

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Volume 178, Number 51

Santa Claus plans to be at Jonesboro City Hall from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Saturday. Everyone is invited to come and have treats with Santa...and to write him a letter. Games and other activities also are planned at city hall.



THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

THE TALK AND COBDEN REVIEW

Serving Union County Since 1849

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News Notes

(continued from page 1)

Dense fog blanketed the Union County area starting Sunday evening and continuing into Monday morning. The National Weather Service office in Paducah issued a dense fog advisory for much of the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region which was in effect until 10 a.m. Monday. Low visibility was expected to make driving conditions hazardous.

Union County’s new fiscal year begins on Dec. 1. A combined annual budget and appropriations ordinance for the new fiscal year was on agenda for a regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners set for Wednesday morning, Nov. 26.

The City of Anna continues to work on matters related to the proposed development of a commercial solar energy project on the city’s closed landfill site.

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School portfolio, drawing and ceramics students had their art works displayed recently at the Sharp Museum at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The special exhibition was part of a High School Museum Experience hosted by SIU’s art education students.

A-JCHS has announced the cast for the school’s 2026 spring musical stage production of “Seussical.”

Shawnee School District No. 84 is voicing pride in the upcoming 2026 induction of Shawnee High School graduate Amanda Neathery Baugher into the Basketball Museum of Illinois as a Friend of Basketball. She is the long-time athletic trainer at Collinsville High School.

The Anna Junior High School class of 2026 is thanking the community, and especially Kiki’s CoffeeHouse in Anna, for the support show for last Friday’s first Caffeine in the Car Line fundraiser. Even with the rainy weather, the event was deemed a big success.

Students and staff at Lincoln School in Anna are saying thank you to all of those who have made recent donations to the school’s library.

The new episode of the “Grandparents for Vaccines” Southern 7 podcast features Donna Gaffney and Teri Mills. Both are with the grassroots, volunteer-led organization, Grandparents for

Vaccines. The podcast shares grandparents’ stories about life before vaccines as part of an effort to educate and save lives. The podcast is available for listening through the Southern 7 app, Spotify, at www.southern7.org and on the Southern 7 YouTube channel.

Dr. Tim Taylor, the president of Shawnee Community College, participated in a recent roundtable discussion in Marion that was hosted by Deputy Gov. for Budget and Economy Andy Manar. The event brought together leaders from business, higher education and government to discuss issues that will shape the region’s future.

The Arrowleaf human services organization is inviting its partners, community members and supporters to take a brief stakeholder survey to help strengthen its programs and to expand its impact across Southern Illinois. The survey can be taken online at https://forms.office.com/r/MbVFjm3EkN.

The U.S. Forest Service reports that Christmas Tree Permits for Shawnee National Forest are available for purchase online. With a permit, a tree can be cut down on the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois. Details about designated cutting areas, dates and types of trees that can be cut can be found online at Recreation.gov, where the permits can be purchased.

The Friends of the Shawnee National Forest recently had a 15th anniversary celebration at Alto Vineyards in Alto Pass.

Southern 7 shares tips on preparing for winter

With the days getting chilly, now is a good time to get ready for winter weather before it’s here. The first week of November was Winter Weather Preparedness Week. Southern 7 Health Department encourages everyone to follow some basic tips from the National Weather Service to keep you from being left out in the cold.

Make sure your home emergency kit and winter storm ready. Use sand to improve traction and apply products that melt ice on walkways.

Make sure you have sufficient heating fuel. Regular fuel sources may be cut off. Keep emergency heating equipment and fuel so you can keep at least one room of your house warm enough to

Cost of Thanksgiving dinner for family and friends will cost less than last year

Year	Average Cost for 10
2023	\$61.17
2024	\$58.08
2025	\$55.18

Average cost of Thanksgiving dinner
The American Farm Bureau Federation’s, AFBF, 40th annual Thanksgiving dinner survey provides a snapshot of the average cost of Thanksgiving staples that make up a classic holiday feast for 10, which is \$55.18 or about \$5.52 per person. Provided by American Farm Bureau Federation.

Cooking a Thanksgiving dinner for friends and family will cost less than last year, marking the third straight year of price declines. The American Farm Bureau Federation’s, AFBF, 40th annual Thanksgiving dinner survey provides a snapshot of the average cost of Thanksgiving staples that make up a classic holiday feast for 10, which is \$55.18 or about \$5.52 per person.

This is a 5 percent decrease from 2024. Three years of declines don’t fully erase dramatic increases that led to a record-high cost of \$64.05 in 2022.

The centerpiece on most Thanksgiving tables, the turkey, dramatically decreased in price, which helped bring down the overall cost of dinner. The average price for a 16-pound frozen turkey is \$21.50. That is \$1.34 per pound, down more than 16 percent from last year. While the wholesale price for fresh turkey is up from 2024, grocery stores are featuring Thanksgiving deals and attempting to draw consumer demand back to turkey, leading to lower retail prices for a holiday bird.

Farm Bureau volunteer shoppers checked prices the first week of November. Grocery stores often feature whole turkeys at even lower prices in the days leading up to Thanksgiving. According to the most recent USDA Agricultural Marketing Service data, the average per-pound feature price for whole frozen turkeys declined further during the second week of November.

“It’s encouraging to see some relief in the price of turkeys, as it is typically the most expensive part of the meal,” said AFBF economist Faith Parum, Ph.D. “Farmers are still working to rebuild turkey flocks that were devastated by avian influenza, but

Importance of rural health care providers highlighted

Nov. 20 was National Rural Health Day. Since 2011, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, NOSORH, has set aside the third Thursday of November to celebrate the "Power of Rural" on National Rural Health Day.

The day is an opportunity to bring attention to and honor the efforts of rural healthcare providers, communities, organizations, State Offices of Rural Health and other stakeholders dedicated to addressing the unique healthcare needs of rural America.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, rural health is the health of people living in rural areas, who generally are located farther from health care facilities and other services than people living in urban areas. More than 46 million people in the United States (15 percent of the population) live in rural areas.

People who live in rural areas are generally at higher risk of disease and death than people living in urban areas

overall demand has also fallen. The combination will help ensure turkey will remain an affordable option for families celebrating Thanksgiving.”

The shopping list for Farm Bureau’s informal survey includes turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls, peas, cranberries, a veggie tray and pumpkin pie with whipped cream, all in quantities sufficient for 10 servings.

Half of the ingredients in the survey declined in price, including dinner rolls and stuffing. Low wheat prices helped bring down the cost of items requiring flour.

Items like fresh vegetables and sweet potatoes increased: a veggie tray is up more than 61 percent and sweet potatoes are up 37 percent. Natural disasters partly contributed to the increase. For example, North Carolina, which is the largest grower of the nation’s sweet potatoes, suffered hurricane damage.

Additionally, fresh produce prices tend to be highly volatile and even modest supply-chain disruptions, from weather, labor shortages, transportation delays or regional production setbacks, can trigger sharp, short-term spikes in prices.

The continued shortage of farmworkers and rapidly increasing farm wages also played a role in rising produce costs. It’s important to note that fresh vegetables and potatoes are traditionally low-cost items, so an increase of just a few cents can dramatically affect the cost change percentage year-to-year.

“We are blessed to live in a country that is capable of pro-

ducing such an abundant food supply, and for that we should be thankful,” said AFBF president Zippy Duvall. “Despite modest declines in the cost of a Thanksgiving meal, I know food prices are a real concern for many families, including in rural America. We lost 15,000 farms last year because of factors including historically low crop prices, high supply costs and trade uncertainty, which continue to squeeze farmers and ranchers. Every farm lost is another step toward consolidation and reliance on other countries for our food.

“We urge Congress to address the challenging economic conditions facing farmers to ensure farm families can continue growing the food we all rely on, not just on Thanksgiving, but every day of the year.”

In recognition of changes in Thanksgiving dinner traditions, the Farm Bureau price survey also includes boneless ham, Russet potatoes and frozen green beans, in an expanded menu. Adding these foods to the classic Thanksgiving menu increases the overall cost by \$21.91, to \$77.09.

This year’s national average cost was calculated using surveys completed with pricing data from all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Farm Bureau volunteer shoppers checked prices in person and online using grocery store apps and websites. They looked for the best possible prices without taking advantage of special promotional coupons or combined purchase deals.

The AFBF Thanksgiving dinner survey was first con-

ducted in 1986. The informal survey provides a record of comparative holiday meal costs over the years. Farm Bureau’s classic survey menu has remained unchanged since 1986 to allow for consistent price comparisons.

Individual Prices
16-pound turkey: \$21.50 or \$1.34 per pound (down 16.3 percent). 14-ounces of cubed stuffing mix: \$3.71 (down 9 percent). Two frozen pie crusts: \$3.37 (down .8 percent). Half pint of whipping cream: \$1.87 (up 3.2 percent). One pound of frozen peas: \$2.03 (up 17.2 percent). One dozen dinner rolls: \$3.56 (down 14.6 percent). Misc. ingredients to prepare the meal: \$3.61 (down 4.7 percent). 30-ounce can of pumpkin pie mix: \$4.16 (up .1 percent). One gallon of whole milk: \$3.73 (up 16.3 percent). Three pounds of sweet potatoes: \$4.00 (up 37 percent). One-pound veggie tray (carrots and celery): \$1.36 (up 61.3 percent). 12-ounce bag of fresh cranberries: \$2.28 (down 2.8 percent).

Regional Averages
AFBF analysis revealed regional differences in the cost of the meal. The cost for the classic meal was the most affordable in the South at \$50.01, followed by the Midwest at \$54.38, the Northeast at \$60.82 and the West at \$61.75.

The expanded meal (classic meal plus boneless ham, Russet potatoes and green beans) was the most affordable in the South at \$71.20, the Midwest at \$76.33, the Northeast at \$82.97 and most expensive in the West at \$84.97.



Grand Champion
Reese Lofton of Jonesboro recently competed at the Racking Horse World Celebration Championship in Shelbyville, Tenn. on her horse “I AM HOOKED” owned by Reese Lofton and the Meisenheimer Family of Jonesboro. Reese won the World Grand Championship Juvenile age 13 – 17 Specialty Action. Reese, an Anna-Jonesboro Community High School junior, has been showing this horse all through the 2025 show season and has been undefeated throughout the season. Last year, she was Reserve Juvenile World Grand Champion on a different horse “Pumped Up Kix” and was determined this year to win on her new horse. Her family is very proud of Reese and her riding skills, hard work, and determination to win.

HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING PLANNED

The Union County Hospital District Board of Directors will meet on December 4, 2025 for a regular business meeting at 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.

