

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Anna, Illinois

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News

Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area, from social media and beyond...

A posting on social media announced that a Union County Alliance of Churches Thanksgiving service is planned at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, at historic Kornthal Church south of Jonesboro.

Good luck to all of the deer hunters. Stay safe out there.

Scouting for Food bag collection day is planned Saturday, Nov. 23.

The Cobden High School class of 2028 plans to sell Thanksgiving produce boxes on Saturday, Nov. 23. The boxes will be on sale from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the school.

From the minutes of the Cobden Village Board of Trustees regular meeting on Nov. 4: "The Cobden branch of US Bank will close in January." The board authorized the village clerk "to open the necessary accounts at Farmers State Bank in Alto Pass."

Shawnee School District 84 is welcoming support for a Giving Tree program. The program's goal is to help make Christmas a little brighter for families in the school district who are in need.

The Illinois State Board of Education has released the annual school report card for Anna-Jonesboro Community High School. A-JCHS once again has earned a commendable designation.

A Veterans Disc Golf Tournament is planned Saturday, Nov. 23, in Cobden. The tournament is scheduled to get started at 9 a.m. at the disc golf course at the Cobden Community Park. The event will raise funds for the Cobden American Legion.

A Nov. 14 U.S. Drought Monitor update showed that Union County was experiencing no drought conditions.

The Cobden Civic Industrial Foundation has donated \$1,000 to the Village of Cobden's park fund, \$500 to the Shop-with-a-Hero program and \$500 to the Veterans Memorial Fund.

The PAST organization of Union County and the local band Back Porch Company are planning to present Carols at Candlelight Sunday, Dec. 1, at historic St. Anne's Church in Anna. Two free concerts are planned...one at 1:30 p.m. and one at 4 p.m.

Several new events and venues have been added to the Dec. 7 Christmas in the Village celebration in Cobden, including "The Legend of the Candy Cane Walk" and a 5 p.m. parade with several local school bands.

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Union County CEO program grateful for mentors

Each year, each team member in the Union County CEO program is paired with a local business or community person to meet with the student, offer information and guidance through the class and personal business and to share their journey through each student's weekly journal of reflection.

Each year the mentor group changes to meet students' needs and interests.

This year's group is also trying something new, Monthly Mentor Mashups, where as many mentors as are available meet with the class on a specific day to bounce off ideas and to look at their current focus from a new perspective.

Currently, their focus is on the Skate and Celebrate event planned as part of Christmas in Downtown Anna on Small Business Saturday, which is Nov. 30.

CEO student Avery Stegle shared in her journal: "Thursday, November 7, the class hosted a Monthly Mentor Mash, at Pizza Villa. At this meeting, I joined in with Brooklyn and Kenzie's mentors. Melise Oakley and Kendell Boysen had such wonderful advice to give us.

"One of the biggest take-aways I got from this meeting, was that goals will help you so much throughout the year. "Kendell mentioned that it helped her to set goals for herself at the beginning of the year and at the end see what all she accomplished.

"That was such a big motivation to me because I personally feel that if I were to set goals and check them at the end of the year, I would have more motivation and excitement to start the next year.

"Our mentors are such great people with such good advice, we are all so very thankful for our mentors."

Brooklyn Eastman also shared the following in her journal for the same day:

"I really enjoyed this meet-



CEO mentors: 'Great people'

Those involved with Union County CEO program say they are grateful and honored to have an active mentoring program. This year's CEO students and mentors gathered for a photo. This year's mentors include:

Celisha Merriman, Eyedeal Eyecare; Sharon Robison Laster, First Class Cookies; Melise Smith Oakley, Hospice of Southern Illinois; Kendell Boysen, Porter Avenue Capital Management LLC. Tommy Colboth, Edward Jones; Kati Denny, Anna-Jonesboro National Bank; Stephanie Cox, Anna-Jonesboro National Bank; Casey Johnson, Anna-Jonesboro Water Commission; Dr. Tim Taylor, Shawnee Community College. Dori Bigler, City of Anna; Tanya Loveless, Doc's Lakeside Cabin; Travis Holtkamp, COUNTRY Financial. Photo provided.

ing because I got to dive into some good ice breaker questions with my mentor. I think I got to know my mentor a little more and what we can expect from each other.

"One question that really stuck out to me was 'What do you hope to bring to your committee?' I had never really thought that hard about this before and just knew that I will do whatever is needed.

"With this question, I thought about it more and was able to think of my personal characteristics that I hope to bring to the marketing team. I decided that I wanted to bring creativity and dependability. Going forward I am going to

work very hard at fulfilling these roles and grow closer to my mentor Melise!"

The mentoring part of CEO is a requirement of Midland Institute of Entrepreneurship, the home of the national CEO program. The institute shared the following thoughts about the mentor program:

"What happens when you connect motivated young people with experienced professionals in their community?"

You strengthen your community and invest in the leaders of tomorrow.

As CEO participants plan and execute their class business they meet regularly with program mentors who share

their knowledge and experience.

The mentoring relationship is led by students, who are encouraged to:

Ask questions and take control of their learning.

Seek constructive feedback and advice.

Stay in touch with their mentor to plan meetings and share business updates.

Build confidence as they develop new skills.

Gain new perspectives to approach challenges and opportunities.

The Union County CEO program shared that the mentors "are just another way that students develop relationships

with the community leaders around them. It's also a great way for students to get one-on-one guidance as they create their own business, plan for the trade show, improve their business pitch and more.

"We are fortunate to have many community and business leaders willing to commit to mentoring our students each year! Thank you to the 2024-25 mentors for their time, experience and wisdom!"

More information about the Union County CEO program is available by contacting facilitator@unioncountyceo.org or Angela Boyd, CEO board chair, at aboyd@firstmid.com.

State facing potential \$3.2 billion budget shortfall

By Jerry Nowicki
Capitol News Illinois

The first extensive public look at next year's state finances contains a warning to lawmakers from the governor's office: "The ability to fund new programs will be severely limited" next fiscal year.

That comes from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, GOMB, which projected a potential budget shortfall of \$3.2 billion for fiscal year 2026, which doesn't

begin until July 1.

The Illinois Economic and Fiscal Policy Report published each November is often seen as a table-setter for the budgeting negotiations that will ramp up in earnest when lawmakers return to the Capitol for the legislative year that begins each January.

GOMB projects that revenues will remain flat at roughly \$53.4 billion for the upcoming year, while spending will grow by \$3.2 billion.

While the overall num-

bers can change quickly in the eight months between now and the start of fiscal year 2026, the report could forebode an even more challenging budget process than the one that wrapped up in May. Lawmakers entered last year's session staring down a roughly \$891 million deficit, according to last year's GOMB report.

After lengthy and sometimes fraught deliberations, Democrats in power narrowly approved a budget that filled

the gap by extending a cap on corporate net operating losses (\$526 million), capping a tax discount claimed by retailers (\$101 million), increasing the state's tax on sports betting (\$200 million) and other smaller accounting measures or tax changes.

As for the impending \$3.2 billion deficit, the report noted only it "will be addressed in the Governor's Fiscal Year 2026 Introduced Budget."

But, the report noted, spending reductions "can-

not be implemented broadly across-the-board," especially for the 40 percent of spending that is mandated either by court order, law or other obligations, such as debt service, pension payments and Medicaid. Another 24 percent of state spending goes to areas such as education and higher education.

The expected deficit is attributable in part to both rising expenditures and revenue

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Tree planted in Anna to honor veterans

The City of Anna's Tree City USA committee partnered with the Anna-Jo Garden Club to plant a tree in honor of veterans during the weekend before Veterans Day. Veterans Day was Monday, Nov. 11. The ceremony was held in the Anna Business Park at the proposed site of a city veterans memorial. The tree which was planted was a Bracken's Brown Beauty, which is a variety of southern magnolia. The tree was added to a collection of eight other trees that have been planted for various dedications and memorials over the past five years at the site. A 10-ton load of rip rap was also donated by Anna Quarries to improve drainage and add aesthetic appeal to the site. The City of Anna and the garden club have had a very successful relationship that has led to the providing of trees to area schools on Arbor Day, to honor veterans and to maintain the showcase Anna-Jo Garden Club (Hindman) Park in Anna. Photos provided.



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Surprise dinner party
 Gary Dahmer, the City of Anna's public works manager, was honored by Anna city employees with a surprise dinner party on his last day of work. "Gary is appreciated for all his dedication to our city and community and will be missed," Anna Council member Martha Ann Webb said. Photo provided.

News Notes

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 Holiday season decorations/banners are on display in Union County communities.

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School is joining in the celebration of American Education Week, which is Nov. 18-22. Activities on the calendar at the Union County school include Retired Teacher Day, Dress Like School Staff Day, Career Day, Tip Your Hat to A-JCHS Staff Day and Wildcat Pride Day.

Future Wildcats basketball games are planned Saturday, Nov. 23, at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School. The schedule for girls' games includes Lick Creek vs. Anna at 2 p.m. and Anna vs. Jonesboro at 3:15 p.m. The boys' schedule includes Lick Creek vs. Anna at 4:30 p.m. and Anna vs. Jonesboro at 5:45 p.m.

Avery Stegle has been chosen to represent the Shawnee School District as the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen award. The award is given to students who show leadership and citizenship in the community.

Last Saturday's Fall Festival at Lick Creek School was reported to have been a big success. Appreciation was voiced to the school's dance team for bringing back a talent show and to student athletes, Beta Club members, volunteers, auctioneer Alex Belcher and the PTO for contributing the festival's success.

Rehearsals continue for upcoming December performances of the musical "Into the Woods" at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council in Anna.

Cobden High School is planning to present "Jane Austen's Pride & Prejudice by Andrew Davies" as this school year's play. Auditions open to high school students are planned Thursday, Dec. 5, after school.

Anna School District 37's Scholar Bowl teams won four matches during a recent competition with Meridian and Century. Pizza Villa, Davis Pastry and parents provided food and refreshments for the event.

A special sleepover event

Anna VFW calendar of events

Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna has announced its schedule of events. The post is located at 70 VFW Ln. near Anna. The schedule includes:

Taco Tuesday is planned each Tuesday in November. Serving will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dress them however you like. Carry outs are available.

A weekly corn hole tournament is planned each Thursday in November. Play begins at 6:30 p.m.

Mystify Music is scheduled to be at the post from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Nov. 23.

The canteen is scheduled to be open from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 1 p.m. to 12 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

for stuffed animals is planned Dec. 6-7 at Stinson Memorial Library in Anna.

The annual Pope County Deer Festival is planned Saturday, Nov. 23. Festivities are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a parade at 2 p.m.

The Ag Club at Shawnee Community College near Ullin was planning to host a "Christmas Mini Photoshoot" event Tuesday, Nov. 19. The event offered an opportunity to take pictures with a Christmas theme.

Shawnee Community College is sharing the recent performance of the 2024 fall musical, "Tarzan," was a great success.

Students from Davie School in Anna traveled to Shawnee Community College to see "Tarzan."

Due to the Nov. 28 observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, we are asking that items for next week's paper be submitted by Friday, Nov. 22.

State budget

(continued from page 1)
 stagnation as some one-time sources disappear.

The projected spending for Fiscal Year 2026 includes an additional \$350 million to K-12 education, while pension costs are expected to increase by \$440 million among other "moderate growth" in state spending across the board.

Health care costs are expected to grow by \$1.1 billion, due in part to "the impact of medical inflation and drop off of one-time FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) reimbursement revenues" for Medicaid and state health care plans. FEMA had still been reimbursing some pandemic-era costs borne by state government, according to the governor's office, but that's expected to drop off in the upcoming fiscal year.

