reporting master’s degree program at the University of Illinois Springfield.

Send Classified Ads

and Legal Notices to

classifieds@annanews.com

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

Sun, Jan. 18
The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. Jan. 18. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team. The message, “Crucify Your Sins to the Cross,” was brought by Pastor Wright from Matthew 10:39; Mark 8:34–35; Proverbs 14:12; Galatians 5:24; Philippians 3:8; John 10:10; Romans 6:11; Mark 8:36; and Romans 15:13.
At 6 p.m., a missionary service was held with a meal followed by a video presented by Jessica Elkins, local NMI president, featuring Charity Shonamon, who serves as a teacher at Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in Papua New Guinea. Without access to reliable, quality education,

families would not be able to serve the many districts, churches and more than 60,000 patients seen annually in the area.
Shonamon has served the Church of the Nazarene since 2016. She has taught students in the jungles of Papua New Guinea, in Singapore and in the factory district outside Bangkok. She earned a graduate certificate in intercultural studies from Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in 2024. She also holds degrees in elementary education and teaching English as a second language from Olivet Nazarene University. Shonamon is passionate about outdoor activities, living in community and making Christlike disciples through Christian education.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Linda Wright and family in the loss of her brother, Paul Gibson. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at Trinity Pentecostal Church in Jonesboro.
Birthdays this week: Jan. 20 – Emily Wiseman; Jan. 24 – Joyce Johnson, Trevor Treece.
Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026
Breakfast – 9 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service – 10:35 a.m.No Evening Service – 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 28
Wednesday Night Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.
Youth Group meets in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m.
You may contact the church by calling the church office at 618-833-6702 and leaving a message, or by calling Pastor Wright at 618-534-7103.

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

Bro. Bradley and Amber Easton were on a mini-vacation this past weekend. In their absence, Pastor LaRue Parr filled our pulpit.
Parr’s sermon focused on the need for and the power of prayer in the life of a believer. His main scriptures were from the Old Testament prophets Habakkuk and Nehemiah, and the New Testament books of John, Acts and Ephesians.
wPrayer is power in our lives as well as in the life of the church. In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells his disciples, “Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” Jesus did not mean asking for every little whim that crosses our minds, but rather that which we need to be used by and for Him.
When we pray, we should come before God with humility and earnestness. We are not to go to church to be entertained. We go to church to join with fellow believers in praying boldly for revival – in ourselves, in our church, in our community, and in our country.
God hears every prayer; we need to be ready for when He puts someone in our life to be ministered to.
Addi Bonner rang the bell calling all to Worship.
Conner Pind and Raelynn

Bonner took up the tithes and offerings.
Rodney Miller is our lead elder for January, and served as Worship Leader Sunday.
Best wishes to Bro. and Mrs. Easton whose wedding anniversary was Friday.
If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us each Sunday. We have coffee and fellowship at 9:15 a.m., Bible study at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 10:30 a.m. We are located at the intersection of Camp Ground Road and Tunnel Lane east of Anna, north of Route 146.

Television Listings

THURSDAY JANUARY 22, 2026											
	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	ESPN Films	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	“Blazing Saddles”	★★ “Lola Versus” (‘12)	“Southpaw” (‘15) (R)
7 PM :30	9-1-1 “Fighting Back”	Marriage Ghosts	Hell’s Kitchen (HD)	Law & Order (HD)	Wom. College Basketball (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	“Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” (‘18, Adventure) Chris Pratt. (HD)	Phineas	Mel Brooks: 99 Year Old (HD)	(5:2) “Suicide Squad” (‘16, Action) Will Smith.	“Fighting” (‘09) Channing Tatum.
8 PM :30	9-1-1: Nashville	Matlock “Mouse-trap”	Animal	Law & Order: SVU	NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at Minnesota Wild (Live)	Bang (HD)		Wizards			(5:0) “Undisputed” (‘02) Wesley Snipes. (HD)
9 PM :30	Grey’s Anatomy (HD)	Matlock (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	The Hunting Party		Jokers		Vampiirina	(4:8) Industry (HD)	“The Suicide Squad” (‘21) Margot Robbie.	
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local		Bang (HD)	★★★ “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” (‘18)	Miraculous	(5:0) Mel Brooks: The 99 Year Old Man! (HD)		“Undisputed II: Last Man” (‘06)
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(3:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)		Miraculous		“End of Watch” (‘12)	
	Nightline	(3:37) Local		Late Night		“Barbie” (‘23) (HD)		Bluey			