Union County Alliance of Churches Recommendations

1 Thanksgiving Worship, Kornthal, Sun 11/23 - 2PM
Potluck later at Old Depot-Anna at 6PM
2 “The Closet” clothing for everyone at your price, next door to Dollar General – Anna.
3 “The Old Depot” 6 pm. Free dinner, live praise, fellowship, everyone welcome, come as you are.

Alliance of Churches (618)-614-2974

P.A.S.T. and BACK PORCH COMPANY PRESENT
CAROLS AT CANDLELIGHT
A concert of Christmas tunes to benefit St. Anne's Historic Church
WHEN: Sunday, December 7, 2025 2:00 and 4:00
WHERE: St. Anne's Historic Church
507 S. Main St., Anna, Illinois

The concerts are FREE. Any donations will go to P.A.S.T. and St. Anne's Historic Church.
Parking one block east at Stinson Memorial Library.

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Christmas in Cobden celebration set for Dec. 6

Christmas in the Village of Cobden celebrates its 17th year on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The Dashing Through the Village 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run starts at 9 a.m.

Craft and food vendors, free s'mores courtesy of the Lions Club, bounce houses and inflatable games, a petting zoo and Staley Farm miniature horses are some of the events available.

All events are in the downtown park and throughout the village.

The Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a craft fair and an art show and sale, while St. Joseph Church is having a traditional Christmas bazaar along with a soup luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Santa and Mrs. Claus are at the Old Feed Store from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with free goody

Reindeer 5K Run/Walk is a Payne family tradition

Tammy Payne shared, “We are from Bolingbrook, Herrin, Makanda and Marion, Illinois, also from St Charles, Mo and Weatherford, Texas. We have runners, who have run the Boston, Chicago, and New York marathons, lots of local races, and some are on jr high, high school and college track and cross country teams.”

“In 2023 our little Evie ran her first race at your race and won! She was 2 and our family was celebrating her adoption. So that made it extra fun. She was officially adopted in October 2023,” Tammy continued. “Your race has officially become a loved family tradition. It’s fun to watch everyone coming together and cheering each other on. Great family time! My grandson, Thomas, a college student and a runner, won his first ‘overall race winner’ at your race in 2022.”

Thomas shared his feelings about the Reindeer 5K Run/Walk. “Tradition brings family together. Family brings bonds. And bonds, bring memories. The Reindeer 5k and 1 mile Run/Walk has been a fun event for me and my family for the past few years where we can all get together and burn all the calories we had just gained from Thanksgiving dinner and celebrate afterwards.”

“My family is full of very

Arts council hosts the musical “Secret Garden”

The musical “Secret Garden” is set to be performed on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council in Anna.

The annual children’s production is being directed by Jaylyn Althoff with music directed by Beverly Bain.

This classic of children’s literature is re-imagined in musical-style by composer Lucy Simon and Marsha Norman.

Orphaned in India, 11-year-old Mary Lennox returns to Yorkshire to live with her embittered, reclusive uncle Archibald and his disabled son Colin. The estate’s many wonders include a magic garden which beckons the children with haunting melodies and the “Dreamers,” spirits from Mary’s past who guide her through her new life.

Worship at Kornthal
The Alliance of Churches worship at Kornthal will be held at 2pm, Sunday, December 23rd. Kornthal is located 2 miles south of Jonesboro off Illinois 127. Coming up, Christmas at Kornthal, December 9th at 6:30 pm.

Union County CEO hosting two holiday-themed events

The Union County CEO (UCCEO) class of 2026 has announced this year’s class business. The high school program for young entrepreneurs will be hosting a “Run, Skate, and Celebrate” event on Saturday, Nov. 29, and “The Path to Success” CEO Christmas 5K run on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The UCCEO team has invited the community to participate in these two festive events celebrating health, entrepreneurship and holiday cheer.

Run, Skate, and Celebrate will feature a full day of activities, including ice skating and bounce houses as well as crafts, a scavenger hunt and a pet parade.

The activities will take place at the Davie Street Plaza & Pavilion in Anna from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29.

All-day skating passes for the ice rink are \$15, with one-hour passes costing \$10.

A poster contest will celebrate community and holiday spirit, with winners receiving a free all-day skating pass and public recognition.

There will also be a vendor fair featuring local merchants and entrepreneurs. To reserve a booth, complete the registration form on the Christmas in Downtown Anna Facebook page.

Union County CEO social media will post updates on how to purchase skating passes, family bundle deals and other important event information.

“We want to create an atmosphere of joy and community connection,” said Melanie Smith, Union County CEO Facilitator. “This event highlights our students’ entrepreneurial skills while uniting local families in the spirit of the holidays.”

Holiday meal celebration’s costs can challenge budget

The Thanksgiving season is a time of year many people associate with eating food and spending time with others.

“Balancing your spending with enjoyment can be a challenge. Find ways to feel good about what you are spending on food and family time by making a plan. Decide how much money you have to spend on this occasional expense and find ways to make the most of it,” University of Illinois Extension financial educator Jamie Mahlandt said.

Mahlandt shared some tips in an article which appeared online on how to save on the cost of meals to celebrate the holiday.

When preparing or contributing to a meal, consider the cost of the ingredients you are using or purchasing and try to find the best deal. Processed ingredients can sometimes cost more than raw ingredients. For example, do you purchase raw carrots or pre-peeled and sliced? Sometimes, the extra cost may be worth the convenience, but if you have the time to prepare your ingredients, you may find a cost savings. Compare prices on your necessary ingredients and shop sales when possible. Plan your shopping trip in advance by making a list before going to the store.

If you need an ingredient that you don’t have on hand, look for cost-saving substitutes. Illinois Extension provides resources on options for recipe substitutions that can help to save money on ingredients that you do not have the money to buy right now or that you do not have on hand. Some substitutions may work better for some recipes than others.

For example, certain recipes may work better with fresh ingredients, but for others, canned or frozen ingredients may be more cost-effective and still achieve the same results. Trying to use what you have on hand before buying more can also help reduce food waste in your household.

Christmas open house set at historic site

The Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site, the oldest surviving capitol building in Illinois, is scheduled to host public candlelight tours the evening of Saturday, Dec. 13, as part of the site’s annual Christmas open house.

The free festivities are scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Visitors will find the building illuminated by more than 150 candles and trimmed with holiday decorations along the tour. The first 100 families to visit will receive a free holiday ornament. The site will collect non-perishable or canned food items from visitors to donate to the local food pantry.

The Vandalia Statehouse, operated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, served as the state capitol from 1836 to 1839. The site, at 315 W. Gallatin St. in Vandalia, is open to the public 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, call 618-283-1161.



More Thanksgiving Letters From Area Children

(The letters are printed as they were submitted)

Lincoln Elementary School

Kindergarten Mrs. Alsip

Put it in the oven. Cook it. Eat it! Hawkin

Put it in the oven then you take it out. I don't know the numbers. It's a long time. Lela

Go to the turkey store. Pick it out. Get the biggest one. Take it home. Put it in a pan with salt. Cook it for 2 minutes. Then we eat it! Jacie

Go to the forrest and get it. Take it home. Put lots of ingredients in it. Put it in the oven for 20 minutes. Then we eat it! Maverick

First sugar, flour, then marinate the turkey with everything in the kitchen. Then take it out of the marinade. Then put it on a plate. Lastly eat it all by yourself. Mo

Chocolate chip cookies, mushrooms, apples, candy, limes, lemons, then put it all in the oven to cook. Ian

Mix the turkey with milk then add a huge bottle of powder. Then begin mixing very fast. Allison

Go on a hike to see a turkey and then put it on the stove then eat the turkey. Elle

Put it in the oven. Cook it for 6 years. Take it out of the oven. The eat it. Morgan

Put it on the grill. Cook it 10 minutes. Take it off. Put it on the counter. Eat it. Andrew

Cut it up and then cook it in an oven. Put some bacon on it and some cereal on it and some pumpkins. Levi

Out in the woods and kill it. Bring it inside and put salt on the dead turkey. Put it in the oven and cook it. Then eat it. Lenny

In a oven will salt, pepper and more salt. Cook some other food and put it on the turkey. Put a pencil and eraser on it and cook again. Olivia

I would go to the store and get it then cook it. I would then paint it as spider-man. Tyler

With a pan and a little bit of pickles. And cookies on it. And a chicken wing and juice. Sophia

I would go and buy one from the store. Then I cook it in the stove. Then buy 100 more turkeys. Then save a lot for people that might come to my house. Then put a syringe in it. I would also put glitter and sprinkles on it. And maybe put little bats on the turkey as well. And puts some bats on the inside. Gemma

You get a raw turkey from the store and put it in the stove. Then you decorate it if you want. Decorate it each color. Then you put cat ears, nose and a tail on there. Then bring it to the table. Make more for halloween and some plain. Quinn

Mrs. Sadler

Put it in the oven. Then you eat it. Then you put it away. Jami

Just use lettuce and some pizza. My dad cooks the turkey. My dad puts it in the oven. I eat pizza and just look at the turkey. Lenny

Put it in a oven and then turn the oven handles. Then you put some pumpkin spice on it. Then you put some salt and pepper on it. Then I eat it. McKenna

You put it in a pan. Then you cook it. Then you cook it on the grill. You put seasoning on it to make it taste good. Put butter on it to help grill it. Then you eat it with a fork. Leelah

You put it in the oven. You wait for it to cook. You take it out of the turkey. You eat the turkey. Madi

In the oven, with sprinkles on it and pom poms and put turkey seasoning on it and give it to mom and dad. Piper

In the kitchen on the stove. Then cut it up and eat it with dressing. Missy

You just make it! And put it on a sandwich and eat with family. Lukas

In a pot, with salt and pepper. Cook it on a stove. Some garlic on it, and some ketchup. With food coloring to make it rainbow. Then cook it in a oven.