Revenues are expected to stagnate in part because of a "true-up" process at the Illinois Department of Revenue that has temporarily inflated state coffers over the past two years, stemming from a complicated miscalculation by the department.

In short, IDOR overdistributed the amount of money collected in Corporate Property Replacement Taxes, which primarily go to local governments, in tax year 2021 by about \$800 million. Corporate income taxes were overestimated by \$200 million, while individual income taxes from pass-through entities were underestimated by \$1.1 billion. The miscalculation, according to IDOR, "was caused by tax policy changes," at the federal and state level affecting businesses.

The department began a "true-up" process in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 that is aimed at fixing the "overpayments" to local governments while boosting state general revenues in the process.

It's had the effect of driving general revenues up by about \$1 billion in each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

But the same won't happen in Fiscal Year 2026, the legislature's Commission on



Dahmer honored
 Gary Dahmer, the City of Anna's public works manager, was honored with a noon dinner party on his last day of work. His cake had a message which read "Boss you are leaving this office but your Legacy will remain forever! Farewell!" "Special thanks Gary for all you have done for our city and community," Anna City Council member Martha Ann Webb said. Photo provided.

Government Forecasting and Accountability noted in its September report, because IDOR adjusted its disbursement percentages in 2023.

As a result, COGFA noted, general fund receipts could be "notably weaker" in the upcoming fiscal year, and GOMB's report indicates the same.

Revenues are also expected to slow as the Federal Reserve decreases interest rates, lowering the state's investment income.

The state is also entering the final step of a five-year process of shifting the sales tax collected on motor fuel from the General Revenue Fund to the Road Fund. That shift was included in Pritzker's first budget in 2019 as part of the Rebuild Illinois infrastructure plan.

Still, the report projects about \$1 billion combined growth in corporate and personal income tax, while sales taxes are projected to fall by \$330 million, marking a mixed bag for the state's "big three" revenue sources.

A History of Surpluses
 What comes of the projected deficit and how it is defrayed will be up to the governor and the new General Assembly that is seated in January.

Thus far in his tenure, Pritzker's administration has shown that it can work with lawmakers to balance the books. Every year since the COVID-19 pandemic upended state finances in 2020, the state has seen significant surpluses. Those occurred for several reasons, including better-than-expected revenues as consumers spent more on goods, and government stimulus checks that boosted the economy.

Some years have been buoyed by one-time factors, such as the "true-up" process of the past two years and the state's retroactive collection of Medicaid dollars in fiscal year 2024.

But the surpluses are also partially attributable to the Pritzker administration's con-

servative estimates early in the budgeting process. In past years, that allowed lawmakers to kick extra revenues to the state's "rainy day" fund that now has a record balance of \$2.2 billion while paying down about \$11 billion worth of outstanding debts.

Late payment interest expenditures have dropped from about \$980 million at the height of the state's two-year budget impasse between Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the General Assembly in fiscal year 2018, to \$137 million in Pritzker's first year in office and \$13 million last fiscal year.

The forecast from GOMB anticipates a surplus for the current year as well, prior to next year's deficit. Personal income tax and interest income have been higher than expected, while corporate income taxes are coming in lower than originally projected, mirroring national trends.

All told, the state is now looking at a \$262 million current-year surplus, according to the report, but \$246 million of that would be reserved in the Budget Stabilization, or "rainy day" fund.

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.

SIU receives national recognition

Southern Illinois University Carbondale's tradition of providing a first-rate education to military service members and student veterans wherever they might be is continuing to earn national recognition.

In Military Times magazine's 2024 "Best for Vets: Colleges" list, SIU Carbondale ranked third among colleges and universities in the Midwest, first in Illinois and 57th among 304 schools in the nation.

Landmark legislation to improve veterans care passes

Passage of H.R. 8371, the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, in the U.S. House of Representatives has been applauded by U.S. Rep. Mike Bost, R-Ill. Bost is chairman

of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Bost said the legislation makes historic investments in enhancing veterans' health-care and benefits, improves caregiver support and reduces barriers for veterans to access care.

"From mental health services to caregiver support, this legislation tackles some of the most pressing issues facing veterans today," Bost said in a news release on Monday, Nov. 18.

"It expands job opportunities, strengthens community care programs, and gets veterans out of homelessness.

"Most importantly, it focuses on putting veterans at the center of the VA system. I'm proud to work alongside my colleagues in the House to advance this critical bill and I urge the Senate to pass it swiftly. Our veterans and their families deserve nothing less."

The Senator Elizabeth Dole Act has been endorsed by more than 50 leading veterans service organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

The legislation also includes key provisions for survivors and improves mental health services for veterans and their caregivers.

This bipartisan effort marks a significant step forward in ensuring the VA meets the needs of today's veterans in Southern Illinois and across the United States, Bost said.

Ranger station office hours extended for deer season

The shotgun deer hunting season is scheduled to begin this week in Illinois.

The Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois receives some of its highest numbers of visitors during the shotgun deer hunting season in Illinois.

The U.S. Forest Service has announced that in order to better serve the higher volume of visitors, office hours are being expanded at the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger Station in Jonesboro. The ranger station is located at 521 N. Main St.

The first firearm season in Illinois is set for Nov. 22-24. The second season is Dec. 5-8.

The ranger station is scheduled to be open to the public five days a week, Monday through Friday, Nov. 15-22 and Dec. 2-6, with regular business hours planned from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The station is scheduled to be closed daily from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Jonesboro Library calendar

Jonesboro Public Library has scheduled special events during November.

The library is located at 412 S. Main St. in Jonesboro. Regular hours are scheduled from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

The November schedule of events includes:

Every Tuesday: all ages, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Play and Learn. Educational activities combined with creative play.

Every Wednesday: 3:30 p.m. Teen Club for those 13 years of age to 18 years of age. Painting rocks and playing Crime Files games.

Every Thursday: Homework Hangout. 3:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Assistance provided. Snacks served.

Every Friday: Adult craft. 3:30 p.m. Ages 18 and older. The library hosts and "Altered Books" workshop.

Saturday, Nov. 23: Story time. 2 p.m. All ages welcome. The story "The First Thanksgiving" will be paired with a craft and snack time.

Saturday, Nov. 30: Adult book club. 3:30 p.m. Ages 18 and older. The club is reading "Legends and Lattes" by Travis Baldree.

State Lottery sets record

As it celebrates its 50th anniversary, the Illinois Lottery announced Oct. 31 that it is also celebrating another record-breaking year of sales and returns to the State of Illinois.

The Illinois Lottery is reporting sales of \$3.86 billion and lottery proceeds of \$883.6 million, which are both higher than the previous year.

Fiscal year 2024 was notable for having five multi-state jackpots over \$1 billion for the first time in lottery history.

These five large jackpots figured prominently in the Lottery's performance for 2024, marking the third consecutive year of record sales and returns to support the Common School Fund and other good causes.

From May to October of this year, the Illinois Lottery was celebrating its 50th year by introducing a family of Instant tickets named Celebration with second-chance drawings.

Anna VFW post announces winners from this year's Veterans Day parade

The annual Veterans of Foreign Wars parade was held Monday, Nov. 11, in Anna.

The parade was sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster No. 3455 of Anna.

The post has announced award winners from this year's parade. Winners follow by category:

Banner/flag/pom pom team: Anna Junior High Marching Indians banner/flag team, first place. Marching Redskins banner/flags from Shawnee Junior-Senior High School in Wolf Lake, second place.

Businesses: Coffman's Martial Arts, first place. Mulberry Manor, second place. Anna ZX Service Station, third place.

Clubs/organizations/church: Anna-Jonesboro Elks Lodge No. 1641, first place. Oasis Shrine Club, second place. Anna Classical Conversations Homeschool Community, third place.

Color guard, military: Sons of the American Revolution color guard, first place.

Floats, non-veteran: Best of the Bottoms float, first place. Ron's Road Warriors, second place. Mike Jackson with 10 by 19 American flag, third place.

Floats, veterans: Illinois Veterans Home in Anna, first place. Marine Corps League Detachment 812, second place. American Legion Post 344, Anna, third place.

Marching bands: Cobden Junior/Senior High School Marching Appleknockers, first place. Goreville School Marching Blackcats, second place. Marching Pharaohs band from Egyptian Middle/High School in Tamms, third place.

Troops, Boy/Cub Scouts: Cub Scout Pack 44, Anna; Pack 112, Murphysboro; Scout Troop 44, Anna, first place.

Troops, Girl/Daisy Scouts: Girl Scouts, first place.

Vehicle, antique farm equipment: Best of the Bottoms 1957 Ford 600 Series, Jack Thornton owner, first place. 1937 John Deere tractor

and wagon driven by Garrett Goines, second place. Best of the Bottoms 1962 John Deere 4010, third place.

Vehicles, antique/classic/military: George Williams' 2018 Corvette ZO-6 race car, first place. Henry Ford's Contribution to Community and Country, Jerry Cochran's 1931 Ford Model A Tudor, second place. Duckworth Vets in a 'Vette, third place.

Royalty: 2024 Little Miss Cache River Kaci Corzine, first place. Miss Cache River Lauren Jackson, second place. Little Miss Union County Fair Queen Ella Bailey, third place.

Horses: Dale Lipe on his horse named Chance, first place.

Any of the winners who were not at the VFW post near Anna after the parade can still pick up their certificates. The certificates will be available at the VFW post until Friday, Nov. 22. They can be picked up at the bar any day, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Marching bands, banner/flag teams receive Veterans Day parade honors

Marching bands and banner/flag teams from area schools received honors following this year's Veterans Day parade in Anna. The parade was Monday, Nov. 11. Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna sponsored the parade.



The Cobden Junior/Senior High School Marching Appleknockers received first place in the marching band category.



The Goreville School Marching Blackcats received second place in the marching band category.



The Marching Pharaohs band from Egyptian Middle/High School in Tamms received third place in the marching band category.



The Anna Junior High School Marching Indians banner/flag team received first place in the banner/flag/pom pom team category.



The Marching Redskins banner/flags from Shawnee Junior-Senior High School in Wolf Lake received second place in the banner/flag/pom pom team category.

October weather in region warmer than normal, unusually dry

October was dry and warm in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah shared a climate review for the month on its website.

Temperatures
The month of October averaged 2 to 4 degrees above normal.

High temperatures some 5 to 6 degrees above normal were somewhat offset by low

temperatures that were near average.

This was largely due to very dry air, which allowed for wide temperature swings from chilly morning lows to warm afternoon highs on a number of days.

The warmest part of the month occurred during the first week, when high temperatures at many locations reached the upper 80s to near 90 degrees.

The first widespread frost occurred by the middle of the month, when low temperatures dropped into the upper 20s and lower 30s.

Precipitation
Even for October, the month was unusually dry. In fact, October was on track to be one of the top driest months on record until rain finally arrived by the end of the month.

Even with the rain that fell on Halloween, most of the forecast area received less than an inch of rainfall for the entire month.

Local weather observer Dana Cross recorded only 0.96 of an inch rain for the month near Jonesboro.

In the end, October 2024 turned out to be the sixth driest on record at Paducah and eighth driest at Cape Girardeau and Carbondale. It was also the ninth warmest October on record at Paducah.

Weather High 74, low 35; 0.69 of an inch of rain

Weather in the Union County area during the period of Nov. 12-18 was highlighted by light rain and seasonal temperatures.

Precipitation during the period totalled 0.69 of an inch of rain.

Temperatures during the period ranged from a high of 74 degrees to a low of 35.