FRIDAY JANUARY 23, 2026											
	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(4:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NHL Hockey Tampa Bay vs Chicago (Live)	Bang (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Big City	(5:15) Mel Brooks: 99	“The Wolfman” (‘10)	“The Painter” (‘24)
7 PM :30	Celebrity Wheel of	Sheriff Country	College Basketball Ohio State vs Michigan	Place Stumble		★★★★ “Avengers: Endgame” (‘19, Action) Robert Downey Jr. (PG-13) (HD)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (Live) (HD)	“Monsters, Inc.” John Goodman.	Mel Brooks: The 99 Year Old Man! (HD)	“The Hitman’s Bodyguard” (‘17)	Coldwater (HD)
8 PM :30	20/20 (HD)	Fire Country (HD)		(01) Dateline NBC (HD)	X Games Aspen 2026 (Live)			Phineas		(5:0) ★★½ “Hitman’s Wife’s Bodyguard” (‘21)	“Spider-Man: Homecoming” Tom Holland.
9 PM :30		Boston Blue	Local Programs					Phineas	Real Time with (HD)		
10 PM :30	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local			Chicago Fire (HD)	Miraculous	Real Time with (HD)		“From Dusk Till Dawn” (‘96) Harvey Keitel.
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(3:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Jokers	Chicago Fire (HD)	Big City	Mel Brooks: 99 (HD)	★★ “Assassin’s Creed” (‘16) (HD)	
	Nightline	(3:37) Local		Late Night		“Captain”		Big City			

SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2026											
	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	NBA Basketball (Live)	Local	Bball (HD)	Local Programs	College Basketball (Live) (HD)	“Avengers” (‘19) (HD)	9-1-1 “Ghost Stories”	“The Rise of Red” Kylie Cantrall.	“John Wick” (‘14) (R)	★★½ “Superman” (‘06)	“Mission: Impossible II” (‘00) Tom Cruise.
7 PM :30	Inside NBA	Coben’s Final Twist	College Basketball Kansas vs Kansas State	The Wall (HD)	College Basketball Tennessee vs Alabama	★★★★ “The Tomorrow War” (‘21, Action) Chris Pratt. (PG-13)	9-1-1 (HD)	Big City	“The Smashing Machine” Dwayne Johnson.	(5:1) “Man of Steel” (‘13, Action) Henry Cavill.	“Mission: Impossible III” (‘06) Tom Cruise.
8 PM :30	NBA Basketball Los Angeles vs Dallas (Live) (HD)	48 Hours (HD)		Dateline NBC (HD)			9-1-1 “Past is” (HD)	Big City			
9 PM :30		48 Hours (HD)	Local Programs	Saturday Night Live	X Games Aspen 2026 (Live)		9-1-1 Christmas Eve.	Phineas	(0:5) Industry (HD)	★★½ “Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom” (‘23)	“Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol” (‘11)
10 PM :30	Inside NBA	Local Programs Local info.	The Floor (HD)	Local		★★★★ “The Tomorrow War” (‘21) Chris Pratt.	9-1-1 (HD)	Miraculous	(0:8) Knight Kingdoms		“Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol” (‘11)
11 PM :30	Local		Local Programs	Saturday Night Live (HD)	Sports		9-1-1 “Boston” (HD)	Miraculous			
	Local Programs							Big City	“Magic Mike’s” (‘23)	“Green Lantern” (‘11)	

