The Gazette-Democrat

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, December 7, 2023 | **Anna, Illinois** | **$1.00** | **Volume 174, Number 52**

News Notes

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



The warm glow of candle light could be seen last Sunday afternoon at the landmark St. Anne's Church in Anna. The church hosted PAST's holiday season "Carols and Candlelight" event.

***

Pickup of the Union County CEO program's Classic Christmas Boxes is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School. Look for more about this special event on page 3.

***

Thursday, today, is December 7...the anniversary of the Japanese Empire's attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii in 1941...

***

The Union County Ambulance Service sponsored a very successful food drive at the Kroger store in Anna during the recent Thanksgiving holiday. Items were shared with Shawnee Development Council's food pantry in Anna

***

Shawnee Development Council's food pantry was reported to have provided 350 Thanksgiving meals to those in need.

***

At a regular meeting just prior to Thanksgiving, Union County Board of Commissioners vice chairman Kent Pitts once again urged all pet owners to have their pets spayed and neutered.

***

Donations of food and funds continue to be welcomed at the Union County animal control shelter.

***

Cobden High School's new gymnasium will be showcased at a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house event which are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16.

(continued on page 2)



Christmas in the Village celebrated in Cobden

Christmas in the Village was celebrated Saturday, Dec. 2, in Cobden. The Union County village's downtown area was busy throughout the day with a variety of special holiday season events. The Cobden High School Marching Appleknockers band performed Saturday afternoon. The band played prior to the lighting of a Christmas tree and lights at a shelter in the park in downtown Cobden. Santa Claus was on hand to turn on the lights on the Christmas tree and to wish everyone a "Merry Christmas."

IDNR awards field trip grants

Jonesboro School among recipients

Nearly 350 Illinois schoolchildren will visit state historic sites this school year thanks to grant funding provided through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, State Historic Sites Field Trip Grant program.

More than $5,200 in donated grant funds were awarded for 10 field trip grants. The grant recipients represent four counties in the state, including Union County

"This program enables students to visit sites throughout Illinois to see first-hand what they've been learning about in the classroom," IDNR director Natalie Phelps Finnie said in a news release.

"Students need the opportunity to experience Illinois' historical resources in person. We are pleased to be able to support learning outside the classroom with these grants."

(continued on page 2)



Carols at Candlelight presented

Historic St. Anne's Church in Anna hosted the PAST organization's "Carols at Candlelight" holiday season musical event last Sunday afternoon. Back Porch Company presented a program of Christmas music from around the world for an appreciative audience which filled St. Anne's. Members of Back Porch Company include Carla Anderson, Richard Johnson, Stuart Anderson, Jon Mark Aldridge and Warren Anderson.



Jonesboro Grade School honors veterans

Students and staff at Jonesboro Grade School recently raised $387 for the residents at the Illinois Veterans Home of Anna. The students raised the funds while having fun with daily dress-up-themed activities. The activities included favorite baseball team, camo day, senior citizen day and red, white and blue day. Staff member Debra Meyer sponsors the yearly fund-raiser. Meyer presented the check to the veterans a the Illinois Veterans Home in Anna. Photo provided

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News Notes

(continued from page 1)

Precipitation for the entire month of November in the Union County area totaled less than one inch of rain.

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Holiday season programs are underway at Union County schools.

***

Anna School District 37 announced that its Christmas programs will be streamed on the district's YouTube page.

***

Anna School District 37 officials are hoping that a new parking lot across from Anna Junior High School/Davie School will be available for use in time for the upcoming Christmas programs.

***

12 Days of Christmas dress up days are underway in the Dongola School District. Dec. 7 is ugly Christmas sweater day. Upcoming events include dressing like Peanuts characters on Dec. 12 in the spirit of "It's a Charlie Brown Christmas."

***

The deadline is Dec. 15 to make a donation in support of WIBH radio's annual New Coats, New Hope campaign.

***

PAST's Holiday Luncheons are scheduled to begin Thursday, today, at Heritage House in Jonesboro. Luncheons continue on Dec. 8, 9, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

***

A holiday season cookie walk sale is planned from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 16, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Anna.

***

Charlotte Clover, Travis Holtkamp and Mike Meisenheimer from Country Financial have made a $1,580 donation to the Union County Sheriff's Office's Santa Cop program.

***

Steve Hornbeak and Pete DeLuca have made a $500 donation from the Southern Illinois Opry to the sheriff's office's Santa Cop program.

***

A Christmas tree was set up last week in the lobby at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

***

Eighth grade students from Cobden Junior-Senior High School visited the Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum in St. Louis last week. The students met a Holocaust survivor who shared her story.

***

Cobden High School student Grace White has been selected to attend an all-state music conference in January.

***

Shawnee Community College near Ullin is planning to host a combined band and choir winter concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8.