Following are highlights for the period as recorded by weather observer Dana Cross near Jonesboro:

Tuesday, Nov. 12: high 61, low 41.

Wednesday, Nov. 13: high 59, low 41. 0.50 of an inch of rain.

Thursday, Nov. 14: high 57, low 37.

Friday, Nov. 15: high 60, low 35.

Saturday, Nov. 16: high 61, low 36.

Sunday, Nov. 17: high 68, low 39. 0.01 of an inch of rain.

Monday, Nov. 18: high 74, low 59. 0.18 of an inch of rain.

Significantly cooler weather expected in region

After mild temperatures and sunshine on Tuesday, a big cool down is expected in the region.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported Tuesday that "significantly cooler air" would

descend across the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region on Wednesday. The cooler weather is expected to continue through the end of the week.

The weather service said

the "coldest air so far this season" would be accompanied by breezy conditions, "causing an additional bite to the air."

Wind chill readings in the 20s are in the forecast for Thursday morning (today).

Church offers free dinner for Thanksgiving

A Union County church once again is planning to offer a Thanksgiving dinner for members of the community. The free dinner will be served by the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Anna.

Those who would like a dinner are asked to call 833-5225 to make a reservation by noon Friday, Nov. 22.

Meals are scheduled to be delivered between 11 a.m. and noon on Thanksgiving Day, which is Thursday, Nov. 28.

Donations are being accepted. Information is available by contacting the church.

HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING PLANNED

The Union County Hospital District Board of Directors will meet December 4, 2024 for the Annual Dual Board Meeting with the Deaconess Illinois Union County Advisory Board.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:15 pm at The Kitchen on Lafayette, Anna, IL.

The agenda will include continued discussion on Old Business matters and Phase 1 Renovation Project Updates.

Chicken/Dumpling Fundraiser

For Meisenheimer Cemetery To Be Held at Ullin Baptist Church Fellowship Hall Ullin, IL Saturday Night, November 23, 2024 5 P.M. to Approx. 8:30 P.M.

22nd Annual Christmas Shop

117 S. Appleknocker, Cobden November 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, 30 December 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday afternoon by chance. Sleds, trees, lights, wreaths, nativities, Dept. 56, Willow Tree, AnnaLee, Radko ornaments. Sponsored by Union County Historical Society. 618-893-2567 or 618-893-2865

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATIONS

To all persons of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Union County Soil and Water Conservation District. Beginning on 11/22/2024, nominations will be accepted for the two-year term of the office of Director of the Union County Soil and Water Conservation District at the District's Office at 201 Springfield Avenue, Anna, Illinois 62906 during our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of Director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the District. Interested persons must respond by 4:30 p.m. on 02/01/2024.

Illinois to receive \$40 million share of opioid settlement

By Nicole Jeanine Johnson, Medill Illinois News Bureau

CHICAGO – Illinois will receive a \$40 million share of a \$1.4 billion bipartisan national settlement with Kroger over the grocery chain's role in the opioid crisis, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced.

The settlement is the latest contribution to the 2021 Illinois Opioid Allocation Agreement steered by Raoul and state's attorneys.

"This settlement ensures Kroger is held accountable and allows resources to reach communities hardest hit by this ongoing opioid crisis that continues to affect all corners of America," Raoul said in a Nov. 4 statement announcing the settlement.

Under the agreement Kroger will also require its pharmacies "to monitor, report and share data about suspicious activity related to opioid prescriptions," the statement said.

The agreement will only be applicable to states in which Kroger and its subsidiaries

operate, according to the statement, noting that in Illinois, Kroger operates under the Kroger name as well as Mariano's and others.

By 2038, Illinois' Opioid Remediation Fund is projected to receive approximately \$772.6 million in total from various opioid manufacturers and distributors, according to the settlement fund allocation dashboard operated by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Illinois was awarded more than \$420 million from Johnson & Johnson, Walmart, Walgreens, Allergan, CVS, Teva, Mallinckrodt, and opioid distributors, such as AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson.

Since Gov. JB Pritzker signed Executive Order 2022-19 in 2022, funds received from any settlements will be distributed into three areas:

55 percent will go into the state's Opioid Remediation Trust Fund that will finance organizations across Illinois working to abate the opioid crisis in their respective

communities; 25 percent will be awarded to local governments to provide their own abatement programs, and the remaining 20 percent will go to the state to carry out abatement programs through the Illinois Department of Public Health.

To date, Illinois has committed or spent \$115 million from the fund, according to the Illinois Opioid Settlement website.

Most of the money has been awarded to organizations that have applied for funding to implement opioid abatement programs in their areas.

The Illinois Opioid Remediation Advisory Board is the governor-appointed body that is responsible for making advisory recommendations for how the Illinois Opioid Remediation Trust Fund will be spent.

State Rep. La Shawn Ford, D-Chicago, was appointed by the governor to serve on the board, along with organizations that represent the needs of the entire state. In an interview, Ford said he has dedicated a lot of his time to this issue.

"Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton brought grassroots organizations to the advisory board, allowing them to have input on how the money is being spent, which is critical, when you have people, organizations, nonprofits doing the work and having a say in how the settlement funds are spent," Ford said.

All programs and funding priorities must align with strategies described in the 2021 agreement, including: naloxone or other overdose reversal drugs; medication-assisted recovery and other recovery or bridge services; services for pregnant or postpartum people with opioid use disorders, as well as neonatal abstinence syndrome; treatment for incarcerated people; syringe services; prevention programs; harm reduction programs; and syringe services.

According to Ford, once recommendations are made by the advisory board, they will be forwarded to Raoul's office for approval to ensure that the programs align with the priorities set in the settlement agreement.

Nicole Jeanine Johnson is a graduate student in journalism with Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and a Fellow in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.

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.

IDPH: COVID, flu, RSV typically surge in fall, winter

The Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, is reminding the public that fall brings the start of the traditional respiratory virus season.

The department is urging Illinoisans to use the proven tools that can safeguard them from illnesses that typically surge during the fall and winter, including COVID-19, flu and RSV. This includes getting vaccinated for those viral diseases for those who are eligible.

The department has upgraded its Seasonal Respiratory Illness Dashboard and has posted two new FAQ documents on its website providing the latest guidance on vaccinations and how to get tested and treated for these seasonal illnesses.

In addition, the CDC has created a new Respiratory Illness Data Channel that provides nationwide county specific information that would be valuable for anyone planning to travel out of state, IDPH said.

"As we head into fall, the Department of Public Health is closely monitoring this season's respiratory illnesses and so can you with our updated respiratory illness dashboard," IDPH director Dr. Sameer Vohra said in a news release.

"Similar to past seasons, we should expect a rise in RSV, COVID-19 and flu cases as the weather cools. Now is a great time to get yourself protected from severe illness with updated vaccines, especially if you are over 65, immunocompromised or have chronic medical conditions."

Public health leaders also stress that one of the best ways to reduce transmission of viruses is to stay home when you are sick to reduce transmission to others.

Anyone with respiratory symptoms, such as coughing, a runny nose or fever, should try to self-isolate from others, unless they need to seek medical care. If you cannot self-isolate, wear a well-fitted mask around others.

IDPH officials remind the public that there are effective anti-viral treatments available for COVID-19 and the flu, but they must be started quickly. This is why it is important to get tested if you are feeling symptoms.

For COVID-19, treatment must be prescribed by a healthcare provider and started within five to seven days after symptoms appear. Treatment is strongly recommended for those who are over 65 or at higher risk for severe illness. Some Illinoisans should be eligible to access free oral antivirals through the Paxcess and Merck Helps programs.

Antiviral treatments for flu are most effective when given within 48 hours of starting to feel ill and are only available by prescription.

Older adults, young children and those who are pregnant or have conditions like diabetes, asthma and heart disease are at risk for complications and should contact a healthcare

provider be assessed for the need for treatment as soon as possible, IDPH advised.

You can find locations that perform COVID-19 tests in person at no cost near you by using the testing locator for the federal ICATT (Increasing Community Access to Testing) program. In addition, the federal government resumed offering free COVID tests to every household through the covidtests.gov website.

The IDPH respiratory illness dashboard showed that hospital admissions for COVID-19 were trending down and were at 1.4 percent of admissions, according to data as of Sept. 28. Illinois' overall respiratory illness level was listed by the CDC as minimal.

The FDA and CDC have approved new vaccines for this fall for COVID-19 and flu, as well as updated who can receive the RSV vaccines.

The new COVID vaccines and the new flu shots are recommended for everyone over the age of 6 months.

The RSV vaccine is recommended for everyone 75 years

and older. But if you got an RSV shot last winter, you do not need another at this time, according to the CDC.

Those in the late stages of pregnancy are advised to get the RSV vaccine designed to protect newborns. Newborns whose mothers have not received the RSV vaccine, should receive nirsevimab between October and March.

The new vaccines are widely available at pharmacies and through hospitals, and community health clinics. The major pharmacy chains allow you to make an appointment to get a shot online. For help finding a provider of vaccines near you, go to www.vaccines.gov.

For those who don't have healthcare coverage through a private plan, Medicare or Medicaid, IDPH operates the Vaccines for Children Program, which provides vaccines at no cost for children 18 and under.

Adults without insurance have several options. They can check with their local health department or contact a free and charitable clinic or a community health center.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

Grandparent's Day

Grandparent's Day was an enjoyable, if somewhat exhausting, time at my grandson's school this past Friday.

I got to meet the teachers, see their rooms and the rest of the school, see their classwork, take them to the book fair, do crafts with them, have snacks, played games with them and we had our pictures taken.

I praise the school teachers, administration, staff and volunteers who put this on each year. The kids get to show off their grandparents, too.

The most interesting part was when I was "interviewed" by my grandson. The questions and answers were a big learning experience for them and it was fun for me. Especially the look on their faces when they heard the answer to "How old are you?" It blew their mind and made me laugh.

Blessed Day

It was a blessed day for us this past Sunday. Our eldest grandson was baptized by his father at church.

We all have those first moments that are forever in your heart and this is one of the greatest.

After church, his great-grandmother Shirley treated everyone to Cracker Barrel for lunch. That is one of his favorite places and he was thrilled.

His great-aunt Vickie was able to come down from Sparta, too, so that was another treat. Vickie will be visiting for the next week with her mother, Shirley Harvel, and other relatives in the area.

Holiday Festivities

Many holiday festivities are starting up and I hope all of you are able to get out and

enjoy some of them. There is something for everyone, just get out and take part.

Craft fairs are literally every weekend until Christmas in nearly every town. Many churches, libraries and arts centers will be having programs too. Many organizations are hosting Thanksgiving meals, as well.

In addition to attending, many have opportunities for service. If you feel led to be a part, call and ask...help is rarely turned away.

Prayer List

Mill Creek Baptist has added several to their prayer list. Please keep the families of Tim Bundren and Jerry Bennett in your prayers as they deal with their losses.

Those in need of prayers for health, and their families for strength, are Joe Ames, Ronald Davis, Rodney Hanbaum, Faye Rendleman, Jim Morrow, Russ Marsh, Gary Rider, Cheryl Davis, Mary Poulos, Chris Vellella, Ashley Sullens, Jennifer Layton, Ashley Poole and just today, Sue Starr called and asked for prayer for her great-grandson Cooper, who is very ill.

Union County Fixin's

By Suzan Harvel

Pumpkin Cake

By Barbara Crumpler of Evans, Ga.