SUNDAY JANUARY 25, 2026											
	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	(5:00) NFL Play-offs (Live) (HD)	Dateline NBC Investigative news. (HD)	(5:30) X Games Aspen 2026 (Live)	★★★★ “The Hangover Part III” (‘13)	Law & Order: SVU	“Phineas and Ferb Movie” (‘20)	(5:52) Industry (HD)	“This Means War”	(5:35) “The Martian” (‘15) Matt Damon. (HD)
7 PM :30	Home Videos (HD)	Coben’s Final Twist				Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		(5:2) Industry (HD)	“Life as We Know It” (‘10)	
8 PM :30	Gears	Tracker (HD)		Law & Order (HD)	Sports	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Kiff	Industry (HD)		Coldwater
9 PM :30	Gears	Elsbeth (HD)	Memory of a Killer “Pilot” (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	NFL PrimeTime	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Kiff	Knight	“Bad Santa” Billy Bob Thornton.	(5:0) ★★½ “Southpaw” (‘15, Drama) Jake Gyllenhaal. (HD)
10 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs Local info.	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	(1:2) Industry (HD)	(2:0) “Bad Santa 2” (‘16) Billy Bob Thornton.	
11 PM :30		Local Programs	Local Programs		SportsCenter (HD)	“The Hangover” (‘09)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	(1:5) Knight Kingdoms		Coldwater
								Bluey		“Green Lantern” (‘11)	“Aviator”

MONDAY JANUARY 26, 2026											
	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball Louisville vs Duke (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	Knight	★★★★ “The Nun II” (‘23)	(5:35) “Flight” (‘12) Denzel Washington. (HD)
7 PM :30	American Idol Search for singer. (HD)	Neighbor.	Extracted (HD)	Medical		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	Knight		
8 PM :30		DMV		Stumble		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	Industry (HD)	(5:5) “Split” (‘17, Thriller) James McAvoy. (HD)	
9 PM :30	Gears	FBI “Boy Scout” (HD)	Memory of a Killer	The Wall (HD)	College Basketball Arizona vs BYU (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	(0:05) “Twilight” (‘08, Fantasy) Kristen Stewart.		Coldwater (HD)
10 PM :30	To Be Announced	NCIS: Origins (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Brilliant Minds (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Vampiirina	Knight	(5:3) ★★ “Glass” (‘19, Thriller) James McAvoy.	“Barron’s Cove” (‘25) Garrett Hedlund. (HD)
11 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Electric	(1:2) Industry (HD)		
	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(3:35) Tonight (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Kiff	(4:7) Industry (HD)	“Shazam! Fury of the Gods” Zachary Levi.	“Django Unchained” (‘12, Western) Jamie Foxx. (R) (HD)
	Nightline	(3:37) Local		Late Night	SportsCenter (HD)	Jokers	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous		“The Bank Job” (‘08)	“Gone Baby Gone”
						Jokers		Bluey	“Final”		

TUESDAY JANUARY 27, 2026											
	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball “Teams TBA” (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(5:50) “A Man Called Otto” (‘23) Tom Hanks.	★★★★ “Green Lantern” (‘11)	(1:15) “Shaft” (‘00, Action) Samuel L. Jackson.
7 PM :30	Will Trent (HD)	Coben’s Final Twist	Best Medicine (HD)	NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Philadelphia 76ers (Live)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City		(5:6) ★★ “Shazam!” (‘19, Action) Zachary Levi.	
8 PM :30	High Potential “NPC”	FBI “Boy Scout” (HD)	Memory of a Killer	The Wall (HD)	College Basketball Kentucky vs Vanderbilt	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	(0:05) “Twilight” (‘08, Fantasy) Kristen Stewart.		“Django Unchained” (‘12, Western) Jamie Foxx. (R) (HD)
9 PM :30	To Be Announced	NCIS: Origins (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Brilliant Minds (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards		“Shazam! Fury of the Gods” Zachary Levi.	
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Vampiirina	(2:0) Industry (HD)		
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(3:35) Tonight (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Electric	(4:7) Industry (HD)		(4:5) “Twisted” (‘04) Ashley Judd.
	Nightline	(3:37) Local		Late Night	SportsCenter (HD)	Postgame	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	(5:9) 33 Photos from	★★★★ “Suicide Squad”	
						Family		Bluey			