You catch a turkey. Then you put on a pan. Then you put in the stove to cook. When it beeps you take it out. You put it on the table, then eat it. Realynn

You get a turkey, then you cook it in the oven. We then cut it up and eat it. Nataly

Put it in the oven. Must put it on a plate, add seasoning, then eat it. Jaxon

Cook the turkey to make all your chicken. After that then it goes in the microwave like my mom does. After eat the turkey that looks like chicken. Angel

Cut it in pieces and then put it in the oven. Then it goes on a tiny place, blow in it for a minute, then eat it all. Jade

Catch the turkey then you cook it. Cook huge turkey for 3 hours then take it out. Then eat the turkey so you are not hungry. You catch a lot of turkeys. Aiden

Get its feathers off then put it in the oven. Then eat the turkey. Throw away the trash. Blake

Ms. Rose

Put the turkey in the microwave. After that put whipped cream on it. Bentley

You use water to cook it and then cut it up so everyone can eat. Elliana

Cook the turkey for only 10 minutes so everyone can have a piece. Then eat it. Denver

Put turkey in the oven then eat it and find a turkey. Connor

Pit it in the oven then you put purple art on it. Then you home with your family. Karly

I put the turkey in the microwave then take it out. Then eat it. Allie May

Put it in the oven. Cook it for 10 minutes. Show my mom to see if I cooked it good. Lily

Put it on a pot for 10 minutes. Sloan

Put it in the oven for 5 hours then save it for later. Willow

Crispy, juicy, and the skin with mash potatoes, green beans, and cranberry sauce. The salt and the pepper too. Also a 2 liter of Pepsi. William

Put it in the oven, chop off its neck, sometimes with pumpkin cream. Cooper

You get once and you put it in the oven. You chop it up. Then you eat it. Kaylee

Put it in the oven. Then put it on a giant plate. All of my family comes and eats it. Gracie

In an oven, put some sauce on it. Get a place, a fork, and eat it, make cookies, turkey cupcakes, with candy corn for the beak. Grayson

Kill a turkey, put it in the oven with salt. Then cut it up so everyone gets a piece. Decorate the table with some fancy stuff, some good drinks and add some fancy music and fancy silverware. Clark

I would cook it with chicken. And add some meat with it. Then add some sauce. Then add some ketchup. Blakely

You put it in the oven for 25 hours. Then put some salt on it. Then add some pepper. Then I put the turkey and pumpkin pie on the table. I ad two bones in my turkey. I then add a bowl of blueberries. Cook it for another 25 hours then add 4 suckers to it. Everly

First Grade McFarland

I'm thankful for my pets cus I luv my pets and I luv my mom and dad. Olivia

I'm thankful for teachers be cus they help us learn. I'm thankful for Jesus cause he made us. Sloan

I'm tankful for angles because they pray. Soldiers protect us. Leo

I am thankful for my toys because I can play. I am thankful for my mom and my dad. Evie

I am thankful for my friends. And I'm thankful for my toys. Brooklynn

I'm thankful for Jesus because he help the world. I love school because they teach. Meadow

I'm thankful for being able to share with my cousin. I'm thankful for the military because they keep our country safe. I'm thankful for Jesus. Kamdyn

I'm thankful for my teachers because they help us learn and for the soldiers because they free us and my mom and dad and my pets because they play with me. Justice

I'm thankful for the janitors because they make our school clean. I'm thankful for my mom and dad. Reece

I'm thankful for the angels because they pray for us soldiers because they protect us . Rhett

I'm thankful for my brothers. I pick up my brothers toys and when my mom tells Axel to do it sutene I do it. Mom ask Owen to take the dog out on the leash. I love Axel mom dad Owen. Lily

I'm thankful for my mom and dad and soldiers and the USA. Emelia

I'm thankful because mom makes cookies. I'm thankful for Santa. Colson

I'm thankful for parents. Jesus is the best and I love school. Jorge

I'm thankful for school and friends because to help my school I push in chairs. Aubrie

I'm thankful for school. Pypier

I'm thankful for the people that make the newspaper. Dax

I'm thankful for toys because I can play. I'm thankful for soldiers because they save our country. Noah

Mrs. Mac

I am thankful for my family friends and my food being able to learn here at school. Harper

I am thankful for my uncle Richard and Jesus. My uncle Richard made me food. J.T.

I am thankful for my brother's dog because he saved my life. There was a bobcat behind me. Cyrus

I am thankful for my family and God. Finno

I am thankful for my family and my cousins and Jesus!! Vivian

I am thankful for my family and dogs and my cats. Connor

I am thankful for my papa. I am thankful for my family and the world. Dylan

I am thankful for my family and Katy also for my friends. Piper

I am thankful for my family because I am a good person. Brooke

I am thankful for Jesus because he is thankful for everyone. Vanessa

I am thankful for my family and my friends and my dog and my cats. Colton

I am thankful for God he made the Earth and for my brother. Maldkhi

I am thankful for too dogs. Everhett

I am thankful for my uncle because he played with me. I love him. Ella

I am thankful for my family and Jesus. Lakelandd

I am thankful for my teacher, friends and family. Also for my toys. Charlie

I am thankful for my teacher and my friends and Jesus. Willow

I am thankful for all of the food that God gives us. This is from Zayn

Second Grade Mrs. Hammer

I'm thankful for many things. First I'm thankful

for God because he created all humans and dogs. Next I'm thankful for my come because if it was freezing outside nothing would warm me up. Last, I'm thankful for my family because when I'm bored they give me something to do. I'm thankful for a lot but things I'm most thankful for are God, home and family. Laxton

I am thankful for many things. First I am thankful for God because he helps us. Next, I am thankful for my family because mom, mawmaw, Paw Paw and my sister they love me. I am thankful for my pets because they are nice. I am thankful for many things. Hannah

I am thankful for many things. I am thankful for God because God is our savior. Next, my family because when I cry they are there for me. Last my home because we wouldn't have a home to live in. I am thankful for many things. Willow

I'm thankful for my family because they love me sometimes. They have to work hard. Next I am thankful for God. Last I'm most thankful for Earth because it helps us breathe and I live on it and I love it. I am thankful for many things. Emme

I am thankful for my teacher because I love learning. Second God because I love him. Last, my family because they mean so much to me. I am thankful for many things but I am most thankful for my teachers and God and my family. Lakelynn

I am thankful for many things. First, I am thankful for Jesus because he is the kindest in the land. Second I am thankful for my family because they are always there for me. Last, I am thankful for my pets because without them I would be lonely. I am thankful for many things but I am thankful for Jesus and my family and my pets. Paisly

I am thankful for many things. First I am thankful

for is God because he made all the conties. Next I am thankful for is my family because they love me. Last I am thankful for is my teacher because she makes us smart. I'm thankful for many things but I am most thankful for is God, family and teacher. Isabella

I'm thankful for many things. First I'm thankful for my family because they are really nice to me. Next I'm thankful for my teachers because she is a really nice teacher. Last, I'm thankful for my friends because they like to play with me. The thing that I'm most thankful for is God because he is the one that made this great world. I am thankful for many things. Brennreioh

I am thankful for many things. First, I am thankful for my house because some people don't have them. Next I am thankful for my family because they are there for me. Last I am thankful for my dog when I'm bored I can play with him. I am thankful for many things but I am most thankful for my house, family and dog. Brayden

I'm thankful for many things. First I'm thankful for my mom and dad because I love them and they love me. Next, I'm thankful for my life because I'm here. Last, I'm thankful for food because it's yummy. I'm thankful for many things. Cain

I am thankful for many things. First, I'm thankful for my cat because her name is Corey. Second I'm thankful for my family I love them so much. I am thankful for many things but I'm most thankful for cat, heaven, family Laiklynneo

I am thankful for many things. First I am thankful for my mama because she is so nice. Next I am thankful for my family because my family is there for me. Last I am thankful nana, family and pets. Rocelyn

I am thankful for

many things. First, I am thankful for my family because they are there for me when I need them most. Next I am thankful for my bed because I can have a good place to sleep. Last, I am thankful for my dirt bike because I can have a good thing to ride. I am thankful for many things but I'm thankful for my family, bed and my dirt bike. Camdero

I am thankful for many things. First, I am thankful for my home because that keeps my family warm and safe. Next, I am thankful for my family because they love me. Last, I am thankful for my food because that helps me grow. I am thankful for many things, but I am most thankful for my home, family, food. Aubree

I am thankful for many things. First I am thankful for my family because they help me when I'm sick. Second, I'm thankful for my pets because they snuggle. Last I'm thankful for food because it helps me stay alive. I am thankful for many things but I am most thankful for family, pets, food. Lena

I am thankful for many things. First I am thankful for my family because they bevtect me. Next I am thankful for friends because they are always there for me. Last I'm thankful for God. He is always saves me. I am thankful for family, friends and god.

Mrs. Rich

I am thankful for everything. My friends are Kylie and Lena. I am thankful for doctors because they can help you. I am thankful for everything for teachers can teach kids math and reading. I am so thankful for school. Danelly

I am thankful for everything. I am thankful for miss Rich. I am thankful for Lincoln School. I am thankful for my friends. I am thankful for a lot of things. Kaylee

I am thankful for everything. I am thankful for my dog. I am thankful for the cops. I am thankful for the army. I am thankful for my house. Aurora

I am thankful for everything! Because the army and they protect us. They save us and they love us. I am thankful for a lot of things. Because Jesus and God is our savior. He loves us. He is so nice. Miller

I am thankful for everything. Thankful for the USA. I am the most thankful for God and Jesus because he made the world. Jesus

I am thankful for my mom and dad. My mom and dad are nice. My mom and dad care for me. I love my mom and dad. Elizabeth

I am thankful for everything! I am thankful for food. I am thankful for water. I am thankful for school. I am thankful for a lot of things. Leila

I am thankful for everything! I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for my school. I am thankful for animals. I am thankful for a lot. Katherine

I am thankful for everything. I love my friends my family and my sisis. I love my teacher Mrs. Rich is nice. I love my family so so so so so much. I am thankful. Kylie

I am thankful for everything. I am thankful for doctors. I am thankful for the school. I am thankful for my mom and dad. I am thankful for a lot of things. Sanui

I am thankful for everything. I am thankful for doctors. I am thankful for God. I am thankful for being alive. I am thankful for a lot of things. Brynlee

I am thankful for everything! I am thankful for my mom and dad. I am thankful for water and food. I am thankful for a lot of things. Lawson

I am thankful for

everything. I am thankful for animals because if we did not have them we would not have food. I am thankful for school because if we did not have it we would not be smart. I am thankful for water because if we did not have it we would not live. Avery

I am thankful for everything! I am thankful for family! I am thankful for church! I am thankful for my home! I am thankful for a lot of things. Preston

I am thankful for everything! I am also thankful for my family. And I am also thankful for food and water. I am also very thankful for veterans. Beckett

I am thankful for everything! I'm thankful for my dad and mom. I'm thankful for God. I'm thankful for church. I'm thankful for a lot of things. Jonathan

I am thankful for everything! I am thankful for my mom, dad and my little sister Chloe. I am thankful for Earth, god, Jesus and for my friends and cars and trucks. I am thankful for a lot of things. Lena

I am thankful for everything. God and Jesus, they made us. And cops and fire fighters because they save us. Liam

I'm thankful for everything. I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for books. I am thankful for cops. They protect us and keep us safe. I am thankful for a lot of things. Colton

Mrs. Feloni

I am thankful for my wagon, horses, mom, dad, brothers, chickens, teachers and friends. Hazel

I am thankful for my family, my friends, my sister, my grandma and my grandpa. Evelyn

I am thankful for my family and my dad and brother. Jordane

I am thankful for my Mawmaw and Pawpaw, my best friends, my siblings, my dogs and my parents. Ella

I am thankful for my friends, Mrs. Feloni, my mom, my school, my dad, my brother. Ava

I am thankful for my mom and dad and my teacher, my dog my little bother and my sister. Damen

I am thankful for Santa Claus, food, family, friends, games and teachers. Jaxton

I am thankful for love and family and school and food. Rees

I am thankful for my family and friends and teachers and animals. Karlee

I am thankful for my teacher and friends. Iris

I am thankful for my brother and sister. Kinsley

I am thankful for my dog, my mom and dad and my brother. Jaxon

I am thankful for my dog and mom and cat and dad. Calvin

I am thankful for my mom, my little brother, my big brother, my teachers, math, and X-Box One Ryker

I am thankful for my dogs my mom and my brother. Cameron

I am thankful for my cats, family and friends, water and food and oxygen. Liam

I am thankful for my friends my little bro also my family and Ms Feloni. Clayton

I am thankful for Mrs. Feloni, my family. I am thankful for friends and food. My dog and air and cat. Raelynn

I am thankful for my mom because she takes care of me. I am thankful for my friends and family. They are the best! Raelynn



Obituaries

James Allen McRaven

James Allen McRaven, age 78 of Anna, passed away Sunday, Nov. 16, at Deaconess Illinois Medical Center in Marion.