2 3/4 cups sugar
2 sticks butter
3 eggs
2 cups canned pumpkin puree
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1 cup chopped nuts
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon each: baking soda, ground cinnamon, ground cloves, ground allspice, ground ginger and ground nutmeg

Cream sugar, butter and eggs together until smooth. Add pumpkin, vanilla and salt. Stir to incorporate well. Sift together rest of dry ingredients and spices and add, mixing well. Stir in nuts.

Spray and flour a large tube pan or bundt pan. Bake for approximately 1 1/2 hours at 350 degrees. Check after an hour and then every 15 minutes afterwards until toothpick comes out clean.

Invert cake onto rack for cooling after 8 minutes.

This is good plain, dusted with powdered sugar or you can frost it with cream cheese frosting if desired.

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship on Sunday, Nov. 17.

Pastor Lupe greeted everyone in the sanctuary and those joining on the church's live stream. He opened the service with prayer.

Announcements were read. Prayer was said over the prayer list.

Menda Cash did the call to worship, which was about "The Christian Life."

The worship team led in the singing of "In the Garden," "Our God is Greater" and "Raise a Hallelujah."

Pastor Lupe's sermon was titled "The Apostles." Scripture was from Luke and Matthew.

The sermon shared that "the apostles demonstrated unwavering faith through their willingness to leave behind everything to follow Jesus, trusting fully in His promise of eternal life."

"They faced persecution, imprisonment and even martyrdom without abandoning their belief in Christ's resurrection and salvation."

"Despite immense challenges, their faith only grew stronger, inspiring others to embrace the gospel and follow Christ."

"Their lives were a testament to their conviction that nothing...not hardship, fear

or opposition...could separate them from the love of God."

After the worship service, the church family met in the fellowship hall for a chili cook-off. Eight people made their best pots of chili to compete in the cook-off.

The church participates in the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Boxes all year. More than 20 people met together to finish filling the boxes and get 163 boxes ready to send off to all over the world.

Each month during the year, the shoe boxes are filled with special items. At the end of the year, they are sealed and sent on their way.

Sunday School for all ages meets at 9 a.m. each Sunday morning.

The church's worship service starts at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday. The church has a youth program which meets at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. The church has a prayer time at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

The church has a bus which runs for all of its programs and services. Information is available by calling the church's office during the day.

First Baptist Church is located at 409 Morgan St. in Anna. The church's phone number is 833-5416. The church's website is www.annafirst.org.



Birthday celebrated

Lupe Lopez was honored on his 85th birthday Sunday, Nov. 17, by his son, the Rev. Lupe Lopez II, his family and his church family at Anna First Baptist Church after a church chili cook off. Photographer Martha Ann Webb.



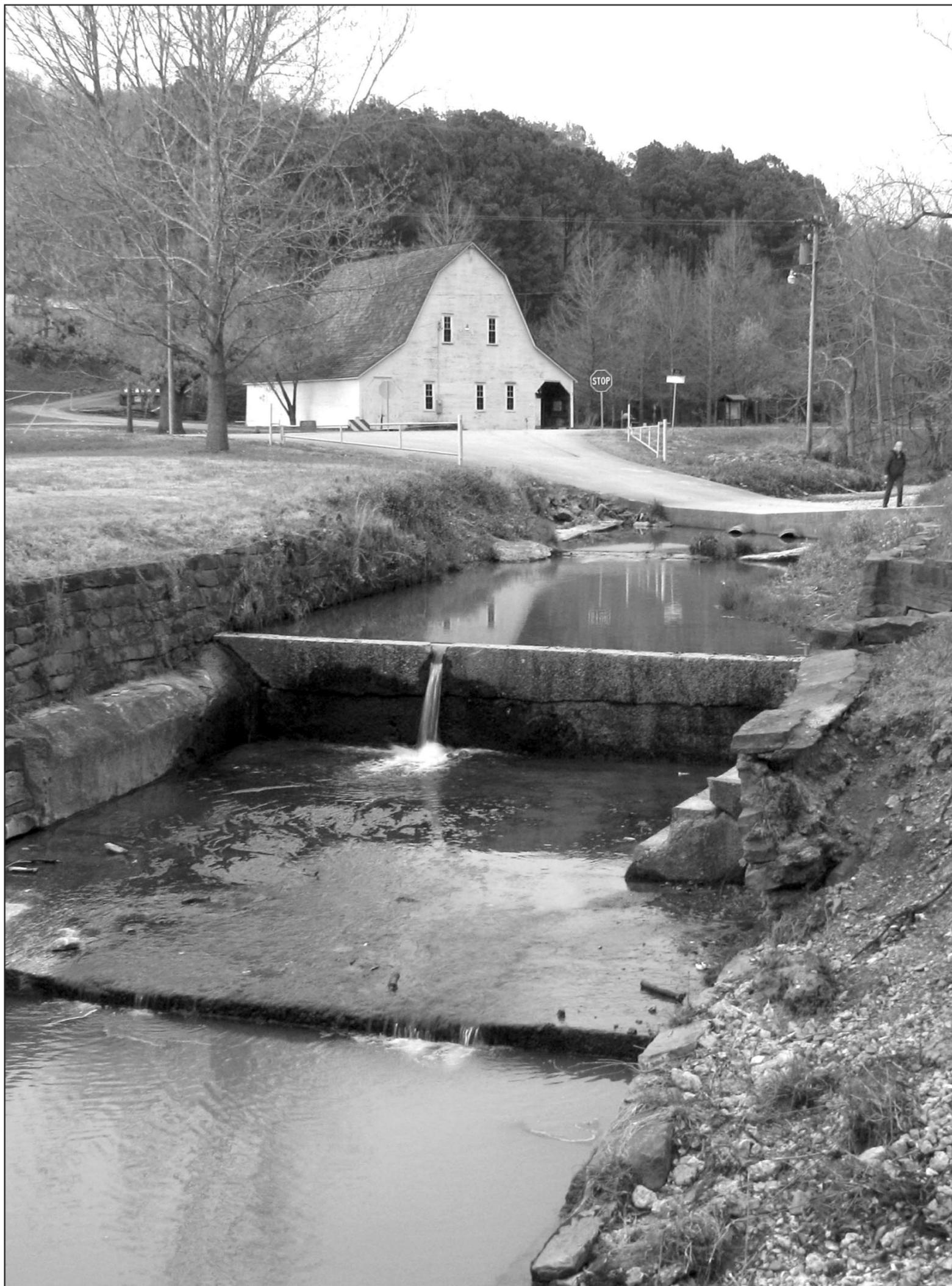
Chili cook off winners

Winners of the chili cook off on Sunday, Nov. 17, at Anna First Baptist Church were, from left, Mildred Cunningham, third place; Sondra Watkins, second place; and Yadi Lopez, first place. Photographer. Martha Ann Webb.



Church has chili cook off

Anna First Baptist Church had its second annual chili cook off after church Sunday, Nov. 17. Nine members made chili. In the first row are, from left, Shirley Ray, Luciano Lopez and Tammy Benefield. In the second row are Cissi Cuthbertson, Menda Cash, Mildred Cunningham, Sondra Baize, Yadi Lopez and Marie Holan. Photographer Martha Ann Webb.



Trail of Tears State Forest

One of the many reasons we are glad to be a part
of the Union County community.

The Gazette-Democrat

The Talk and Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Obituaries

Jack Davie Sensmeier

Jack Davie Sensmeier, 80, passed away Monday, Nov. 4, 2024, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Evansville, Ind., with his family by his side.

He was born on April 28, 1944, in Anna, the son of Clifton and Antoinette Sensmeier.

He married Martha Sensmeier on Dec. 31, 1999.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Sensmeier; son Scott Sensmeier; daughter Janet (David) Childers; grandchildren Grace (Cody Gwaltney) Schroeder, William Sensmeier, Olivia (Kyle Clover) Schroeder and Emma Sensmeier; sister Karen (Charles) Cutrell; step-children Shelly (Tom) Pearl and Mindy Keene; step-grandchildren Kamryn Glasco, Kacey Pearl, Princeton Keene and Paisley Keene; nephews, cousins, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and daughter Julie Christine Sensmeier.

He graduated from Cobden High School in 1962. He served his country as second lieutenant in the National Guard for many years.

He had a long career in construction, owning his own construction business. Alongside his construction business, he also owned a lumberyard and farmed beef cattle.

He enjoyed spending time with his family and loved being outdoors. After retiring, if he wasn't found outside working in his yard, you could find him in his shed working on various woodworking projects or having coffee each morning with his gang at Kiki's.

He loved to travel and he and his wife Martha went many miles on motorcycle rides



or enjoying time during the winter months in Florida.

For years, he was a member of the Cobden Lions Club, Anna-Jonesboro Elks Lodge No. 1641 and Cobden Presbyterian Church.

Graveside services were at 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18, at the Anna Cemetery, with the Rev. Doug Bridgeman officiating.

Interment followed. Graveside military rites were conducted by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna and the Illinois Army National Guard funeral honor team of Marion.

Everyone who attended was asked to go directly to the cemetery and was encouraged to bring a lawn chair. Following the graveside service, there was a luncheon at Moose Lodge No. 1346 in Anna. Everyone was invited to come have fellowship and share memories of Jack.

To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna was in charge of arrangements.



Jerry Marvin Bennett

Jerry Marvin Bennett, 63, of Thebes, died Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Mo.

He was born on Aug. 5, 1961, in Cape Girardeau, the son of Marvin and Donna Baugher Bennett.

He married Lori Koch on Oct. 8, 1999, and they spent over 25 years together. She survives.

During his law enforcement career of 40-plus years, he worked for Thebes as the marshal, the Cairo Police Department, the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office and was assigned to the Illinois Drug Task Force as an inspector of the Illinois State Police.

He was hired by the Federal Bureau of Investigations for the Drug Task Force and participated in Operation "River City Crack Out" and was sworn in as a Special Federal Officer.

He then went to work for the Alexander County Sheriff's Department, where he earned rank of Chief Deputy.

He was always quick witted with a great sense of humor and loved to laugh. He was loyal and had a heart of gold and was a very generous person.

In his spare time, he was a member of the Knights Templar. He loved and enjoyed all kinds of music and was a talented guitar player. As well, he enjoyed collecting antique pocket watches, fire trucks and guitars. He loved the Lord and enjoyed studying the Bible.

He is survived by his wife,



Lori; daughters Torie (Tim) Grogan, Amanda Bennett and Kathryn Bennett; one grandchild, Abigail Grogan; sisters Toni (Bruce) Sims and Angela Jones; nephew Brentley Sims; niece Cassidy Jones; many cherished friends and his coworkers past and present.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his grandparents, Bessie Bennett Brown and Lester Brown and Clarence Baugher and Lucille McHughs Baugher.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Crain Funeral Home in Tamms, with the Rev. Bob Richardson officiating.

Interment followed the funeral service at Rose Hill Cemetery in Thebes.

Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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

Crain Funeral Home in Tamms was in charge of arrangements.

Sherman Lee Mays

Sherman Lee Mays, 85, of Mt. Pleasant, died suddenly Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

He was born on Nov. 15, 1938, in Anna, the son of Grover Marcellis and Ada Kathryn Farris Mays.

Mr. Mays is survived by his two daughters, Sandra Kay Pickel (Terry Lessen) of Dongola and Deborah Lee (Rusty) Cunningham of Evansville, Ind.; a son, Ronald Wayne Mays of Mt. Pleasant; six grandchildren, Dan Osman, Sarah (Sam) Wellmeier, Jason (Jessica) Pickel, Justin Lee (Jamie) Pickel, Andrea Walker and Ryan (Tara) Mays; 15 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, Grover Sr. (Vicki) Mays of Dongola and Ronnie (Debbie) Mays of Anna; a sister-in-law, Sandra Mays of Jacksonville; many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; infant son Sherman Lee Mays Jr.; and siblings Beverly Mays, Ginger Newman and Allen Mays.