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28, 2026											
	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	(1:12) NBA Basketball Los Angeles vs Cleveland (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	9-1-1 “Malfunction”	Big City	“Eddington” (‘25) (R)	“Sucker Punch” (‘11)	(5:00) “Lost Ark” (‘81)
7 PM :30	Gears	Hollywood Squares	The Masked Singer	Chicago Med (HD)		Bang (HD)	League One Volleyball “Houston vs. Atlanta”	Big City	(5:2) Industry (HD)	“The Hitman’s Bodyguard” Ryan Reynolds.	“Temple of Doom” (‘84) Harrison Ford. (HD)
8 PM :30	(0:2) Daytime Talk	The Price Is Right at (HD)	(0:2) Fear Factor. (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Houston Rockets from Toyota Center (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas		“Hitman’s Wife’s Bodyguard”	“Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade” (‘89)
9 PM :30	(0:2) Shark Tank (HD)	Coben’s Final Twist	Local Programs Local info.	Chicago P.D. (HD)		Jokers	9-1-1 “Fallout” (HD)	Wizards	Knight		
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Jokers	9-1-1 “Christmas” (HD)	Vampiirina		“The Fate of the Furious” (‘17)	
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(3:35) Tonight (HD)		Family		Electric		★★ “Elevation” Morena Baccarin.	“Crystal Skull” (‘08)
	Nightline	(3:37) Local		Late Night		Family	9-1-1 “Seize the Day”	Kiff			

included the Men’s Bible Study at 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19, at the church; Ladies’ Bible Study at the home of Sheila Aldridge, Monday, Jan. 19, at 6 p.m.; and the Newsletter Folding Team will meet on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 9 a.m.
Recent birthdays: Alex Palmer, January 22; Darrin Richardson, January 23; Jerri Tehandøn, January 24; and Jerri Miller, January 25. Happy birthday to all!
Happy anniversary to Marion and Joyce Hill, married 54 years on January 22. Congratulations!
Currently, our regular schedule for worship at Jonesboro First Baptist includes Sunday School classes on Sundays at 9 a.m.; Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m.; both Youth for sixth to 12th grades and Sunday evening worship at 6 p.m. Our Children’s Dig-In Program meets on Wednesdays, from 6-8 p.m. Youth seventh to 12th grades meet 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays. Our Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study also meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.
This week’s activities

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship on January 11, 2026 with Pastor Perry doing the opening prayer.
Menda Cash did our Call to Worship which was on Salvation.
“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”
“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” This was taken from the Book of Romans.
Our Worship Team led us in, In Christ Alone, Time to Worship and We Lift Your Name on High.
Pastor Lupe’s sermon was titled “Meaning” – Highlights included, Meaning, according to the Bible, is found in knowing and glorifying God rather than inventing purpose for ourselves.
Scripture teaches that humans are created in God’s image, giving life inherent worth and direction beyond survival or success.
Our meaning flows from loving God and loving others, which Jesus identifies as the greatest commandments.
The Bible presents work, relationships, and obedience as ways we participate in God’s redemptive purposes..
Ultimately, true meaning is fulfilled in Christ, who gives eternal significance to both our present lives and our future hope.
Next Sunday morning our church will have “Riven” a gospel music group here in concert. We are extending an invitation to anyone who would like to attend, to come join us. Our Worship Service begins at 10:15 am. Concert is free, we will take a love offering.
Our Sunday School begins at 9 am and is for all ages. Our Children’s Church and Adult Worship Service begins at 10:15 am. Our bus runs for both Sunday School and/ or Worship Service. Please call during the week to get your name put on a list to ride the bus.
Our church is located at 409 Morgan Street in Anna, Illinois. Our office is open 9 am to 3 om Monday through Thursday and our phone number is 618-833-5416
Our facebook is Anna-FirstBaptistChurch Our email is fbcanna409@gmail.com
Give us a call, we would love to talk with you about our other programs. We would love to tell you about Jesus and how to make Him Lord and Savior of your life. Please feel free to attend our services. We would love to have you visit.