He was born on Dec. 10, 1946 in Anna, the son of Claude and Sophronia (Harwood) McRaven.

Allen married Louise Schultz on Oct. 27, 1966. She lost her life due to childbirth complications with their son, Keith Allen McRaven, born on April 18, 1970. Keith passed away after an automobile accident on August 28, 1993.

Despite experiencing such tragic loss of loved ones in his life, Allen remained a constant, steady pillar for the rest of the family.

Allen married Kay Whiteside on March 9, 1973 in Vienna. He and Kay enjoyed a loving marriage of over 47 years until her passing in 2020.

Allen is survived by nieces and nephews, Wesley Penrod, Mitch McRaven, Cindy Penninger, Karen Rumfelt, Tammy McRaven, Allen Wade Penrod and Amy Schaefer; many great and great-great nieces and nephews; good friend and neighbor, Debbie; other relatives and many friends. In addition to his son and spouses, he was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Howard, Louise, David and Martha McRaven.

Allen was a graduate of the Anna-Jonesboro High School class of 1964. He honorably served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam Conflict. He was a lifetime member of Carroll P. Foster Post 3455 of the VFW. He



worked for many years and retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

He loved children and enjoyed encouraging them, always with a supportive presence and kind words. Known as beloved “Uncle Allen” to many, his wisdom, good nature and smile will be missed.

Funeral services for James Allen McRaven were held on Nov. 19 at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro with Ken Wilson officiating.

Interment followed in the Jonesboro Cemetery. Graveside military rites will be conducted by Carroll P. Foster Post 3455 of the VFW and the Army Funeral Honors Team.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Carroll P. Foster Post 3455 of the VFW. Envelopes will be available at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home.

To visit Allen’s memorial page and leave online condolences for his family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com



Carl Gene Langston

Carl Gene Langston, age 87, of Anna, passed away on Monday, Nov. 17, 2025 at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born on Sept. 8, 1938 to Webster L. and Margie L. (Harmon) Langston in Ullin, Ill.

On Nov. 26, 1959, he married Barbara Sue Boomer and they have been together over 65 years.

Carl served proudly in the United States Army for two years where he was part of Operation Big Lift during the Cuban Crisis to see how fast they could get the whole 2nd armored military division from Texas to Germany.

He worked at Sykes Motor Company in Dongola as the Parts Manager and later worked at Rudd Ford and finally retired from Vogler Ford after 30 years.

Carl loved the St. Louis Cardinals and was a fast pitch softball player.

Survivors include his wife Barbara; children, Donna (Kirby) Patterson and Terry Langston; grandchildren, Lane (Ashley) Patterson, Amanda (Jesse) Glasco, and Lindsey (Jordan) Adams; great-grandchildren, Averie Glasco, Jax Glasco, Reid Patterson, Lenore Patterson, Jensen Adams, and Larken Adams; special nephew, Alan Dale (Debbie) Mighell; cousins, Frank, John, and Sam



Brookhouse; aunt Marilyn Langston; along with other relatives and friends, and Joan Jones, who helped the family in many ways.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his uncles, Bobby Langston, Joe Langston, and Gerald Langston.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, November 24 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Bon Reynolds officiating at Crain Funeral Home in Anna.

Interment with full Military Honors by the Illinois National Guard Honors Team will follow the service at Casper Cemetery in Anna.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to the donor’s choice.

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



Ludine Copeland

Ludine Copeland, age 104 of Anna, went home to her Savior on Nov. 20, 2025. Ludine was born April 21, 1921 the daughter of Henry “Stucco” and Elizabeth “Liza” (Messamore) Brown.

Ludine grew up in the “Bottoms” in Union and Alexander Counties, helping her parents farm.

Ludine accepted Christ as her personal Savior as a girl at the Ware Baptist church during a revival. This was during a hard frozen winter so her parents drove the family in the snow to Grand Tower so she could be baptized indoors in the new Baptistry at the Grand Tower Baptist church.

Ludine attended 3 different one-room schools growing up: Lamer, Saratoga, and McClure schools. She was a proud member of the first graduating class of Wolf Lake Community High School in 1940.

Ludine married Carol “Dick” Copeland on Jan. 13 in 1944. He preceded her in death on March 11, 1993.

While Ludine's husband served honorably in the South Pacific during WWII, Ludine aided the war effort by working at the Florsheim Shoe Company in Anna secretly making Army boots and ammo belts with a few of her best friends.

After the war, Ludine and Carol bought a home in Jonesboro and raised their three girls there. Ludine attended the First Baptist Church of Jonesboro where she brought her three girls and served teaching little ones and later had fun serving in the church library and enjoyed an active Sunday School class and the Women's Mission group.

Ludine loved gardening and always maintained a large vegetable garden and many beautiful flowers. She read constantly and traveled as much as she could. Her favorite trips were to Holy Land.

Ludine returned to work for a while in the Cutting dept of the 'new' Florsheim Shoe Co. She really enjoyed many friends there and especially enjoyed being around the young people working around her.

Ludine lived in her home in Jonesboro until she turned 90 in 2011. Ludine became one of the first residents at River to River Senior Living in Anna. Ludine loved her time there with her many friends. She enjoyed the trips, parties, Bingo,



Puzzle sessions, reading all of their library books and working in the General Store there.

Ludine hated to leave her home at The Voyage as it is now called but her health was declining, and she moved at the age of 104 to Manor Court in Carbondale. Ludine peacefully passed away there.

Ludine is survived by her three daughters: Karen (Ron) Hubbs of Anna, Pam Kaplan of Cooper City, FL, and Kathy (Robin) Pengress of Jonesboro. Four grandchildren: Tim (Stacy) Hubbs of Jonesboro, Jessica Kaplan of Davie, FL, Eric Pengress of Anna, Samantha (Brad) Dawson of Anna. Six great grandchildren: Jacob Hubbs of Anna, Nathan Hubbs of Jonesboro, Elizabeth Kaplan of Davie, FL, Carson Pengress of Anna, Kayma Dawson of Anna and Sawyer Dawson of Anna. Special nieces: Elaine (Kevin) Lasher of Cape Girardeau, MO and Sue Brown Fuller of Indianapolis, IN. Special nephew, Kevin (Amy) Cain of Cape Girardeau, MO. She was preceded in death by her parents, her loving husband of 49 years Carol, her beloved brother Collin Brown and sister in law Janet Knight Brown and her beloved little sister Margaret Brown Cain and brother in law Edgar Cain, her son in law Jerry Kaplan, grandson Jonathan Pengress, great Granddaughter Caitlyn Pengress, nephew Ron Cain and special cousins Harold Parmley and Gerald Parmley, many friends, neighbors, co-workers and classmates.

Funeral services were on Monday, Nov. 24, 2025 at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with Pastor Perry Williams officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Jonesboro Baptist Church Library or to Hospice of Southern Illinois. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

Virginia Carole Kinder Watkins

The family of Virginia “Carole” Kinder is sad to announce her death on Nov. 6, 2025, age 90.

Carole was born on a cold day, Feb. 8, 1935 at Hale Willard Hospital, Anna, Ill.

Carole’s parents were Maude Rhodes and Virgil Leland Kinder who were lifelong residents of Union County. They lived for almost 60 years on a farm south of Jonesboro on Route 146.

Carole was baptized in the Jonesboro Methodist Church; she was a Charter member in the Methodist Church of Schaumburg, Ill and a member of Valencia Methodist Church in Placentia, Calif.

For her first seven school years, Carole walked to Tripp Elementary School before transferring to Anna Junior High in 1948-49. If not for transferring, Carole would have been the only student in her 8th grade class at Tripp.

She attended Anna-Jonesboro Community High School graduating in the Class of 1953. Carole’s father was employed in the demolition of the Hale-Willard hospital and construction of the gymnasium where her class graduated.

During Carole’s schooling in Anna, she spent many hours at Stinson Memorial Public Library. This experience instilled a deep connection with learning and a life-long interest in genealogy.

Carole earned a scholarship to Mac Murray College for Women in Jacksonville, Illinois, where she attended from 1953 to 1955. She then attended Southern Illinois University - (SIU), Carbondale graduating with a degree in Merchandising.

Carole was a sales associate at Marshall Field’s & Company, Chicago working in the Millinery Section and Import Bazaar where she was trained to decorate Marshall Field’s famous holiday windows.

In 1958 Carole married Robert Cowley and they lived in Chicago and Schaumburg where they raised their three children,



Carole was working for Uarco Business Forms in Barrington when in 1978, the family relocated to Southern California. Both she and her husband each were fortunate to transfer to positions with their respective companies.

She was also employed for fourteen years with the Hanes Converting Co. in the Los Angeles area. She then retired and began traveling the world. During that time she married Richard Watkins.

Carole belonged to the Mojave Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) of Fullerton, Ca...Her patriot connection is Joseph Rheinhardt Rhoades, her 3rd great-grandfather who served in the Revolutionary War.

Carole continued her research of both the Rhoades/Rhodes and Kinder families. Her kinder grandparents lived in Pine Hills area and her Rhodes grandparents on the Trail of Tears Road in Union County.

Carole lost her father, Virgil in 1986 and her mother in 1992, Brother Harold Richard in 1997, sister-in-law Flora in 2003. She also lost her beloved cousins Wilma Kinder Schafer, Kay Smith Michels and Bill Boyd.

Carole leaves her children Scott, Robin, and Ramona Cowley and two granddaughters Kaitlin and Kelci Cowley-Deyoe, all of California. And, local cousin Linda LaFoon.