He served in the U.S. Air Force. He was a 50-year member of the Anna Masonic Lodge and a member of Anna-Jonesboro Elks Lodge No. 1641.

He enjoyed watching NASCAR and spending time with his grandchildren. He worked early on as an Ironworker and later retired from Choate Mental

Health and Developmental Center in Anna as an engineer at the power plant.

Funeral services were at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with the Rev. Randy Wright officiating.

Interment was in McGinnis Cemetery. Graveside military rites were conducted by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna and the Illinois Army National Guard funeral honor team of Marion.

Masonic rites were conducted at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at the funeral home. Memorials can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna was in charge of arrangements.



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To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna was in charge of arrangements.



Tommy Joe Walker

Tommy Joe Walker, 79, of Jonesboro, died Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, at his home.

He was born on March 12, 1945, in Anna, the son of Glen Eugene and Olive Ferne Walker.

He is survived by his friends, Brenda Noble and Brent Hileman and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents.

He served in the U.S. Army. He worked for the Florsheim Shoe Factory in Anna and later at Ensign Bickford. He was a talented woodworker and skilled mechanic. He was an avid reader and collected books.

Graveside funeral services were at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 18, at the Jonesboro Cemetery. Graveside military rites were conducted by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in

Anna. Interment followed.

To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro was in charge of arrangements.



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To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro was in charge of arrangements.



Shirley Ann Bennett

Shirley Ann Bennett, 86, of Anna, died peacefully with her family by her side on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, at Deaconess Illinois Medical Center in Marion.

She was born on July 6, 1938, in Anna, the daughter of Jack and Lee Etta Wright Kesler.

She married Jack Dean Bennett on July 30, 1958, in Anna. He preceded her in death on June 7, 2019.

She is survived by her two daughters, Julie (Farrokh) Kahnemoui of Anna and Debbie (Tom) Hicks of Spring Hill, Fla.; step-son Ronald (Petra) Henniger of Spain; three grandchildren, Michelle (Lewis) Dirden of Anna, Rachael (Karl) Cavallini of Groveland and Alex (Lauren) Siegfried of Weeki Wachee, Fla.; three great-grandchildren, Anderson Dirden of Anna, Leah Dirden of Jonesboro and Logan Sea-Siegfried of Pekin; sister-in-law Golda Kesler of Anna; niece Pam (Pat) McLean of Anna; great-niece Natalie (Dusty) Miller of Anna; great-great-niece Elisabeth Miller of Anna; dear friend Loretta Milton of Anna; fur baby Misty; other extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jack Dean Bennett; brother Donald "Butch" Kesler; and two cousins, Sharon Hunter and William "Buddy" Wright.

She was a member of the Anna

Heights Baptist Church in Anna. Early in her working career she was the manager for Bass' Clothing in downtown Anna. She later worked as an executive secretary at Tuck Tape for 25 years until her retirement.

She loved spending time with her family and adored all her grandchildren. She enjoyed cooking and having everyone together for Sunday dinner or holidays. She enjoyed reading, watching westerns and movies and was always up for a good game of rummy.

Funeral services were at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with Michael Vaughn officiating. Interment was in the Anna Cemetery.

To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.

Gary Jackson

Gary Jackson, 77, of Jonesboro, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, at the Life Care Center in Cape Girardeau.

He was born on Oct. 28, 1947, in Anna, the son of Jewell and Lucille Barker Jackson.

He joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 17, after persuading his dad to sign the papers. He served from Feb. 2, 1965, to Nov. 2, 1970, when he transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve. He served two tours in Vietnam and was proud of his service to his nation.

He joined and became a Life Member of the Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the 1960s and remained a proud, active member until his illness forced his retirement as Quartermaster in August of 2024. The Marine Corps Birthday and Veteran's Day were two things that couldn't and wouldn't be missed.

After he came out of the Corps, he married Jane Tripp and to this union three children were born, Kenneth, Cynthia and Kim.

He worked at Olin and Ford Motors in St. Louis and then they returned to Anna. He subsequently worked at the VFW in Anna for many years and with IBEW 702.

He married Linda Dawes Jones on Jan. 4, 1985.

He started work with the State of Illinois as a Food Service Supervisor at Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna and then transferred to Shawnee Correctional Center until his retirement.

He is survived by his wife, Linda of Jonesboro; one son, Kenneth (Jennifer) Jackson of Bethalto; one daughter, Cynthia (Craig) Billings of Dow; the mother of his children, Jane (Gary) Nimmo of Godfrey; two step-daughters, Debi (Mike) Barnett of Lake of Egypt and Amy (Jonathan) Schott of St. Louis, Mo.; five grandchildren, Libby (Jeff) Spicer and their children,

Crain Funeral Home

Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro was in charge of arrangements.



Kayden, Kailey, Korbin and Karson

of Godfrey, Hunter (Lily) Billings of Godfrey, Megan (Adam Stewart) Jackson and their son Archie of Alton, Cort (Abby Veitch) Jackson of Granite City and Travis Barnett of Denver, Colo.; one brother, Roger Jackson of Anna; and two sisters, Doris (Wayne) Whiteside of Dongola and Pam Gee of Carterville; one sister-in-law, Linda R. Jackson of Karbers Ridge, Ill.; nieces, nephews and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Kim; two brothers, Richard and Ronald; and two sisters, Dorothy Davis and Wanda Smith.

Funeral services were at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro, with the Rev. David Miller officiating.

Interment followed the funeral service at Ebenezer Hall Cemetery in Lick Creek, with full military honors by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW and the Marine Color Guard. He would love for all memorials to go to Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 VFW in his memory, as it was such an important part of his life for over 55 years.

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

Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro was in charge of arrangements.

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On Sunday, Nov. 17, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in the morning service. His message addressed the story of a king who lacked nothing but had a problem with being covetous and greedy. His greed led to murder. "Don't let the greed of this world influence you" the message shared. The main text was from 1 Kings in the Old Testament.

The service was sent by transmitter station 87.9 for those who wanted to listen on the radio. The service was also live streamed on Facebook. The church's Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, has videos and the latest information about possible closings.

Praise team members Connor Benbrook, Isabel Tehandon and Megan Tehandon led worship in the absence of the music director. Lucas Tehandon was the pianist. Robert and Margaret McCain sang the song "Through It All" as a special. The praise team also sang a special, "My Chains are Gone."

Men's and women's Bible studies were scheduled at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18.

The Hunter family plans to host a 60th birthday reception for Jerry Wayne Hunter on Nov. 23 in the church's fellowship hall.

Birthdays: Jean Hunter, David Wilkins, Nov. 18; John "Wes" Cripps Jr., Nov. 19; William Molter, Nov. 21; Valerie Pender Heins, Nov. 23.

The 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. and Sunday evening worship at 6 p.m.

Youth meet from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The Dig-In program for children meets at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Adult prayer meeting and Bible study are scheduled on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

EMT, EMR courses slated at Shawnee

Shawnee Community College is planning to offer EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) courses in the spring of 2025.

EMT is scheduled meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. on Shawnee Community College's main campus near Ullin. Those courses run from Jan. 14 until May 15, with some Saturday labs.

EMR is scheduled to meet on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for eight weeks. Attendance is mandatory for all classes. That program runs from Jan. 13 until March 7 at the Shawnee Community College Union County Extension Center in Anna.

Students can apply for grant assistance for both programs. Program completion is required to apply for grant assistance, the college noted.

More information is available by contacting ems@shawneecc.edu or calling 618-634-3282.

View Obituaries
Online at
annanews.com

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

A morning worship service was held Sunday, Nov. 17. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. Music was led by Pastor Randy Wright and the worship team. A message titled "God is God, Jonah is Not" was brought by Pastor Wright. Scripture was from Jonah. Sunday evening's service was canceled. The church's sympathy and prayers are extended to the Mays family in the loss of their loved one, Sherman Mays. Funeral services were at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home

in Anna, with the Rev. Randy Wright officiating. **Sunday, Nov. 24** Breakfast, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning service, 10:35 a.m. Evening service, 6 p.m. **Wednesday, Nov. 27** A Wednesday night service is planned at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A youth group meeting is planned at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The church can be contacted by calling the church office at 833-6702 and leaving a message if necessary or by calling Pastor Wright at 618-534-7103.

Camp Ground Church, Community

Bro. Easton's sermon Sunday was titled "Cleansing the Temple," with scripture from John, chapter 2:13-16. This scripture is one of the recordings of Jesus clearing the Temple in Jerusalem of those selling animals for sacrifice and changing Roman coinage into "accepted" temple money. During Jesus' time on Earth, the Jews were oppressed by Roman rule. Their unscrupulous religious leaders further oppressed the humble worshipers by extracting high prices for suitable sacrificial animals

and money. They had made it all about making money: a market and financial exchange site. Jesus recognized the sin, "planned" His response by braiding a whip and acted to rid the Temple of sin. The message that "when we accept Christ as our Savior, our hearts and bodies become 'a temple' dedicated to God. "The obvious analogy to this scripture in John is the cleansing our hearts and minds of our sinful nature so that we can become the children of God that we are

intended to be." Bro. Easton posed several questions: When was the last time we cleaned up our hearts? When we see sin, does it move us to the point of doing something about the sin? Why do we want to hold onto those things that come between us and God? Raelynn Bonner rang the bell to begin worship. Vodra Gerard and Kayton Crane received the tithes and offerings. Camp Ground Church's lead elder for November is Tony Gerard.

Those having birthdays so far in November have been Bro. Bradley Easton on Nov. 2, Teresa Rogers on Nov. 3 and Brittany Roach on Nov. 12. Rodney and LaDonna Miller's wedding anniversary was Nov. 1. All are welcome to services each Sunday at Camp Ground Church. Fellowship and coffee are at 9:15 a.m., followed by Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:30 a.m. The church is located at the intersection of Camp Ground Road and Tunnel Lane east of Anna and just north of Illinois Route 146.

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



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Worship & Praise

LIKE A WINDY DAY



Clouds sail across a pale blue sky on a windy winter day. What will the weather bring? One minute it looks like a storm...the next minute streaks of golden sunlight appear and so does the promise of a sunny day. Who knows what to expect? Life is like an unsettled day; things can look bright one minute, uncertain the next. We know that disappointments will come. A relationship with our Creator can prepare us for the uncertainties...He is in control of all things. In His House, you will meet those who have learned to survive life's storms by sharing their faith in His wisdom and love. Go to your house of worship this week and prepare for the storms of life.

Daily Bible Readings

Psalm 21	Psalm 92	Psalm 93	Psalm 95	Psalm 97	Psalm 98	Psalm 99
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society X Daily Devotional at www.AmericanBible.org
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409 S. Green St, Anna, IL 62906 (Corner of West Spring and S. Green St)

Sunday
Worship Service
10:30am

Wednesday
Bible Study
7pm



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



Anna, IL • 833-6300
Mike Jones, Manager

Apostolic Lighthouse Church

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Worship service at 10:45 a.m.
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FOR SALE

FOR SALE: ASSET ONE: 2006 GMC 2500HD DIESEL 4x4 UTILITY PICKUP TRUCK White, Single cab, V8 Engine, Automatic Transmission, 8ft bed. 266,016 mi. Sealed bids only. Can be picked up at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, 7420 US Hwy 51 S, Dongola IL 62926. Bids must be received by November 29, 2024, by 4 p.m. CST. or postmarked by November 29, 2024.