Opinion and Commentary

Program addresses needs of older adults, caregivers

The Illinois Department on Aging, IDoA, has released EngAging Illinois: A Comprehensive Plan for Living Well. The department announced in a news release that EngAging Illinois is a landmark multi-sector plan addressing the needs of older adults and caregivers.

The plan establishes a decade-long blueprint to ensure the growing population of older Illinoisans can live dignified, engaged, productive and meaningful lives at every stage of life. “EngAging Illinois embodies the engagement and thoughtful people from across Illinois, representing the best of our state,” Gov. JB Pritzker said. This bold plan reflects the priorities of the people we serve and the role that state government should play in creating an age-friendly Illinois. We all want to be part of a thriving, multigenerational society, and EngAging Illinois is a smart, strong step in that direction.”

The plan was developed through an extensive collaborative process established by the governor’s Executive Order 2024-02 which involves 15 state agencies, a 25-member community advisory council, experts in aging and caregiving and nine public engagement sessions throughout Illinois that gathered input from hundreds of residents.

“EngAging Illinois represents a bold first step and a blueprint for action,” IDoA director Mary Killough said. "This plan is about all of us, working together to create a state full of age-friendly cities, towns, and communities.”

Priorities of the Plan

With Illinois' population over 65 projected to grow 40 percent by 2035, reaching nearly 2.9 million people, or 22 percent of all Illinoisans, the plan arrives at a critical moment, state officials said. The plan outlines strategies across four focus areas: Creating livable and connected communities, ensuring health for all ages, investing in caregivers and affording aging.

EngAging Illinois addresses critical disparities in Illinois' aging population, noting that life expectancy can vary by more than 20 years in communities just a few miles apart. Poverty rates among older adults have increased 82 percent over the past 15 years, and one in five Black older adults live at or below poverty level compared to one in 13 white older adults.

Key initiatives in the plan include:

Creating EngAge Central, a comprehensive online resource hub for aging services and support, including information for caregivers.

Pursuing statewide age-friendly designation with implementation support for local communities.

Expanding affordable and accessible housing for older adults.

Integrating geriatrics training into healthcare education programs.

Launching a statewide caregiver awareness campaign.

Modernizing home and community-based services.

“The future of aging in Illinois starts with acting on the plan’s priorities now – and it starts with each of us,” IDoA chief planning officer Michelle Hoersch said. "Every sector, every community, every individual has a stake in this transformation. Together, we will make Illinois the gold standard for aging well.”

Implementation will be overseen by a new EngAging Illinois Commission with representation from state agencies and external partners. Action groups for each focus area will drive progress on the plan, with annual reports tracking outcomes. The plan is scheduled to be updated every three years.

“EngAging Illinois will create the inclusive communities we will all benefit from, communities free from ageism and with access to a broad range of public and private programs, resources and support," said Mary O'Donnell, president and CEO of RRF Foundation for Aging. "As a supporter of the effort to create this multi-sector plan, we are excited to join people throughout the state in this work to improve the quality of life of every older person in Illinois.”

The Cat's Meow

by Cobden Spay and Neuter Coalition

The work continues. Though chilly, the weather generally has been cooperative for our trapping days. We continue to forward. We are pleased to have distributed tote cat houses and straw for bedding to several feral colony caretakers for winter shelter.

Oh, my, our third Annual Chili Cook-off is this Saturday! Fuzzy’s in Cobden is hosting the event from 4-7 pm. We will have a silent auction during the cook-off, hosted by the Green Mug, right next door to Fuzzy’s. Included in the silent auction are wonderful pet items, a gorgeous ring, a Wilson Leather Co. large green tote, and we will also have a number of great gift baskets for the silent auction.

There will also be a raffle of a great cat tree See you there! All funds raised go toward the work of easing the cat overpopulation in Union Co.

SOMETHING NEW! We have a small space for resale items at Cobden Village Shops! It’s currently stocked with pet (mostly dog) supplies, including harnesses, treats, clothing, and lots more. We also have a small bin for folks to drop off small donations.100% of proceeds benefit CSNC. Thanks to Bonnie for this wonderful opportunity.