***

A junior high school regional choir concert was held last week at Shawnee Community College. Some of the songs can be heard on the college's Facebook page.

***

The U.S. Forest Service/Shawnee National Forest invites area students in grades 1 through 12 to submit entries for a poster contest which will feature the 2024 solar eclipse.

***

A Veterans for Vets disc golf tournament is planned Dec. 9 at the Cobden Community Park.

***

Shawnee Community College announced that campus bookstore manager Stacy Simpson is leaving the post to be the new community education and Johnson County Extension Center coordinator. She will split her time at the extension center at Vienna High School and at the college's main campus near Ullin.

***

Brian Duncan, a grain and livestock farmer from Ogle County, has been elected as the new president of the Illinois Farm Bureau.

Anna VFW calendar of events

Upcoming events at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna include:

A corn hole tournament is planned Thursday, today. Play begins at 6:30 p.m. The kitchen is scheduled to be open from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Mystify Music is scheduled to play at the post from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8.

An all-day corn hole tournament is planned Sunday, Dec. 10. The kitchen is scheduled to be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The VFW Auxiliary is hosting a cookie event in December. One dozen homemade cookies will be available for a donation of $10. Contact Diana at 618-614-2168 or AnnaMaria at 812-525-5510. Pick up is planned on Dec. 21 and Dec. 22.

The post is located at 70 VFW Ln. near Anna. Upcoming events are open to the public.

Field trips

(continued from page 1)

The $5,272.66 awarded for the 2023-2024 school year was made possible by private donations to IDNR-managed state historic sites.

Grant recipients represent students from grades 4 through 10. This year's grant recipients were announced Nov. 28 and include:

Jonesboro Elementary School, Jonesboro. Seventh grade. Destination: Lewis and Clark State Historic Site in Madison County. Award: $325.

Jonesboro Elementary School, Jonesboro. Seventh and eighth grades. Destination: Dana-Thomas House State Historic Site in Springfield. Award: $500.

Jonesboro Elementary School, Jonesboro. Eighth grade. Destination: Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site and war memorials at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. $500.

Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School, Skokie. Seventh grade. Destination: Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site and war memorials at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. Award: $500.

Midwest Academy for Gifted Education, Chicago. Kindergarten through 10th grade. Destination: Pullman Factory grounds, Chicago. Award: $447.66.

Villa Grove CUSD 302, Villa Grove. Eighth grade. Destination: Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site and war memorials at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. Award: $500.

Evergreen Elementary School, Carol Stream. Fourth grade. Destination: Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site and war memorials at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. Four different awards of $500 each.

The State Historic Sites Field Trip Grant program was initiated during the 2020-2021 school year.

The competitive program allows Illinois teachers to apply for funds to take students on field trips to visit and learn at select Illinois state historic sites. Learning activities must directly relate to the school's curriculum.

The annual application deadline is Sept. 30. Funding covers bus transportation. The 2024-2025 school year application will be available online in the summer of 2024.

Weather

Less than half an inch of precipitation was recorded in the Union County area during the period of Nov. 28 through Dec. 4.

Total precipitation measured near Jonesboro was .47 of an inch, which included .14 of an inch of rain on Nov. 30, .32 of an inch of rain on Dec. 1 and .01 of an inch of rain on Dec. 3.

Temperatures during the period ranged from a high of 57 degrees to a low of 21.

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

	H	L
Tuesday, Nov. 28	38	21
Wednesday, Nov. 29	57	24
Thursday, Nov. 30	55	35
Friday, Dec. 1	55	42
Saturday, Dec. 2	47	39
Sunday, Dec. 3	55	36
Monday, Dec. 4	48	30

November Weather

The high temperature for the month of November was 79 degrees, which was recorded on Nov. 7. The average high for the month was 60.

The low for the month was 21, which was recorded on Nov. 28. The average low was 35.

Precipitation for the month totaled .72 of an inch of rain.

The most rain measured in a 24-hour period was .34 of an inch, recorded on Nov. 20.

Precipitation for the year through the end of the month totaled 39.89 inches.

Notice
New Deadlines

The Gazette-Democrat is in the process of transitioning to new deadlines for each week's newspaper. A change in deadlines is needed in order to meet a new printing schedule for the newspaper.

The tentative deadlines include:
Classified advertisements: 11 a.m. Monday
Display advertisements: Noon Monday
Obituaries: 10 a.m. Monday
News items: 4 p.m. Friday
Church news items: 9 a.m. Monday

Items which are not received by the deadline will be held for the following week's newspaper.

Adjustments may be made to this schedule as needed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Gazette-Democrat
The Talk And Cobden Review

November's weather warm, abnormally dry

November's weather in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region was warmer than normal and abnormally dry.