ASSET TWO: 2011 CHEVROLET 2500HD DIESEL 4x4 UTILITY PICKUP TRUCK White, Single cab, V8 Engine, Automatic Transmission, 8ft bed. 285,XXX mi. Sealed bids only. Can be picked up at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, 7420 US Hwy 51 S, Dongola IL 62926. Bids must be received by November 29, 2024, by 4 p.m. CST. or postmarked by November 29, 2024. All questions should be directed to Stephanie Theis 618-827-3555. 49-51g, 49-50p

CHRISTMAS SHOP:

117 So. Appleknocker Dr., Cobden. Weekends; November 2nd thru December 21st. Saturdays 9-4, Sundays 1-4. Radko Ornaments, LED Lights, Trees, Dept.56. 618-893-2865. 46-1p, 47-2g

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Nice 2-bedroom apartments, low utilities, convenient location, w/dryer facility. No gas deposit. Call 618-751-3025. 48-3p, 49-3g

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Shawnee Community College is looking for full and part-time Custodian for their Ullin Campus and The Massac County Extension Center. For more information, please Call 618-634-3200 Ext. 3436 48-3p, 49-3g

NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE: Notice is hereby given of the sale of the following described personal property which is stored a Busby Storage Units located at 215 B E. Vienna St. in Anna, IL. Name of Occupant: Hollie Harrel, Unit #31. Property to be sold; miscellaneous and personal. 50g

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLEAR CREEK LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 2021-MC-1

NOTICE

The Commissioners of the Clear Creek Levee and Drainage District have filed in my office on November 7, 2024, their Annual Report showing the amount of monies collected by the

You also have the right under Section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 58-1), to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate.

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (ILL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, Par. 5/28-4), any interested person terminates Independent Administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of this Court.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 21, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: November 21, 2024.

Iva Lorene Osman, Independent Executor
By: Blane Osman, Attorney
Ronald E. Osman & Associates, Ltd.
1602 W. Kimmel/P.O. Box 939
Marion, IL 62959
(618) 997-5151
8221-947967

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PRESTON LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 2021-MC-2

NOTICE

The Commissioners of the Preston Levee and Drainage District have filed in my office on November 7, 2024, their Annual Report showing the amount of monies collected by the District since the last report and the manner in which the funds have been expended.

Any owner of land within the District may file an objection to the report with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Union County Courthouse, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, Illinois 62952, on or before December 12, 2024.

If any objections are filed within the time prescribed, the Court shall set a hearing at a time not later than four (4) weeks after the date of the filing of the report. If no objection to the report is filed, the Court may approve the report without a hearing.

Dated: November 8, 2024.

KERI E. CLARK
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Union County, Illinois
8221-947947

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In re the matter of the estate of ROBERT LELAND OSMAN, Deceased. No. 2024-PR-22

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Robert Leland Osman of Dongola, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on November 6, 2024, to Iva Lorene Osman, of Dongola, Illinois, whose attorney is Blane Osman of Ronald E. Osman & Associates, Ltd., 1602 Kimmel, P.O. Box 939, Marion, Illinois, 62959.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order of Admission, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses in open Court or other evidence, as provided by Section 5/6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21.)

Dated: November 18, 2024.

EDNA RALLS
TIMOTHY RALLS
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8221-948112

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF JACK BRIMM, DECEASED. NO. 2024-PR-24 IN PROBATE

NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Jack Brimm, of Anna, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 15, 2024, to Timothy Brimm, 3135 Lick Creek Road, Anna, Illinois 62906 as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order of admission, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses in open Court or other evidence, as provided by Section 5/6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21.)

You also have the right, under Section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1), to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate.

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, Par. 5/28-4), any interested person terminates Independent Administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of this Court.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before May 21, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: November 18, 2024.

TIMOTHY BRIMM
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8221-948109

"THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE"

W20-0343 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust; Plaintiff,

vs.

Melissa Elaine Lewis; Crown Asset Management, LLC; Midland Credit Management, Inc.; Defendants. Case No. 23 FC 8 NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a judgment heretofore entered by the said court occurred in the above entitled cause, Sheriff of Union, Illinois, will on December 18, 2024, at the hour of 09:00 AM at Union County Courthouse, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, IL 62952, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate in the said judgment mentioned, situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy such judgment to wit:

PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER AND PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE CENTER OF SAID SECTION 18; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 47'26" WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID NORTH-EAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 813.78 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 1 DEGREE 46' 54" WEST A DISTANCE OF 435.60 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 47'26" EAST A DISTANCE OF 813.78 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER; THENCE SOUTH 1 DEGREE 46' 54" WEST ALONG THE SAID WEST LINE A DISTANCE OF 626.01 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 47'26" EAST A DISTANCE OF 327.27 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 8 DEGREES 17' 48" EAST A DISTANCE OF 263.00 FEET TO THE CENTER LINE OF THE CAVE SPRINGS ROAD (NOW KRATZINGER HOLLOW ROAD); THENCE SOUTH 21 DEGREES 40'31" EAST ALONG THE SAID CENTER LINE A DISTANCE OF 129.66 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD; THENCE NORTH 8 DEGREES 17'48" WEST ALONG THE SAID RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 1476.50 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 47'26" WEST ALONG THE SAID NORTH LINE A DISTANCE OF 169.93 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THE TRACT CONTAINING 14.79 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND BEING SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT OF USE OF THE EXISTING PUBLIC ROAD ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT.

C/K/A: 360 Kratziinger Hollow Road, Anna, IL 62906 a/k/a 360 Kratziinger Hollow Road, Cobden, IL 62920
PIN: 05-18-03-321

The person to contact regarding information regarding this property is: Sales Dept., The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540, Chicago, IL 60603. Any questions regarding this sale should refer to file number W20-0343. The terms of the sale are Cash. 10% at time of sale, with the balance due within 24 hours. The property is improved by: single family home. The Property is not open for inspection prior to sale.

The real estate, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and tenements, hereditament and appurtenances thereunto belonging shall be sold under such terms.

Russell C. Wirbicki (6186310)
Christopher J. Irk (6300084)
Cory J. Harris (6319221)
Tracey M. Coons

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: Noblee Michelle Robbins to the new name of Mabel Louise Kelley-Edwards
The court date will be held on January 8, 2025 at 11:00 am at 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, Union County.
in Courtroom #1
/s/ Noblee Michelle Robbins
Petitioner
8221-947813

STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT UNION COUNTY PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT) REQUEST OF: Noblee Michelle Robbins CASE NUMBER 24-MR-13

STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT UNION COUNTY PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (Minor Children) REQUEST OF: Natalie Lynn Brown CASE NUMBER 2024-MR-11

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN W. SHEWMAKER, Deceased. Case No. 2024PR21

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of John W. Shewmaker. Letters of Office were issued October 17, 2024, to Karen L. Bernhard, whose address is P.O. Box 641, Cobden, Illinois, 62920, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Casey L. Twomey, Sanders & Twomey, LLC, Attorneys at Law, 208 North Market Street, Suite B, Marion, Illinois, 62959.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's office, Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 7th day of May, 2025. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

(6311050)
The Wirbicki Law Group
LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540
Chicago, IL 60603
13255587
8221-947994

STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT UNION COUNTY PUBLICATION

NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)

REQUEST OF: Noblee Michelle Robbins CASE NUMBER 24-MR-13

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in Courtroom #1
/s/ Noblee Michelle Robbins
Petitioner
8221-947813

STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT UNION COUNTY PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (Minor Children) REQUEST OF: Natalie Lynn Brown CASE NUMBER 2024-MR-11

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust; Plaintiff,

vs.

Melissa Elaine Lewis; Crown Asset Management, LLC; Midland Credit Management, Inc.; Defendants. Case No. 23 FC 8 NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

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C/K/A: 360 Kratziinger Hollow Road, Anna, IL 62906 a/k/a 360 Kratziinger Hollow Road, Cobden, IL 62920
PIN: 05-18-03-321

The person to contact regarding information regarding this property is: Sales Dept., The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540, Chicago, IL 60603. Any questions regarding this sale should refer to file number W20-0343. The terms of the sale are Cash. 10% at time of sale, with the balance due within 24 hours. The property is improved by: single family home. The Property is not open for inspection prior to sale.

The real estate, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and tenements, hereditament and appurtenances thereunto belonging shall be sold under such terms.

Russell C. Wirbicki (6186310)
Christopher J. Irk (6300084)
Cory J. Harris (6319221)
Tracey M. Coons (6311050)
The Wirbicki Law Group LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540
Chicago, IL 60603
13255587
8221-947994

REAL ESTATE

"THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE"
W20-0343 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Shawnee Hills Arts Council plans to host Reindeer Run

Registration is underway for the Shawnee Hills Art Council's 2024 Reindeer 5K Run/Walk, which is set for Nov. 30.

The 5K, 1-mile and fun run events begin at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council, SHAC, at 125 W. Davie St. in Anna.

Runners will head into the "fruit bowl" section of town. The 5K is a down and back course that will start and end back at the SHAC.

Timing services will be provided by Run to Succeed.

Prizes for the top three finishers and first, second and third place will be awarded to different age categories for females and different age categories for males.

Registration opens at 7:15 a.m. to pick-up a bib number, t-shirt and information about Downtown Anna's Christmas Celebration, with the 5K starting at 8 a.m.

The kids fun run is a short race to catch Rudolf and Santa Claus and it is free. The fun

run and an opportunity make Christmas ornaments are free. Anyone can make a Christmas ornament throughout the event.

This event kicks off "Christmas in Downtown Anna" on Nov. 30. SHAC encourages everyone to make plans to attend all the other events around town.

Registration is \$20 for the 5K and the 1-mile run prior to the event.; on race day Nov. 30 registration is \$25.

Registration is available

online at <https://runtosucceed.com/reindeer5k/>. Race fees are non-refundable.

Participants are encouraged to wear their most festive Christmas running gear.

Starting times include 8 a.m. for the 5K, 8:45 a.m. for the 1-mile run and 9 a.m. for the kids fun run.

If you have questions or want a registration form emailed to you, call Lee Hackney at 1-904-625-1109 or email vabchlee@gmail.com.

Owls topic of program at Giant City

Owls will be the topic of a free program planned Saturday, Nov. 23, at the visitors center at Giant City State Park near Makanda.

"Forest Park Owls: Mating, Nesting and Owlets" will be presented from 11 a.m. to noon by Mark H.X. Glenshaw.

Glenshaw is an award-winning naturalist. He will discuss the closely observed and documented lives of great horned owls at Forest

Park in St. Louis.

Glenshaw will share what he has been able to observe and document, including mating, nest selection, feeding of the owlets, fledging and gradual maturation of owlets and the dispersal of the owlets. He will have photos and videos to illustrate owls' behaviors.

Those who want to attend the program are asked to register by calling 618-457-4836.