Please visit our website, cobdenspayneutercoalition.org, or our facebook page to see what we’re up to. You may drop off, call in, or send donations to our account at Meller-James & Associates, or mail them to CSNC, P.O. Box 542, Cobden, IL 62920. CSNC is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible.

Spay/Neuter/Adopt companion animals. Meanwhile, if you see a companion animal in need, in trouble, or suffering, please, please call someone before it’s too late for them. Call your local animal control office, the police, or the Sheriff’s Dept. It IS your business if an innocent being who cannot speak for himself needs your help!

Please read this...

Birds, Rams, Bears and pork tenderloin for Bob...

By Geof Skinner

So...your writer went for a daily walk last Sunday afternoon which involved a journey to metropolitan Alto Pass for a stroll along the Quetil Trail. I can say with confidence that it was really cold outside. At least the sun was shining. And, thanks to our local weather observer, I can take comfort in knowing that the heat index at the time of the walk was a balmy 27.9 degrees. Should have just left my coat in the car...

Meanwhile...

A squirrel, a cardinal and a bluejay met at a tree...

...and from this point on, you are free to come up with a joke...

Just for the record...the blue jay was in the tree first. I spotted the blue/black/white feathered Critter in the tree while looking out a window Monday morning. The squirrel ran across a neighbor’s yard and zipped up the tree before coming to a stop on a branch not all that high off the ground. The blue jay was perched a few branches above the squirrel. A bright red male cardinal joined the gathering a moment or two later at another nearby branch.

The blue jay appeared to be looking over the squirrel...perhaps trying to determine the bushy tail’s intentions. Since I am not fluent in reading the lips of squirrels, cardinals or blue jays, I cannot tell you what they might have been chatting about on a cold and windy January morning. I would guess that they were discussing the cold weather, the Polar Vortex and the possibility that a winter storm could be heading in our direction by the end of the week.

If squirrels, cardinals or blue jays have access to the internet, they might have read the same story I did Monday morning about another looming possibility: that we might get to experience an historic Polar Vortex as January comes to an end. The Critters might also have seen a weather forecast that includes a bit of snow by the weekend. The Other Half actually saw a forecast calling for something like 7 inches of snow, or maybe 5 inches, or maybe 4 inches. Guess we shall see what comes...if anything...

We’re only a month or so into the season of winter. I, for one, will be glad when March 20, the first day of spring, gets here. Then again, there’s no point in rushing things. Not a lot we can do about it...

By the way...

Did you know that the feathers on a blue jay are not really blue? Neither did I. With that being said, “Search Assist” on my good ol’ newfangled laptop informed me that “Blue jay feathers appear blue due to a phenomenon called structural coloration, which is caused by the way light interacts with the microscopic structure of the feathers. In reality, the pigment in blue jay feathers is brown melanin, and when backlit, the feathers can appear brown instead of blue.”

Well, now...I don’t even know what to do with that. Blue jays are not blue. They are brown. Sigh... Toronto Brown Jays just doesn’t sound right.

Meanwhile...

I happened to catch the end of the Rams and Bears NFL playoff game Sunday night. The Rams kicked a field goal to win the game...much to the disappointment, I am sure, of Bears fans everywhere. The win by the Rams was bittersweet for yours truly. Too many good memories of wins by the Rams when they called St. Louis home. Looks like Kansas City Chiefs fans might get to have some of the same bittersweet memories down the road...if their team actually decides to join Dorothy and Toto in Kansas...

Meanwhile...

This is for all of you pet owners out there and your best friends, especially if your best friends happen to be a cat



This Critter might have been adding some insulation to his/her home place ahead of our most recent round of arctic cold weather. More cold may be on the way...

or a dog.

Sunday evening, we cooked a pork tenderloin for dinner. For Bob, our cat, that made Sunday a great day. Bob, you see, likes pork. Knowing his appreciation of such treats, I cooked a small piece of pork just for him. I do the same thing when we have a pork roast...some chicken...and turkey on Thanksgiving. For some reason, he does not seem like beef all that much. Go figure.