Memorials may be made to the P.A.S.T.organization of Union County.

Alaina Graham, age 23 of Buncombe, passed away Friday, Nov. 21, 2025.

She was born Feb. 11, 2002, the daughter of Larry Graham and Becky Jean Rambeau.

Alaina is survived by her loving father, Larry Graham of Buncombe; four brothers, Cody, Zach and Ryan Stanley, Gregory Graham; two nieces, Serenity Graham and Sophie Wilson; paternal grandmother, Linda Murray of Anna; maternal grandmother, Ruth Rambeau of Anna; aunts and uncles, Susan (Gary) Wright of Cobden, Cathy Sharp of Cobden, Jerry (Kathy Ann) Rambeau of Lick Creek, Pam Rambeau of Anna, Natalie (Jim) Rotramel of Herrin, and Jennifer (Timothy) Ting of Carbondale; fur babies, Ace and Pinky; numerous cousins; other extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Becky Jean Rambeau-Tellor; maternal grandfather, Jimmy Rambeau; and uncle, James Graham and her beloved fur baby, Avalanche.

Alaina was of Christian faith. She worked for the Voyage in Anna as a CNA. She loved the outdoors, laughing,

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES

Stella May (Toler) Glasco

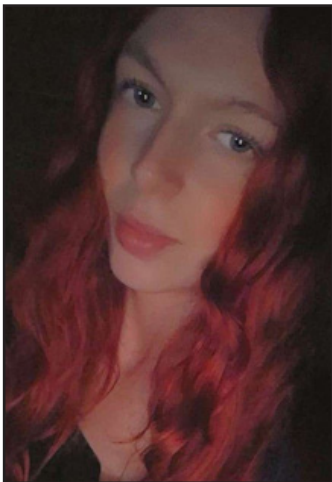
Stella Glasco, age 94 of Cobden, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025 at her daughter’s home in Cobden.

She was born July 2, 1931 in Cobden, the daughter of William “Red” and Viola (Yates) Toler. She married Paulie Glasco on Nov. 12, 1948. Her preceded her in death on March 19, 2012.

Stella is survived by her children, Kay Mathis, Brenda Melfi, and Bruce Glasco; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sister, Barbara Molter, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Paulie Glasco; son, Mike Glasco, and brother, Bob Toler.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Cobden.

Graveside services for Stella Glasco were on Nov. 25 at the Cobden Cemetery. Interment



reading a good book and spending time with her family.

In school Alaina excelled, she was an honor student, winning awards for her creative writing.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025 at the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with Bro. Bobby Richardson officiating. Interment will be in the Casper Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 12 p.m. until the service time at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 30, 2025 at the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna. To view the obituary and leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna in charge of arrangements.



will immediately followed.

Memorial donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of Cobden. Envelopes will be available at the cemetery.

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

Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna in charge of arrangements.

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

This past Sunday, Nov. 23, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in our morning service, and his message talked about “Religion or Relationship,” because Christianity is all about a relationship with Christ.

Religion creates burdens, but relationship with Jesus creates blessings. The believer’s relationship should be about longing to be with Christ.

The text was in the second chapter of the book of Mark, found in the New Testament.

Alex Palmer followed the Lord in baptism during our morning worship service. Welcome to the church family, Alex!

Music Dee Rose led in worship accompanied by praise team members: Rodger Goines, Joyce Hill, Marion Hill and Sharon Morgan. Dee York played the piano. Dee and the Praise Team sang “Thank You, Lord,” as a special.

Our service was sent via transmitter station 87.9 FM for those who want to listen via the radio. The service was also live streamed on Facebook, so if you missed it, you still have an opportunity to view it. Please check our Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, for the videos and latest info on church events.

This week’s activities include the Men’s Bible Study at 6 p.m., Monday, Nov. 24; our Newsletter Folding Team will meet Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 9 a.m., and there will be a Baby Shower for Jacob and Madyson Ellis on Saturday, Nov. 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, there will be no Dig-In Children’s program this Wednesday, and the church office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28.

Recent birthdays: Valerie Pender Heins, born Nov. 23; Jerry W. Hunter, Nov. 25; Mark Mosby and Tony Quick, both born Nov. 27, and Lucas Tehandòn, Nov. 28. Happy birthday to all!

Currently, our regular schedule for worship at Jonesboro First Baptist includes Sunday School classes on Sundays at 9 a.m.; Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m.; both Youth for 6th-12th grades and Sunday evening worship at 6 p.m. Our Children’s Dig-In Program meets on Wednesdays, from 6-8 p.m. Youth 7th-12th grades meet 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays. Our Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study also meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

View Obituaries Online at annanews.com

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

Sunday, Nov. 23
The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on Nov. 23. Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team.
The message “Gratitude Is Not Optional For The Believer” was brought by Pastor Wright from 1 Thessalonians 5:18, 1 Chronicles 16:34, Psalm 34:8, Lamentations 3:22-23, Colossians 3:17, Romans 10:9.
The Nazarene Missions Poverty Dinner was held on Sunday evening, Nov. 23 with Jessica Elkins, NMI president, giving the statistics of the poverty

level in our world, state and in the city of Anna. Every one was served a bowl of soup, crackers and water to drink.
The Poverty Dinner is an activity to help teach and showcase what dinner time could be like for people that deal with being chronically hungry. Communion was served and led by Pastor Wright at the close of the service.
No Wednesday services on Nov. 26
Sunday, Nov. 30
Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Ser-

vice-10:35 a.m.
No Evening Service
Wednesday, Dec. 3
Wednesday Night Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.
Youth Group in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
Gift Of Christmas from 1 to 4 p.m.
Need time to wrap gifts or go shopping? Let us have your kids (Kindergarten – 4th Grade) for a Christmas Story and fun crafts.
You may contact the church by calling the church office at 618-833-6702 and leaving a message if necessary or by calling Pastor Wright at 618-534-7103

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Cissi Cuthbertson did our Call to Worship which was on the Providence of God.
“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the child of God.”
Our Worship Team led in, Goodness of God, Graves into Gardens and Holy Forever.
Pastor Lupe’s sermon title was “The God Who Sustains” Highlights from his sermon included, Trusting God means leaning on His wisdom even

when our circumstances make no sense. It is choosing to believe His promises over our feeling and fears. Trust grows when we surrender control and recognize that His strength is greater than our limitations. True trust remains steady, not because life is easy, but because God is faithful. When we trust Him fully, we discover a peach that carries us through every season.
Our Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. and is for all ages. Our Worship Service and Children’s Worship begins at 10:15 a.m.. Our bus runs for

both of these services. Please call our church office to ask about being picked up.
Our church is located at 409 Morgan Street in Anna. Our phone number is 618-833-5416.
Our facebook is Facebook.com/AnnaFirstBaptistChurch Our email is fbcanna409@gmail.com
Please feel free to stop by and visit our church anytime. Come by on Sunday for Sunday School and Church. We preach and teach Jesus Christ.
We would love to share Him with you and tell you how He has changed our life.
God Bless You and your family is our pray for you.

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Give Thanks



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Have you thought about what you are thankful for this holiday season? Some of us are shy when asked to put our thanks into words around the bounteously laden table. We have so much to be thankful for - our Father in heaven is a great provider. How can we thank Him for our many blessings? Just speak to Him simply, show Him you love and trust Him, ask Him questions and stay close to Him through prayer. Give Him thanks as you worship each week. Happy Thanksgiving!

Weekly Scripture Reading

Psalm 96	Psalm 97	Psalm 98	Psalm 99	Psalm 65	Psalm 66	Psalm 67
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Worship service at 10:45 a.m.
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The Gazette-Democrat

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FOR SALE

For Sale: 6 1/2 Acres Alto Pass Rattlesnake Prairie Rd Offers Wanted 618-638-2249

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK, a National Chartered Bank, Plaintiff, vs ANDREW H. SADLER, and MIKA L. SADLER, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TAX LIEN UNIT, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. Case No.: 2025-FC-5 NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above captioned matter on 9th day of September, 2025, the Sheriff in Union County, will by public sale on December 17th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Union County Courthouse, in Jonesboro, Illinois, sell at public venue to the highest and best bidder, for cash, or cashier's check drawn on a federally or state chartered bank or savings and loan, the following described real estate:

A PARCEL OF LAND BEING A PART OF THE SOUTH-WEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE THIRD

PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION, THENCE N 84°32'19" W 21.19 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION TO A POINT IN THE CENTERLINE OF PETRAS LANE, THENCE ALONG SAID CENTERLINE THE FOLLOWING SIX (6) CALLS: THENCE N 59°19'43" W 147.24 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE N 50°26'25" W 173.45 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE N 82°07'18" W 515.70 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE N 83°38'45" W 197.73 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE N 87°17'07" W 207.38 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE S 89°37'34" W 126.29 FEET TO A POINT IN THE WEST LINE OF SAID QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION, THENCE N 00°16'12" E 330.52 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTH 15 ACRES OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER, THENCE S 84°32'19" E 1331.29 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTH 15 ACRES TO A POINT IN THE EAST LINE OF SAID QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION, THENCE S 00°33'49" W 492.99 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 10.37 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

SAID PARCEL BEING SUBJECT TO THE EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY OF PETRAS LANE, AND ANY OTHER RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND EASEMENTS, RECORDED OR OTHERWISE. ALL SITUATED IN THE COUNTY

OF UNION, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Potential buyers may contact John R. Schneider of the law firm of Johnson, Schneider & Ferrell, L.L.C., 212 North Main Street, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, Phone Number 573-335-3300 for information regarding this real estate.

At said sale, the Court will give the purchaser a certificate showing the amount of the bid, a particular description of the property sold, and the time when the purchaser will be entitled to a deed for such property unless same shall have been redeemed according to law.

Keri Clark Circuit Clerk Document prepared by: JOHN R. SCHNEIDER JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C. 212 North Main Street Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 Telephone: 573-335-3300 Facsimile: 573-335-1978 www.johnsonschneider.com 8221-958469

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN PROBATE ESTATE OF MARTHA A. COLEMAN, DECEASED. NO. 2025-PR-21 NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors and any unknown heirs at law of MARTHA A. COLEMAN of the death of MARTHA A. COLEMAN, of Anna, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 6 2025, to CHRISTELL A. FOSTER, of 213 Apple Lane., Anna, IL 62906, 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 13, 2026, 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 7, 2025. CHRISTELLA A. FOSTER CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC ELVIS C. CAMERON ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR 205B N. MAIN ST. ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906 PHONE: 618-833-2220 ARDC# 6244394 8221-959571

TAX DEED NO. 2025TX19 FILED October 31, 2025 TAKE NOTICE TO: LANCE MEISENHEIMER, UNION COUNTY CLERK; REGGE WALKER; THE FIRST BANK & TRUST COMPANY OF MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS AS TRUSTEE U/T/A DATED 6/7/2005, TRUST #437; OCCUPANT: WALKER FUNERAL HOME

& CREMATORY; UNKNOWN OWNERS OR PARTIES INTERESTED; AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS.