Television Listings

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	ESPN Original	Bang (HD)	(4:00) College Basketball (HD)	Big City	Dune	"A Star Is Born" (18)	"Private Ryan" (98)
7 PM	9-1-1 "Sob Stories"	"Nugget is Dead: A Christmas Story" (24)	Hell's Kitchen (HD)	Law & Order (HD)	To Be Announced Info unavailable.	Bang (HD)		Big City	Somewhere	"The Color Purple" (23, Musical) Fantasia Barrino. (HD)	★★★½ "The Hateful Eight" (15, Western) Samuel L. Jackson. (R) (HD)
8 PM	Doctor Odyssey (HD)		Crime Scene Kitchen	Law & Order: SVU		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	Wizards	★★★½ "The Three Musketeers" Logan Lerman.	
9 PM	Grey's Anatomy (HD)	Marriage Ghosts	Local Programs Local info.	Found (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Jessie	(25) Dune: Prophecy	"The Extra Man" John C. Reilly.	
10 PM	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	★★★½ "Grown Ups" (10) Adam Sandler. (HD)	Law & Order: SVU Sex crimes. (HD)	Kiff	"Lady Bird" (17) Saoirse Ronan.		"Old School" (03) Luke Wilson.
11 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)			Bluey		(09) "Wrecking" (15)	"Road"
11:30 PM	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night				Bluey			

THURSDAY

	7:30pm
HBO	The Three Musketeers ★★★½ (2011, Adventure) Logan Lerman, Milla Jovovich. A young 17th-century swordsman meets a trio of experienced soldiers on the road to Paris, and they join forces to thwart a string of plots against Louis XIII. PG-13
8:00pm	ABC Doctor Odyssey "Quackers" Avery copes with surprising news; the crew greets guests who are obsessed with the new rubber duckies trend that is taking over the cruising industry. TV14 (HD)

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	TBA	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	(5:15) "Frozen 2" (19)	"He's Just Not Into You" (09)	(5:19) "50/50" (11) (R)	"The Infiltrator" Bryan Cranston.
7 PM	Shark Tank (HD)	S.W.A.T. (HD)	College Football Purdue Boilermakers at Michigan State Spartans (Live) (HD)	Place Lopez vs.	(4:3) To Be Announced Info unavailable.	"Christmas Vacation" (89) Chevy Chase.	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (HD)	Wizards	(4:49) Dune: Prophecy	★★★★ "Sisters" (15, Comedy) Tina Fey. (R) (HD)	★★★★ "Gladiator" (00, Drama) Russell Crowe. (R) (HD)
8 PM	(01) 20/20 Investigative news. (HD)	Fire Country (HD)	Blue Bloods (HD)	Dateline NBC Investigative news.	(05) To Be Announced Info unavailable.	★★★½ "Elf" (03, Holiday) Will Ferrell. (PG) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	Real Time with (HD)	★★★ "Forgetting Sarah Marshall"	(15) "3:10 to Yuma" (07) Russell Crowe. (HD)
9 PM	Local	Local		Local		★★★½ "Fred Claus" (07)	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	(25) Real Time with	(4:49) "Ted 2" (15) Mark Wahlberg.	
10 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)				Wizards	(25) Real Time with		
11 PM	Nightline	Midnight	Local	Late Night	Sports			Big City	Real Time		

FRIDAY

	7:00pm
MAX	Sisters ★★★ (2015, Comedy) Tina Fey, Amy Poehler. Two sisters learn that their parents are selling their childhood home and make the decision to throw one final party with their former classmates. R (HD)
8:30pm	DISN ZOMBIES: The Re-Animated Series "Teeny Witch; The Hunter Games" Dae shrinks because of her lack of self-confidence; Harley the monster hunter visits Seabrook once again to destroy the werewolves' moonstone. TV G (HD)

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 23, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Scoreboard	Postgame	Coll. Ftbl	College Football Army West Point vs Notre Dame (Live) (HD)	To Be Announced Info unavailable.	(5:00) "Vacation" (89)	(3:30) IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship (HD)	Big City	"Good Time"	"Killing Softly" (12)	(5:00) ★★★½ "Heat" (95, Crime) Al Pacino. (HD)
7 PM	(37) College Football "Teams TBA" (Live) (HD)	NWSL Soccer "Teams TBA"	College Football "Teams TBA" (Live) (HD)			★★★ "Elf" (03, Holiday) Will Ferrell. (PG) (HD)		Big City	(5:50) "Jurassic Park" (93, Science Fiction) Sam Neill.	"Taken" (09) Liam Neeson. (HD)	
8 PM				(15) College Football "Teams TBA" (Live) (HD)	(15) To Be Announced Info unavailable.	"Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory"	9-1-1 (HD)	Wizards		"Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit"	★★★★ "GoodFellas" (90, Crime) Robert De Niro. (R) (HD)
9 PM							9-1-1 (HD)	ZOMBIES	To Be Announced	(17) ★★★ "Lawless" (12, Crime) Shia LaBeouf.	"Once Upon Time in America"
10 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	The Floor (HD)			"Chocolate Factory"	9-1-1 (HD)	Big City	Franchise		
11 PM	Local Programs		Local					Big City			

SATURDAY

	8:31pm
MAX	Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit ★★★½ (2014, Action) Chris Pine, Kevin Costner. A young, covert C.I.A. analyst takes a turn as a spy in an increasingly breakneck mission when he uncovers a Russian plot to destroy the American economy. PG-13
9:00pm	TBS Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory ★★★½ (1971, Musical) Gene Wilder, Jack Albertson. A poor boy wins a coveted golden ticket that entitles him to a grand tour of the mysterious, magical chocolate factory of an eccentric candy maker. G

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	NFL (Live) The OT	Football America (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	"Joker"	"Patriot Games" (92)	"Dead" Vicky Krieps.
7 PM	Videos	Tracker "Man's Best"	Simpsons Universal	(15) Sun. Night Football Philadelphia Eagles at Los Angeles Rams (Live) (HD)	Sports	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(45) Dune: Prophecy	"The A-Team" (10, Action) Liam Neeson. (HD)	Special Ops: Li-ness
8 PM	(31) ★★★½ "Moana" (16, Comedy) Dwayne Johnson. (HD)	The Equalizer (HD)	Burgers Krapopolis		College Ftbl (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards			Dexter (HD)
9 PM		FBI "Sacrifice" (HD)	Local Programs		30 for 30 (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	Franchise	★★½ "American Renegades" (18)	Dexter "Invasion" (HD)
10 PM	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	Sports	"Blended" (14, Comedy) Adam Sandler. (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(05) Dune: Prophecy	★★½ "Immortals" (11) Henry Cavill.	"The Wolf of Wall Street" (13, Crime) (HD)
11 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs		SportsCenter with Scott (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	Big City	Franchise		

SUNDAY

	7:31pm
ABC	Moana ★★★½ (2016, Comedy) Dwayne Johnson, Auli'i Cravalho. In order to save her people, a brave and adventurous teenage girl, helped by a reluctant demigod, sets out to become a master wayfinder. PG (HD)
8:59pm	MAX American Renegades ★★★½ (2018, Action) J.K. Simmons, Sullivan Stapleton. A Navy SEALs team, conducting a mission in war-torn Europe, discovers an immense treasure at the bottom of a Bosnian lake and plans to return it to its owners. PG TV14

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 25, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	To Be Announced	Bang (HD)	"Bodyguard" (21) (R)	Big City	"Trap" Josh Hartnett.	★ "Black Christmas"	(5:30) "GoodFellas" (90) Robert De Niro. (R)
7 PM	Monday Football Baltimore Ravens at Los Angeles Chargers (Live)	Neighbor. Poppa's	9-1-1: Lone Star	The Voice Hopefuls coached. (HD)	(15) To Be Announced Info unavailable.	Bang (HD)	WWE Monday Night Raw (HD)	Big City	(52) Dune: Prophecy	"The Monster" (16) Zoe Kazan.	
8 PM		NCIS (HD)	Rescue: Hi-Surf (HD)			Bang (HD)		(50) Wizards Beyond	Get Millie Black	(32) "Criminal" (16, Crime) Kevin Costner. (R)	Special
9 PM		NCIS: Origins (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Brilliant Minds (HD)		Dad (HD)	(42) "Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard" (21) Ryan Reynolds.	Wizards	Get Millie Black	(44) Get Millie Black	(50) Killing Eve (HD)
10 PM	(15) Local	Local		Local	(15) TBA	Dad (HD)		Jessie	(36) Dune: Prophecy	"Free Fire" (17) Sharlto Copley.	(35) "Inglourious Basterds" (09, Drama) Brad Pitt. (HD)
11 PM	(50) Jimmy Kimmel Live (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Dad (HD)		Bluey			

MONDAY

	8:50pm
PARSHO	Killing Eve "I Have a Thing About Bathrooms" Having narrowly survived an encounter with Villanelle, Eve keeps the mole ensconced in a safe house, where she has an opportunity to extract information. TV14 (HD)
9:35pm	PARSHO Inglourious Basterds ★★★½ (2009, Drama) Brad Pitt, Mélanie Laurent. In WWII, a special unit composed of Jewish-American soldiers violently attacks and kills members of the Third Reich to instill fear in their regime. R (HD)

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	CFP Rankings Show	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	"The Florida" (17) (R)	★★★ "Moonlight" (16)	(5:30) "Just Mercy" (20) Michael B. Jordan.
7 PM	Dancing with the Stars "Finale" (HD)	FBI "Family Affair"	Murder Small	Medical	To Be Announced Info unavailable.	College Basketball Houston vs Alabama (Live)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(07) Get Millie Black	★★★½ "A Star Is Born" (18) Bradley Cooper.	★★★½ "Looper" (12, Action) Bruce Willis. (HD)
8 PM		FBI: International	Accused (HD)	The Irrational (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	Big City	★★★ "Crank" (06) Jason Statham.		
9 PM		FBI: Most Wanted	Local Programs Local info.	The Wall (HD)		College Basketball Rutgers vs Notre Dame	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	Dune: Prophecy	(16) "Dicks: The Musical" (23)	"Pig" (21) (HD)
10 PM	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	Raven Home	"Scream" (96) David Arquette. (R)	(43) "Ted 2" (15) Mark Wahlberg.	"Man Stand."
11 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Family	Scare	ZOMBIES			

TUESDAY

	7:00pm
CBS	FBI "Family Affair" A security guard is killed while helping a pregnant woman, with the killer then abducting the woman and disappearing; OA and Isobel worry about Maggie. TV14 (HD)
8:00pm	HBO Crank ★★★ (2006, Thriller) Jason Statham, Efen Ramirez. A hitman goes on a rampage to obtain revenge after a rival injects him with a poison that will kill him if his adrenaline drops below a certain level. R

WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 27, 2024

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	TBA	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	"Godzilla x Kong: Empire" (24)	"The A-Team" (10)	(5:35) ★★★½ "Divergent" (14) Shailene Woodley.
7 PM	Home Videos (HD)	Survivor "Flip the Win" (HD)	The Masked Singer	Countdown to Macy's	(4:3) To Be Announced Info unavailable.	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	"The Lion King" (94, Family) (G)	"I, Frankenstein" Aaron Eckhart.	
8 PM	The Untold Story of Mary (HD)	The Summit (HD)	(02) The Floor (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	(35) Kiff		"The Art of Self-Defense" (19)	★★★ "Insurgent" (15) Shailene Woodley. (HD)
9 PM		Ghosts	Local Programs Local info.	Chicago P.D. (HD)	(05) To Be Announced Info unavailable.	College Basketball Rutgers vs Alabama (Live)	Law & Order: SVU	Kiff	(05) Get Millie Black		
10 PM	Local	Local		Local			Law & Order: SVU	Raven Home	Franchise	(18) ★★★ "Homefront" (13) Jason Statham. (R)	"The Divergent Series: Allegiant" (16) (HD)
11 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	ZOMBIES	(59) Get Millie Black		

WEDNESDAY

	8:00pm
PARSHO	Insurgent ★★★ (2015, Action) Shailene Woodley, Theo James. In a ruined future Chicago, Tris and Four flee the Eudrite elite, seeking allies and the reason for Tris's family's sacrifice and what it means for the planet. PG-13 (HD)
8:33pm	MAX The Art of Self-Defense ★★★ (2019) Jesse Eisenberg, Alessandro Nivola. After getting attacked by a roaming motorcycle gang, a timid bookkeeper decides to join a neighborhood karate studio to learn how to protect himself. R (HD)

Opinion and Commentary

Shawnee Hills Arts Council seeks ideas on name for theater

By Zack Rowatt for the Shawnee Hills Arts Council

A barren span of brick in downtown Anna is in the process of renewal and needs your help. We have our own names for our theater building at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council but we need your assistance in getting more specific.