After his people finished their Sunday evening dinner, Bob made sure that we knew it was his turn. As we were putting the leftovers in a container, Bob sat down right there with us in the kitchen. The Other Half cut up a cat-sized serving of pork tenderloin and put it on a plate for Bob. He gobbled it up. And then made sure that we knew he would like some more. Goodness, it’s tough being a cat in Bob’s house.

For those of you who might not have a pet, the idea of cooking pork tenderloin for a cat might seem just plain silly. For those of you who have a pet...you probably get it.

I can’t be sure, but I don’t know if a pet cockatiel or pet goldfish would get all that excited by a bite or two of pork tenderloin. If you happen to have a pet snake...or maybe a pet alligator...or maybe a pet shark or orca, they might be glad to have such a treat... And I’m thinking a vulture would really appreciate a piece of pork tenderloin instead a nasty ol’ road-killed armadillo it might find along the road on a summer afternoon when the temperature is 95 degrees...

That’s all for this week, folks. Stay warm. And remember, Major League Baseball spring training starts in just a few more weeks...

Speaking of baseball...looks like the Los Angeles Dodgers have brought themselves another championship. Just sayin’...

Illinois State Board of Education OKs \$10.9 billion budget request

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois State Board of Education voted Wednesday, Jan. 14, to approve a budget request for the upcoming fiscal year that calls for only a minimal increase in K-12 education spending, a reflection of the state’s tightening fiscal condition.

Overall, the \$10.9 billion request would be a slight decrease from the current budget of just over \$11 billion. But that is only because funding for early childhood education, which totals nearly \$750 million this year, is being shifted in the upcoming year to the newly created Department of Early Childhood, an initiative Gov. JB Pritzker pushed in 2024.

Otherwise, the request seeks a \$350 million increase in the Evidence-Based Funding formula. That’s the minimum amount called for under the 2017 law that aims eventually to bring all districts’ funding up to at least 90 percent of their adequacy target.

That includes \$300 million in direct educational expenses, plus \$50 million for property tax relief grants for certain high-tax

districts.

10 Years of EBF

The upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, will mark the 10th year of the EBF program. When it began in fiscal year 2018, according to the state board, 168 of the state’s 852 school districts were being funded at less than 60 percent of their adequacy target.

Today, none are below the 60 percent level, but 48 districts are funded at less than 70 percent of adequacy, and 532 districts are below the 90 percent target.

The proposed increase for the upcoming fiscal year would bring the total amount of EBF funding to just under \$9.3 billion in FY 2027. According to ISBE data, however, it would take yet another \$3 billion to bring all districts up to at least 90 percent of their adequacy target.

Mandated Categorical Funding

The state board’s budget request also seeks an increase of \$151 million, or 13 percent, in what are called “mandated categorical,” or MCAT reimbursements to school districts. Those are mainly non-classroom expenses that school districts have to cover, including

certain transportation and special education expenses, that are not included in the Evidence-Based Funding formula.

Over the last several years, budget constraints have resulted in the state funding only a prorated share of those costs.

In the current fiscal year, for example, state funding covers only 60 percent of the cost of transporting students to special education programs, which is down from 71 percent in FY 2024. The state also covers only 75 percent of the cost of transporting students to regular vocational education programs, down from 85 percent in FY 2024.

The proposed increase in MCAT costs would hold the proration percentages level in FY 2027.

Public Hearings

Before drafting the budget request, fiscal staff at the state board conducted a series of public hearings to receive input from school officials and other interested groups. The agency also considered economic analyses and revenue projections from both the governor’s office and the General Assembly.

The Governor’s Office of

Management and Budget reported in October that it expects state revenues to fall below previous estimates over the next several months, resulting in a \$267 million deficit in the current fiscal year and a \$2.2 billion deficit next year, unless action is taken to increase revenues or reduce expenses.

The agency said that’s largely due to changes in federal tax law that Congress approved last summer as part of the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act that will result in lower corporate income tax revenue.

Meanwhile, the General Assembly’s Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability reported in December that it still had confidence the state would meet its revenue targets for the current fiscal year. But it cautioned about uncertainty in the months ahead created by changes in federal tax law.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.