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property:

A parcel of land forming a portion of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Company's abandoned 100 foot wide Sparta District right-of-way situated in the Southwest Quarter of Section Ten (10), Township Eleven (11) South, Range Two (2) West of the Third Principal Meridian at Alto Pass, Union County, Illinois, said right-of-way being more particularly described as follows: From a point in the centerline of said 100 foot wide right-of-way, 50 feet perpendicularly distant North from the South line of the North Half of the Southwest Quarter of said Section Ten (10), run West parallel with said South line, 88.8 feet; thence North 73.8 feet to the West line of said right-of-way, and the POINT OF BEGINNING for the description of the premises to be herein conveyed; thence North 23 degrees West along said West right-of-way line, 618.7 feet; thence Northeasterly at a right angle to the last described course, 100 feet to the East line of said right-of-way; thence Southerly and Southeasterly along said East right-of-way line, 1970 feet, more or less, to the Northeasterly extension of the Southeast line of Lot 15 in Block 12, said Block 12 being bounded on the North by Pine Street, on the West by Poplar Street, and on the South by Chestnut Street; thence Southwesterly along said Northeasterly extension of the Southeast line of Lot 15, 100 feet, more or less, to the West line of said 100 foot wide right-of-way; thence Northwesterly and Northerly along said West right-of-way line, 1405 feet, more or less, to return to the point of beginning.

Grantor reserves for itself, its successors and assigns all coal, oil, gas, ores and any other minerals whether similar or dissimilar or now known to exist or hereafter discovered of every kind in, on or under

said premises, together with the right at any time to explore, drill for, mine, remove and market all such products in any manner which will not damage structures on the surface of said premises. Grantee will release for itself, its successors or assigns the Grantors, its successors or assigns from any liability for any damages attributable to removing said minerals and this release shall run with the land.

Grantor reserves the right for the continued maintenance, replacement and use of all existing driveways, roads, conduits, sewers, water mains, gas lines, electric power lines, wires and other utilities and easements on said premises whether or not of record including the repair, reconstruction and replacement thereof and Grantee agrees not to interfere with the rights herein reserved or any facilities used pursuant thereto.

AND Lot Numbered Two (2) in W.R. Abernathy Addition to the Village of Alto Pass, Union County, Illinois. Property Index Number 07-10-05-280-X5 & 14-00-11-015 On March 4, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. the Petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on February 5, 2025 for general taxes of the year 2023. The period of redemption will expire March 2, 2026.

Stuart E. Morgenstern, Attorney for Petitioner (618) 357-5315 Cert. # 2023-00081 & 202300185 8221-959366

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK, a National

Chartered Bank, Plaintiff, vs ANDREW H. SADLER, and MIKA L. SADLER, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TAX LIEN UNIT, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. Case No.: 2025-FC-5 NOTICE OF SALE

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Keri Clark Circuit Clerk Document prepared by: JOHN R. SCHNEIDER JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C. 212 North Main Street Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 Telephone: 573-335-3300 Facsimile: 573-335-1978 www.johnsonschneider.com 8221-958469

Send Classified Ads and Legal Notices to classifieds@annanews.com

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS FISCAL YEAR ENDING June 30, 2025

SCHOOL DISTRICT/JOINT AGREEMENT NAME: County of Union School Dist No 43

RCDT NUMBER: 30-091-0430-04

ADDRESS: 309 Cook Avenue Jonesboro, IL 62952

COUNTY: Union

NAME OF NEWSPAPER WHERE PUBLISHED: Gazette Democrat

DISTRICT TYPE

Elementary ☒

High School ☐

Unit ☐

Joint Agreement ☐

ASSURANCE

The Annual Statement of Affairs has been posted on the district's website and published in accordance with Section 10-17 of the School Code no later than December 1. (Put "X" in blue box if yes.)

Yes ☒

SIZE OF DISTRICT IN SQUARE MILES	2
NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE CENTERS	1

NUMBER OF CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES	
FULL-TIME	28
PART-TIME	1
NUMBER OF NON-CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES	
FULL-TIME	20
PART-TIME	1

TAX RATE BY FUND (IN %)	
EDUCATIONAL	1.196400
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	0.249900
BOND & INTEREST	0.438400
TRANSPORTATION	0.199400
MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT	0.088300
SOCIAL SECURITY	0.164100
WORKING CASH	0.050000
FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY	0.050000
TORT IMMUNITY	0.446700
CAPITAL PROJECTS	0.000000
SPECIAL EDUCATION	0.020000
LEASING	0.000000
OTHER	0.000000
OTHER	0.000000

Data previously included in the Annual Statement of Affairs can be found at: Payments to certified personnel posted on district website per 05 ILCS 5/10-20.47. Student Counts included in district's report card. Financial Data included in district's Annual Financial Report posted on ISBE's Cerberus Server.

SALARY SCHEDULE OF GROSS PAYMENTS FOR NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$39,999

Tamara Beggs, karen Boyd,Olivia Brumleve, Wes Burrs, Juva-ta Carter, Karynna Carter, Julie Draper Julia Ellis, patricia Ellis, Amy Ferguson, Teresa Goddard, Jack Godwin, Mindy Graves, Pamela Hammer, Whitney Harris,Colbey Hartline, Connor Har-tline,Ashley Harvel, Cynthia Hefner, Anna Hess Carrie Hess, Elizabeth Hileman, Belinda Jerolds, Amy Jerrell, Kyle Jerrell, Tyler Jerrell, Lexi Johnson Brooklyn Keene, Cathy Kirt, Sydnie Kube, Jason Leek, Kinley Leek, Robert Lehr, Angela McClel-land, Ben McFarland, Daniel McFarland, Debra Meyer, Berry Miller, Beth Miller, Olivia Mix, Brien Morre, Shanna Pender, Wes Penrod, Nancy Pind, Sara Poole, Richard Ralls, Jenna Sadler, Marcus Schaefer Rodney Seip, Gail Short, Harold Smith, Re-becca Stark, Ariana Turner, Riley Turner, Tammy Turner, Juan Valencia, Libby Watkins, Makayla Watkins, Brittney West

Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$54,999

Jackie Plott, Gary Wilson

Salary Range: \$55,000 - \$74,999

Jennifer Sadler

PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

AEP	69,384
AJ National Bank	171,621
Apptegy	6,909
Baysinger Architects	37,370
BC Contracting	30,962
Beussink & Hickam	19,200
Billy Alsip	9,550
BMO Harris	43,435
Bootheel Fence Co	9,335
CDS Technologies	4,424
Chartwell Dining Service	311,643
City of Jonesboro	28,670
Clearwave Communicaions	24,891
Committee for Children	7,772
Common Goal Systems	6,158

Concespt Sound and Light

Craine Heating & Air

D7 Roofing

Dutch Hollow Supply

Floorscapes

Guin Mundorf

Houghton Mifflin Co

ILL Assoc of School Board

ILL Dept of Employment SE

ILL School Dist Agency

ILL State Board of Educ

ILL Dept of Revnue

ILL Municipal Retirement

IRS Federal

IRS FICA

IRS Medicare

JEA

Jonesboro Insurance Fund

Lakeshore Learning Center

McGraw Hill Global

Midwest Fence Corp

NCS Pearson

NCS Pearson/Aimsweb

Orkin

Osborne Office Equipment

Plott Construction

Renaissance

Repperts Warehouse

Rusty's Home Center

Scholastic

School Outfitters

Securit Alarm Corp

Securly

Southern FS

Specialized Data Systems

STAPLES

Teacher Retirement System

The Home Depot

THIS Employee

THIS Employer

Tipton Linen Service

Tri County Special Ed

Utopian Power

11,792

16,698

317,616

4,676

8,000

10,053

53,322

7,500

3,924

66,613

5,593

125,163

83,859

195,526

114,660

51,663

25,614

396,108

12,225

2,969

8,500

2,766

2,625

3,745

15,849

8,700

3,129

3,879

3,395

3,058

7,523

4,152

6,979

10,405

5,275

2,984

187,626

24,567

17,619

13,117

4,562

476,196

116,576

Vaughn's Roofing

Waller Electric

Weekes Sales & Service

Wissinger Construction

Workers Compensation

Wrightway Transportation

XT Solutions

PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OF \$1,000 TO \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

806 Technologies

AFLAC

AJD Consulting

Brain Pop

Central State Buses

Danielle Mayfeild

Equifax

Garland Co

Haddock Corporation

Honey Tire Center

IASA

Jostens

KAMI

Kevin Westall

Lanter Distributing

Lee's Sports

Marmic Fire & Safety

Memphis Net & Twine

Musicians Friend

Positive Promotions

Purchase Power

Really Good Stuff

Schaefer Excavating

Servpro

SIJHSAA

Sister Sweet & Savory

Stalker Sports Floor

Sullivan Plumbing

Thad Ellet Plumbing

The Southern Bank

True Turf

USA Clean

WORKS International

2,790

5,719

3,600

103,945

15,109

42,169

65,671

1,200

1,292

1,823

2,340

2,244

1,058

1,005

1,473

1,838

1,700

2,121

1,955

1,229

1,807

1,169

1,552

1,354

2,392

1,053

1,835

1,622

1,738

1,788

1,886

1,037

1,661

2,350

2,020

1,085

2,184

1,200

2,048

1,995

REPORT ON CONTRACTS EXCEEDING \$25,000 AWARDED DURING FY2025

1. Total number of all contracts awarded by the school district:

2. Total value of all contracts awarded:

3. Total number of contracts awarded to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and locally owned businesses:

*If there are no contracts of this nature, please enter "0" in box to the right.

4. Total value of contracts awarded to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, businesses owned by person with disabilities, and locally owned businesses:

*If there are no contracts of this nature, please enter "0" in box to the right.

6

\$1,317,240.49

0

\$0.00

Southern 7 offers tips for safe holiday food preparation

Few things are more satisfying during the holidays than a well-cooked meal. But a wrong turn in preparation could mean a dinner followed by a foodborne illness.

Symptoms of food poisoning can be anywhere from mild to very serious and can include upset stomach, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and fever.

To prevent a foodborne outbreak from spoiling holiday traditions, Southern 7 Health Department offers some basic tips.

Keep meat, chicken, turkey, seafood and eggs separate from all other foods at the grocery store and in the refrigerator.

Prevent juices from meat, chicken, turkey, and seafood from dripping or leaking onto other foods by keeping them in containers or sealed plastic bags. Store eggs in their original carton in the main compartment of the refrigerator.