The theater building, which hosts more than just drama and music performances, needs a name. The board of the SHAC has thrown around some ideas for consideration amongst themselves trying to further individualize the space to keep pace with the improvements that have taken place cosmetically since the organization assumed care-taking responsibilities over a decade ago.

Seeing as we are a community organization, we are reaching out for public input in the hopes of getting some great feedback from regulars at the arts center, suggestions from newer faces and perhaps even some great ideas from those who may not even know where we are located. For such a big, little town, we on the board all too often hear folks say "I didn't even know Anna had an arts center." News flash for you.

Offering more than just dramatic plays, musicals and gallery showings, the three buildings which the SHAC occupies host artist exhibitions and discussions, literary forums, historic and civic centered events and observances, workshops and periodic classes, amateur and professional music performances, wellness classes and more.

There is something for everyone, which is why everyone is being consulted before we take the big step of christening one of our central spaces. We want it to reflect the community's personality, aspirations, motivations and inspirations.

Anyone who has suggestions for a theater name, perhaps themed around our Little Egypt motif in Southern Illinois, our Annabelle heritage, forested and hilly environment or any other component of our lives here in Union County, is cordially requested to submit potential names for the theater building at 117 West Davie Street.

All submissions must be received by mail (to Shawnee Hills Arts Council, 125 W. Davie St., Anna, Ill. 62906) either post-marked or dropped in our slot or conveyed through Facebook Messenger to the Shawnee Hills Art Center page no later than December 1st.

The board will select four to six of the best submissions at our December meeting and then a platform for voting will be created sometime around the changing of the year, with votes able to be cast again either by mail or voting online.

Visit our website at www.shawneehillsart.com if you need to seek inspiration for a potential name and see more about the organization's history and mission. The winning selection for the theater's name will be announced at an annual meeting of members and patrons at a date to be determined in the first or second quarter of 2025.

Student advisory council meets

State Sen. Dale Fowler, R-Harrisburg, welcomed an estimated 70 high school students from 14 schools to Mountain Dew Park in Marion on Oct. 30 as part of his annual Student Advisory Council.

"I look forward to hosting this event every year and bringing students from all over the 59th Senate District together for a conversation on state government, leadership and the importance of having a voice," Fowler said in a news release. "I'm always so impressed by the students and their willingness and desire to be involved, learn more and embrace the idea of being future leaders in their communities."

Fowler's Student Advisory Council is a hands-on experience designed to teach local area students about public policy, state government and leadership. Each high school in the 59th Senate District in Southern Illinois nominated high school students who have shown an interest in government and public service.

In the morning, students heard from successful community leaders, including Russell Williams, founding director of EThOs at the Citadel; TW Norman, lead pastor at Little Chapel Church; and Rodney Cabaness, owner of Black Diamond.

Students then broke into groups, where they were asked to work together to develop ideas for possible new state legislation to present to the full Student Advisory Council. Fowler spent time during the group discussion with each small group, helping students with their proposals and offering advice on how they could advocate for their issues.

When the students presented their ideas, Fowler helped spur further debate by facilitating questions to the groups about their legislation. The students voted to choose one of the proposals to take up in a mock committee hearing at their next meeting, which is scheduled in the spring at the State Capitol in Springfield.



New animal control facility

An update on progress at a new animal control facility was shared at a regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners which was held Friday morning, Nov. 8. The meeting was at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro. Work had started during the previous week on moving into the new facility, which is located along Kaolin Road between Anna and Cobden. An open house is planned.

Please read this...

Perfume commercials...a supermoon...and other stuff

By Geof Skinner



Friday night light...last week's supermoon was bright and shiny in a clear sky...which made conditions just right for a raccoon to pay a visit to our front porch...again...

'Tis the season...for very strange cologne and perfume commercials to interrupt my television viewing. The commercials, for "fragrances" like Eau de Pepe le Pew, seem to show up every year during the holiday season. Most of the time, this writer does not understand the commercials. Then again, this writer has a pretty simple mind.

During some in-depth research on the internet (the source of all truthful and 100 percent accurate information) Monday evening while drafting this gem, I saw this headline: "Why are perfume commercials so weird?" Guess I'm not the only one... Meanwhile...

Based on the weather forecast I we were seeing early this week, the woolly bear caterpillar I spotted Sunday evening just outside the back door might want to break out the long johns. Or maybe catch a flight south with a flock of Canada geese.

Once again relying on the internet, since I am not an expert on woolly bear colors, I did some "research." The fine folks at the National Weather Service office in La Crosse, Wisconsin (where it's probably winter already) posted an article online with the headline: "Woolly Bear Caterpillar - Winter Predictor Or Not?"

"According to folklore," the article shared, "the amount of black on the woolly bear in autumn varies proportionately with the severity of the coming winter in the locality where the



Nap time? Or sploot time? Or maybe both. A squirrel found a nice tree branch on a Sunday afternoon.

caterpillar is found. The longer the woolly bear's black bands, the longer, colder, snowier, and more severe the winter will be."

The woolly bear I saw Sunday evening was all black. Based on "folklore," and the possibility of a long, cold, snowy and severe winter, I am seriously considering making like that bear that wandered through Southern Illinois last summer and hibernating until next spring. At least I won't have to see any more of those weird perfume commercials.

By the way, did you know that the woolly bear, in addition to be called a woolly worm by some folks, also goes by "Hedgehog Caterpillar"? Found that little tidbit in the same article... Meanwhile...

Rocky and yours truly had a bit of a tete-a-tete in the night time hours last Friday. Tete-a-tete is French for "friendly encounter between a raccoon and a human begin." By the way: Did you know there are raccoons in France? They speak French.

Rocky, as usual, was looking for dinner. He mozied onto our front porch, and then mozied right back off when we turned on the porch light and stepped outside. We went back inside. Turned off the light. Rocky came back. Turned on the light again. Went back out. Rocky left.

Went back in. Yup. Again. Yup. Finally, I just stayed outside to personally greet Rocky when he came back. Rocky approached the porch and saw a two-legged critter in his way. Rocky stood up on his hind legs. We had a stare down. I guess Rocky got bored. Rocky wandered off into the dark.

(For all I know, Rocky might be a she. We did not get close enough to make such a determination.)

Rocky made his (her?) appearance of the bright light of last Friday night's bright and shiny full moon, which was also a supermoon...and the last of four consecutive supermoons, according to science.nasa.gov.

November's supermoon was called the Beaver Moon. For whatever it's worth, the Raccoon Moon won't make an appearance until February. Rocky has plenty of time to get ready...

Along with a woolly bear and a rather self-confident raccoon, how 'bout a few more Critter Sighting Updates...

Fox wandering through neighbors' yard late on a Thursday afternoon. Yup. Last week. Saw the critter on the move as afternoon was easing into evening.

Fox wandering through the park downtown in the village we call home. Yup. Well, sort of. A fellow traveler on The Journey Through Life spotted the critter.

Two white-tailed deer in a field. Yup. Saw them late last Thursday afternoon in a field along Kaolin Road, not far from metropolitan Anna. I'm guessing deer are going to be just a bit skittish this coming weekend.

Turtles in the little pond at the Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro. Nope. Guess the shelled reptiles were hunkering down in the cool and cloudy conditions last Thursday afternoon.

Geese flying overhead on a Sunday morning. Yup. Last weekend. Those were the first geese I have seen this fall, unless you count the ones that seem to stay here year 'round.

Five squirrels at the base of an oak tree right outside our back door. Yup. Monday evening. The critters seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Enough for now...stay warm...

Be cautious: fall is time to watch for deer along roads

While accidents can happen at any time of year, most deer-vehicle incidents occur between dusk and dawn during the months of October, November and December.

Drivers should slow down and stay alert to avoid deer-vehicle collisions this fall when traveling after dark.

Not all deer-vehicle accidents can be prevented, but drivers can reduce their chances of a collision by understanding basic deer behavior and being proactive.

Illinois deer hunting season is underway through mid-January, so deer are on the move more, says Peggy Doty, a University of Illinois Extension educator in energy and environmental stewardship.

"White-tailed deer are crepuscular, which means they are most active during dusk and dawn," Doty says. "In addition, harvest is happening in some parts of the state, which removes many acres of cover for the animals, forcing them to be on the move."

Fall firearm hunters harvest 292 wild turkeys in Illinois

Turkey hunters in Illinois harvested 292 wild turkeys during the 2024 fall firearm season Oct. 19-27.

The harvest total was up 10 percent from 2023, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, reported.

The record harvest was set in 2005, when 1,218 birds were harvested.

This year, 1,756 regular fall firearm season permits were sold, compared to 1,771 last year, IDNR reported. The largest number of permits sold was in 2007, when hunters purchased 4,968 permits.

Fall firearm turkey hunting was open in 56 of Illinois' 102 counties.

The top counties for harvest this year were Jefferson, 17; Jasper, 16; Marion, 16; Jo Daviess, 13; and Cass, 12.

Preliminary data show 57 percent of the harvest were female birds, while 43 percent were male.

Harvest totals for area counties included:

Alexander County: four this year, compared to four last year. Jackson County: 10 this year, compared to four last year.

Johnson County: six this

year, compared to seven last year. Massac County: five this year, compared to two last year. Pulaski County: two this year, compared to one last year.

Union County: 10 this year, compared to eight last year.

Williamson County: five this year, compared to 14 last year.

At 100 to 250 pounds, white-tailed deer are Illinois' largest mammal, according to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website Wildlife Illinois.

The largest populations of deer in Illinois are in wooded areas in watersheds of the major rivers, especially the Mississippi, Rock, Illinois and Kaskaskia rivers and in the Shawnee Hills in Southern Illinois.

Doty offered some tips for motorists. When driving at night, reduce your speed, keep a safe distance from other vehicles and be prepared to stop.

Watch out for deer in areas where they have been spotted in the past. Deer crossing signs are an indicator of this but roadways close to woodlots, field edges or water also require extra caution.

Scan roadsides for "eyeshine," which is the reflection of headlights in the deer's eyes, and use high-beam lights when appropriate.

If a deer crosses the road,

slow down; there may be more deer or they might double back. Alert other motorists to the presence of deer by tapping your brakes or using emergency flashers.

Avoid slamming on the brakes or swerving into traffic or off the road if deer are on the roadway. This can cause a loss of control of the vehicle.

Instead, slow to a stop and wait for the deer to move. Flash your headlights and honk the car horn in short bursts to encourage deer to move off the road.

If a deer is struck, safely pull off the road and assess the situation. Call 911 if the deer is injured. It is illegal for anyone except a law enforcement officer to kill a crippled deer.

Deer killed from a vehicle collision legally can be claimed by any Illinois citizen. Claims must be reported within 24 hours by calling 217-782-6431 or online at deer.wildlifeillinois.org.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Reserve a Thanksgiving Dinner from
First Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Anna

Call (618) 833-5225

(You may leave a voice message with details)
Before noon on Monday, November 25, 2024.

MEAL IS
FREE!

DONATIONS
ACCEPTED!

Delivery will be Thanksgiving Day between 11am and Noon.
Blessings to you from First Evangelical Presbyterian Church.