Use a food thermometer to make sure meat, chicken, turkey, seafood and eggs have been cooked to a safe internal temperature to kill germs. Roasts, chops, steaks and fresh ham should rest for three minutes after you remove them from the oven or grill.

Keep food out of the “danger zone.” Bacteria can grow rapidly between 40 degrees F and 140 degrees F. After food is prepared, keep hot food hot and cold food cold. Refrigerate or freeze perish-

able food like meat, chicken, turkey, seafood, eggs, cut fruit, cooked rice and leftovers within two hours (one hour if food is exposed to temperatures above 90 degrees F, such as in a hot car).

The temperature in the refrigerator should be set at 40 degrees F or below and the freezer at 0 degrees F or below.

Use pasteurized eggs for dishes containing raw eggs. Salmonella and other harmful germs can live on both the outside and inside of normal-looking eggs. Many holiday favorites contain raw eggs, including eggnog, tiramisu, hollandaise sauce and Caesar dressing. Always use pasteurized eggs when making these and other foods made with raw eggs.

Do not eat raw dough or batter. Dough and batter made with flour or eggs can contain harmful germs, such as E. coli and Salmonella. Do not taste or eat raw dough or batter that is meant to be baked or cooked. This includes dough or batter for cookies, cakes, pies, biscuits, pancakes, tortillas, pizza or crafts. Read the label carefully to make sure the dough is meant to be eaten without baking or cooking.

Prepare a turkey and other foods safely. A turkey must thaw at a safe temperature to prevent harmful germs from growing rapidly. Thaw a turkey in the refrigerator, in a sink of cold water (change the water every 30 minutes)

or in the microwave.

Hands should always be washed after touching other items to prevent the spread of germs.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov, call Southern 7 Health Department at 618-634-2297, or download the Southern 7 app.

Southern 7 Health Department is a public health department that serves communities of the seven southernmost counties in Illinois focusing on disease prevention, promoting healthy lifestyles, ensuring access to healthcare services and serves as the Head Start grant recipient for the region.

Wreath making workshops set at Giant City

Wreath-making workshops are planned Dec. 6 at the visitors center at Giant City State Park near Makanda.

Two sessions are planned: a morning session from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and an afternoon session from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Participants will learn how to use fresh cut greenery to make a holiday wreath with Anne Townsend and Erin Garrett from University of Illinois Extension.

All materials will be provided for the free program. Preregistration is required and space is limited. To register, or for more information, call 618-457-4836.

26 area high schools are partners

SIU program offers jump start for college education

Starting next semester, students in 26 high schools can take college courses tuition-free from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, a top-tier research institution.

On Wednesday, Nov. 19, SIU Carbondale Chancellor Austin Lane and leaders at partner high schools throughout Southern Illinois signed a memorandum of understanding for the Saluki Start Dual Enrollment Program.

“At Southern, we are committed to expanding access to education and fostering student success, especially to high school students in our own backyard,” Lane said. “It is part of what makes SIU Carbondale an Opportunity University. Plus, students will get the resources of a Research 1 institution.”

SIU Carbondale is one of only 21 institutions in the country to be included on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions for Higher Education’s lists for Research 1, the same as flagship universities and elite private schools, and Opportunity Colleges and Universities, which provide affordability and a significant return on investment.

Students will receive online instruction from SIU faculty members, taking one SIU Carbondale course per term, and they can apply the credit hours they earn toward a degree.

“High school students participating in Saluki Start will get a preview of what makes an education at SIU Carbondale special,” said Sarah Jiter, director of undergraduate admissions at the university. “If they get an early start on their college journey with us, we will provide a smooth transition to continuing their education on our beautiful campus close to home.”

To participate, high school students must be recommended by their schools, have completed two years of high school, have at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and have demonstrated an aptitude and readiness for college-level coursework.

The high school partners in Southern Illinois include: Anna-Jonesboro Community High School. Benton Consolidated High School. Carbondale Community High School. Carterville High School. Chester High School.

Cobden Unit School District 17. Coulterville Unit School District. Du Quoin High School. Frankfort Community High School. Goreville CUSD 1. Harrisburg CUSD 3. Eldorado High School. Hardin County High School.

Johnston City High School. Meridian High School in Mounds. Murphysboro High School. Nashville Community High School. Pinckneyville Community High School. Sesser-Valier High School.

Shawnee Junior-Senior High School in Wolf Lake. Sparta High School. Steeleville High School. Red Bud High School. Vienna High School. Webber High School. Woodlawn High School.

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

Nov. 23, Camp Ground Church celebrated our 175th year of ministry in the community. All the music selections were composed around the time our church began in 1850.

Bro. Easton’s sermon was “Joy, Prayer, and Thanksgiving;” his main scripture selection was 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul’s letter to the church at Thessalonica.

Paul encouraged the congregation of this church to be joyful always, to talk to God [pray] continuously, and give thanks to God regardless of our circumstances. These attributes are part of what sets Christians apart from the world.

God knew it would be difficult for humankind to live up to these “commandments,” but the Holy Spirit will help us rise above negativity so prevalent in society.

By following Paul’s challenge, it will change our lives and the way we feel. And in doing so, we will be following God’s will for us in Christ Jesus.

At the beginning of Worship our Loaves and Fishes offerings were blessed and will be forwarded to our Board of Missions for our denomination’s hot lunch program in Iloilo City, Philippines.

Addi and Raelynn Bonner took up the tithes and offerings. Rachael Bonner is our lead elder for November.

After Morning Worship, the crowd gathered in the fellowship hall for a bountiful potluck.

Later in the afternoon, those who wished remained and decorated the sanctuary and fellowship hall for the beginning of Advent.

Among our several visitors Sunday were former

members Amanda Batts and husband Chad, Martin, Tenn. and Eric Simmons and wife Kim, Greenfield, Tenn.

Looking ahead, we invite you to mark your calendar and plan to fellowship and worship with us the evening of December 21 as we have our annual candlelight service.

Having birthdays recently have been Brittany Roach the 12th, and Andrew Boaz turned 14 on the 23rd.

If you aren’t attending worship regularly or looking for a church home, we invite you to join us each Sunday as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Our Sunday service begins with coffee and fellowship at 9:15, Bible Study at 9:30 and Worship at 10:30. We are located at the intersection of Camp Ground Road and Tunnel Lane east of Anna, north of Route 146.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

Happy Thanksgiving! May we all have an abundance of blessings in all manner of things. Health tops the list. Several folks at work, church and in the neighborhood have had health issues of late.

I don’t know what it is about holidays, but many seem to fall ill around those times of year. I’m sure there is a “study” somewhere on it, not that those help a whole lot, but it gives us somewhere to place blame.

The Mill Creek Village Board met Tuesday, Nov. 18, for their monthly meeting. The minutes of October meeting and the Treasurer’s Report were approved. In old business, new locks and knobs for the interior and exterior are being purchased and installed. In new business, decisions were made on hanging the holiday lights and scheduled for the first week in December.

A reminder, that with winter weather coming, Union County Highway Department will plow the county roads, but the post office parking lot is the village’s responsibility to clear. All supplies are on hand for that event. In closing, a new board member, Shannon Sweet, was voted in. The next meeting will be held Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.

All this rainy weather is getting a bit tiresome and gave us a reminder that it’s also time to clear gutters. Most of the leaves are down, so that helps. Our basement had a small leak Sunday due to clogged gutters, which was the reminder. A bit rude, but effective. We all need to get prepared for winter, it’s coming at some point and gutters are just one spot that needs to be prepped.

Winter holidays are arriving also and tend to bring company to most households. Ours was blessed last week with my husband’s cousin Donna, and her husband, Fred, who live in Florida. They stopped to visit with us as they headed to Wisconsin, where they have a second home, to spend the holiday with their children and grand-

children. It sure was good to see them, as health issues have kept them from stopping by in the last few years.

Our company arrived in time to attend the Mill Creek Baptist Community Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner on Wednesday the 19th. This is an annual event and there wasn’t an empty table. It was wonderful to see so many come out for the food and fellowship. We thank those on the kitchen committee and our volunteer cooks for their hard work on making it such a wonderful and plentiful meal.

More company came in Saturday with the arrival my brother-in-law, Gary, and nephew, Skyler, from South Carolina. This is an annual trip and they’ll be here until December arrives. As with Fred and Donna, it’s nice to have that time to visit, share memories, tell new stories, catch up on family details, and solve the world’s problems over coffee in the morning or in late night discussions.

We had the first of our family get togethers’ with them, my daughter’s family from Cape Girardeau, and my brother-in-law Chuck, and sister-in-law, Martha, from across the highway on Sunday. My husband grilled a mountain of pork steaks, I did the sides, and purchased the desserts we all feasted on while we visited. We’ll be doing it again Thanksgiving and the first weekend in December, too. The holidays are also a time of over indulgence and the weight gain that follows.

Members of P.A.S.T. of Union County remind those that wish to attend the annual holiday luncheons that reservations are filling up. Contact Linda Hileman at 618-697-1870 for more details. Friends of P.A.S.T. are encouraged to sign up to help in several areas, as well. Contact Suzan Harvel at 573-208-9692 for scheduling. The Heritage House in Jonesboro has been beautifully decorated and St.

Anne’s Historic Church is nearly done. Carols at Candlelight by the Back Porch Company will be held on Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at St. Anne’s. If you’ve never attended, you are encouraged to attend this musical prelude to the holiday season.

Those added for prayer are all those traveling for the holidays; Lula Belle Tripp as she continues to recover from her fall; Cayden Gureley and family as he’s going through the healing process.; and the families of Alaina Graham, Ludine Copeland, Stella Glasco, James McRaven, George Fisher, and Carl Langston in their passing.

Union County Fixin’s

One Pot Salmon Pasta Supper

2 cups rotini pasta
1 cup milk
1 cup ricotta cheese
1 cup frozen green peas
1/4 cup chopped green onion
2 Tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 Tablespoons lemon juice
1 Tablespoon chopped dill, fresh if possible
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
Dash of hot sauce
1 can salmon

In large pot of boiling, salted water, cook rotini noodles until tender, but firm. Drain, but reserve 1/4 cup pasta water. Set both aside.

In blender mix together milk and ricotta cheese until smooth. Place in saucepan used for pasta. Add reserved pasta water and rest of ingredients, except salmon.

Heat through, stirring often. Open salmon and drain, keeping salmon in chunks. Discard skin and mash bones or discard, if desired.

Add salmon and cooked pasta to saucepan, stirring to combine. Remove from heat, cover, and let stand for 3 minutes or until sauce thickens.

Serves 4



Former highway department building razed

A building which had housed offices of the Union County Highway Department has been razed. The structure was located on the grounds of the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro. The work was done by the highway department. The department has moved its offices into a neighboring building which also is home to the offices of the Union County Ambulance Service.

Opinion and Commentary

‘With humble penitence...



Thanksgiving Day will be celebrated on Thursday, November 27. The National Park Service shares a look at the holiday in an article titled “Lincoln and Thanksgiving.” The article appears on the National Park Service’s website, nps.gov, for the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield.

It is late November. A few stubborn leaves still cling to their branches. We gather with our families around the dining room table. The turkey is carved, the cranberry sauce and sweet potatoes are passed around, the smell of pumpkin pie fills the air. There are parades and football games on the television. We gather and give thanks for all we have, with family and friends. How did we reach this Thanksgiving Day tradition? How did we get from traditional harvest celebrations to eating turkey and watching football? Is Mr. Lincoln responsible?

Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation

In July 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg resulted in more than 50,000 American casualties. Despite these losses, the United States gained a great victory during these three days. On October 3, 1863, with this victory in mind, as well as its cost, President Lincoln issued a proclamation:

“I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, ...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving... And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him ..., they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.”

This proclamation is viewed as the beginning of the national holiday of Thanksgiving Day. It was one of nine similar proclamations that Mr. Lincoln issued during the Civil War. Mr. Lincoln issued the proclamation, but he did not author it. Secretary of State William Seward penned the October 1863 proclamation.

Sarah Josepha Hale

President Lincoln's proclamation may have never been issued had it not been for Sarah Josepha Hale. Mrs. Hale is known for her work as editor of Godey's Lady's Book, and as the author of Mary Had a Little Lamb. Mrs. Hale also played a very large role in making Thanksgiving Day, a annual national holiday.

In 1827, as editor of Boston's Ladies' Magazine, she began to write essays calling for the national holiday. In 1846, now as the editor of Godey's Lady's Book, Mrs. Hale launched a letter-writing campaign to support her cause. Finally on September 28, 1863, she wrote directly to President Lincoln, asking him to use his powers to create the holiday. Her 36-year quest was finally fulfilled.

Thanksgiving Timeline

1541: Francisco Vásquez de Coronado and the Teya Indians hold a feast in Palo Duro Canyon (Texas).

1621: The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians hold a feast at Plymouth Colony (Massachusetts).

1777: All 13 Colonies hold thanksgiving celebrations.

1789: President George Washington declares November 26th, a national day of thanksgiving.

1815: President James Madison declares a national day of prayer and thanksgiving.

1827: Sarah Josepha Hale writes essays calling for an annual national celebration of thanksgiving.

1846: Mrs. Hale conducts a letter-writing campaign to make the last Thursday of November a national day of thanksgiving.

1863: President Lincoln issues a proclamation calling for the last Thursday of November to be set aside as a day of “Thanksgiving and Praise.”

1920: The first Thanksgiving parade is held in Philadelphia.

1922: The National Football League plays its first games on Thanksgiving Day

1924: The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is held in New York City.

1934: The National Football League holds its first game on Thanksgiving Day.

1941: After altering the date of Thanksgiving, President Franklin Roosevelt reestablishes the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day.

1947: President Harry Truman pardons a turkey that is marked for Thanksgiving dinner at the White House.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of our readers.

Please read this...

Some sage advice from a frog...

This week, as we gather with family and friends for the Thanksgiving holiday, we’ll share some sage advice from a frog...and some other stuff, too...including a few special memories...

If you happen to be heading over the river and through the woods for the holiday...safe travels to you. For a number of years, our Thanksgiving holidays were highlighted by journeys to the Bluegrass State which actually included traveling over a number of rivers. We didn’t really go through any woods, unless you count all of the trees along the highways and byways.

One year, we decided to keep track of the rivers we crossed... it gave us something fun to do on a rather long road trip. And a chance to reflect on some of the rich history along the way.

We would leave Southern Illinois by crossing the Ohio River down by Metropolis. The Ohio, as I am sure you know, has played a critical role in the history of our region. The French called the Ohio La Belle Viviere, or “the beautiful river,” which I am also sure you knew. That little bit of history flashed through my simple mind after a recent weekly visit to the local library, where it was alleged that yours truly might be a “history nerd.” That is OK. It’s good to be a bit of a nerd when it comes to history.

Our journey also would take us across the Clarks River... the Kentucky River...and even the Green River in Muhlenberg County, just to name a few. Yes. It is OK to listen to John Prine’s song about Muhlenberg County in your mind. Or wherever you happen to listen to such lyrical poetry set to music.

The holidays we spent in Kentucky often included visits to some of the kinds of places that a “history nerd” enjoys, like Fort Boonesborough State Park, which has connections related to a fellow named Daniel Boone.

The Thanksgiving holidays in Kentucky were special times with family. Those special times bring special memories. And that’s what the holidays should be all about...even if you don’t have to travel over the river and through the woods.

Meanwhile...

Sometimes...it’s good to not take things for granted...like being able to see what’s in the refrigerator...

One evening last week, yours truly opened the door to the refrigerator in our kitchen and was greeted by...darkness... which I suppose was better than seeing what happened when the Ark of the Covenant was opened in the closing scenes of “Raiders of the Lost Ark.”

The dark refrigerator was a bit of a surprise. After all, when we opened the refrigerator door, the light “always” came on. Just not this time. Turned out that the second of the two lights which brightened our refrigerator had bit the dust. The other one had ceased to function long ago. We found that one light was enough to see what needed to be seen. Anyway, after I opened the door and was greeted by the dark, it became somewhat of a challenge of determine what I was actually looking at.

Fortunately, thanks to a quick retail shopping excursion, we were able to secure a new light bulb for the refrigerator. That is a good thing. I really want to see where the Thanksgiving dinner leftovers will be hiding.

Meanwhile...

While making my way through the latest issues of USA TODAY which had arrived in the mail, I came across an article featuring an interview with a frog. Not any frog, mind you. The legendary Kermit the Frog. The article appeared in the November 18 issue of the paper and was written by Patrick Ryan.

Over the years, I have interviewed lots of “famous” personalities. Just not a frog. As you may recall, we have had a frog living in the Gulf of Cobden in our backyard this year. I have not taken the time to interview our frog. Come to think of it...I can’t even tell you our frog’s name. We have not been formally introduced.

In reading the article in USA TODAY, I learned that Kermit the Frog recently made his debut on Broadway. I have never been in a Broadway show, so Kermit has one up on me. Not

The Cat's Meow

by Cobden Spay and Neuter Coalition

Bummer. We had to cancel our Trivia Night event Friday due to lack of pre-registered participants. Maybe bad timing, maybe too close to Thanksgiving, maybe we didn’t get the word out. But, we are thinking about redoing it sometime this spring. We desperately need the funds generated by these events.

Up next will be our 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off at Fuzzy’s in Cobden. Tentative date is Jan. 24. This is huge fun and you get to sample everything!!

We have worked out details of a working plan to continue TNR during the winter months with our valued partners at Meller-James Veterinary Services. There are potential health risks to the feral cats if returned to their colonies too soon after surgery in cold weather. They are providing the shelter and additional supportive services that will keep them safe during that initial recovery.

In order to continue our work during these months, we will need your generous support. Please keep us in mind during this time of thanks giving and joyful celebrations. A truly lovely gift to a friend or loved one is a donation to CSNC in their name. You are honoring their kind heart with your own loving support.

By the way, 4 feral and 11 subsidized sterilizations were completed in October with your help!

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

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

St. Anne’s to host Carols at Candlelight

P.A.S.T and the Back Porch Company will be presenting the annual Carols at Candlelight performance on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The concert of Christmas music will take place at St. Anne’s Historic Church in Anna.

The event is free, with donations going to benefit P.A.S.T and St. Anne’s Historic Church.

Parking for the event will be one block east at Stinson Memorial Library.



A view of the bridge over the Ohio River between Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky. The photograph was taken at Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis.



One Thanksgiving holiday journey back in the day included a visit to Fort Boonesborough State Park in Kentucky.

bad for a frog. Actually, I have never even been to Broadway, although our family did pass through the outskirts of New York City long, long ago.

The article closed with a special message from Kermit. He was asked to share a message for the holiday season. Kermit encouraged everyone to really enjoy the season. I hope it’s OK if I share a few words of wisdom from a frog: “...really enjoy the holidays. It’s so easy to just let life pass you by. Hopefully, friends and family can get together and make memories.” Couldn’t have said it better...

Meanwhile...

We’ll close this week with a few thoughts about gratitude...

The past few months have been just a bit out of the ordinary for The Other Half and yours truly. Words cannot express how grateful we are for all of the support we have received, including after The Other Half’s Big Adventure which involved an up-close and extremely personal encounter with the health care system. All is going well now.

As I have mentioned many times over the years, I am really, really grateful to call Union County our home and for the many, many folks who have become like family. This just seems like a good time to share those thoughts again.

As we pause to celebrate Thanksgiving, my hope is that you will heed the advice of a frog and make some special memories. Oh...be sure to have another slice of pumpkin pie...with a whole bunch of “spray” whipping cream...

Happy Thanksgiving everybody.

Dental care grant funds awarded to Southern 7 Health Department

Southern 7 Health Department has received a \$20,000 Community Grant from the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation. The funds will be used to expand oral health education and preventive services across the seven southernmost counties of Illinois, a region with critical shortages of dental providers, high poverty rates and persistent barriers to oral health care.

Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's Community Grants Program provides funding to organizations that provide oral health care and/or education. With the help of its community grant recipients, the foundation is able to improve access to care in all areas of the state.

In 2025, Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation awarded over \$270,000 to 29 nonprofit and community organizations, including Southern 7 Health Department, through its annual Community Grants Program. Each organization shares the foundation’s mission of improving health and well-being throughout Illinois, especially for children.

Southern 7 Health Department is a public health department that serves communities of the seven southernmost counties in Illinois focusing on disease prevention, promoting healthy lifestyles, ensuring access to healthcare services, and serves as the Head Start grantee for the region.

HUNGER

Americans do not want anyone to go hungry! In fact, we all want to do all we can to eliminate it, and we can, but we must be wise and give in the most efficient way. Churches should concentrate on their own first, discretely discern if any members need food and take care of it, saving them a trip to a pantry. If you want to do more, give to an existing, trusted food pantry, i.e., Shawnee Development in Anna, Salem Lutheran in Jonesboro, or United Methodist in Anna. They have been dispensing food for years and can ensure that as many families as possible are served fairly. We don’t need more food pantries; we need more food, and labor for the existing pantries. They all need volunteers to pack boxes and stock shelves, and Shawnee needs help processing bill paying assistance requests too. Call Shawnee Development at (618)-833-7431, Salem Lutheran at (618)-833-5234, or UMC at (618)-697-7540 to volunteer. Be wary of any new food pantries that suddenly appear. Paid for by Union County Alliance of Churches (618)-614-2974.