Temperatures

Temperatures finished above normal by around 1.5 to 2.5 degrees, the National Weather Service office in Paducah reported.

The first two days of the month were rather chilly, with highs only in the upper 40s and 50s, while lows were in the 20s.

This was followed by a prolonged warm period, with temperatures above normal for most days from the 4th through 17th.

Highs were commonly in the 60s and 70s, but much of Western Kentucky reached 80 degrees on the 8th. This included 83 in Owensboro.

Temperatures fluctuated from the 18th through 23rd, largely remaining near normal.

A cooler period descended across the region from the day after Thanksgiving (the 24th) through the 29th. Highs were in the 40s or 50s most of this time.

The coldest day of the month for much of the region was on the 28th, when highs only reached the mid 30s to lower 40s, while lows fell into the low to mid 20s.

A few locations even observed readings into the teens, including Mt. Vernon in Southern Illinois and Henderson, Ky.

Local weather observer Dana Cross recorded a high temperature of 79 degrees near Jonesboro on Nov. 7.

Abnormally Dry Conditions

The month featured abnormally dry conditions across the entire region, with precipitation totals only 0.50 of an inch to 1.50 inches in most locations.

This was roughly 3 to 4 inches drier than normal, or less than 25 percent of typical November precipitation.

The weather service office reported that all five of its climate stations finished in their top 10 driest Novembers, with Cape Girardeau leading the way at second driest, followed by Paducah and Carbondale at fourth driest.

There were several locations across Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois that didn't even receive 0.50 of an inch for the entire month.

Precipitation near Jonesboro totaled .72 of an inch of rain.

Primary election filing ends

Filing of nominating petitions for the 2024 primary election in Union County ended Monday, Dec. 4.

Candidates filed their nominating petitions at the Union County clerk's office. The office is at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

The primary election is set for March 19, 2024. Next year's general election is scheduled for Nov. 5.

Five county offices are slated to be on the ballot in 2024.

The offices which will be on the ballot, and those who filed, include:

Union County circuit clerk: Keri Clark filed. Clark is the incumbent.

Union County state's attorney: Tyler Tripp and Hillary Hines-Holl filed. Tripp is the incumbent. (Note: in last week's paper, the name of Hillary Hines-Holl was spelled incorrectly; the editor erred.)

Union County coroner: Jon Shaffer filed. Shaffer is the incumbent.

Two seats on the five-member Union County Board of Commissioners, including:

Seat D: Max Miller and Gary Dahmer filed. Miller is the incumbent.

Seat A: Kent Pitts filed. Pitts is the incumbent.

All of the candidates who filed nominating petitions are Republicans.

A-J Beta Club plans family holiday event

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School Beta Club is planning to sponsor at Family Christmas Movie/PJ Party event Saturday evening, Dec. 16.

The event is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. and will be in the library at the high school.

Movie options will be "Elf" or "Home Alone." A hot chocolate and popcorn bar will be provided. A $5 donation is recommended.

Product recalled

The Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, recently issued an alert to consumers about an FDA recall of children's cinnamon applesauce pouches which may contain elevated levels of lead.

At least one confirmed case in Illinois, and a total of 34 nationwide, had been linked to the product, which was sold online and at chains like Schnucks and Dollar Tree under the brand names WanaBana, Weis and Schnucks.



Shawnee students, board members honored

Shawnee School District No. 84 recently honored students of the quarter for the first quarter. The students were honored at a Nov. 20 Shawnee School District Board of Education meeting. Students were selected for the honor based on academic excellence, citizenship and attendance. They received a certificate and $25 from First Southern Bank of Grand Tower. In the first row are Tally Myers (5th grade), Leighton Ellet (2nd grade) and DJ Rushing (8th grade). In the second row are board members Mindy Livesay, Melissa Criddle, Angie McMahan, Trenton Colyer, Tim Qualls, Jason Stegle and Jennifer Webb. Students who could not be present included Connor Wilson (8th grade), Allie Myers (12th grade) and Olivia Clover (12th grade).

The board of education also was recognized in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Day. The school's FFA chapter and art department worked in collaboration to create custom-made steppingstones for the board members. Photo provided.

Union County CEO Christmas Box pick up planned at A-JCHS

The Union County CEO Class Business is well underway and culminates this Saturday, Dec. 9, with box pickup from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Union Hall gym entrance at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School.

The popular Classic Christmas Boxes are always eagerly anticipated, and this year is no exception. Sales have been brisk.

The team can't wait for pickup day and for the boxes to be in the hands of their customers.

They will be offering hot chocolate and popcorn for purchase, as well as a beautiful backdrop from Poppin' Party Creations for photo opportunities.

Be sure and visit with the team when you are picking up your boxes.

This year's boxes contain some new products, such as a cinnamon roll sample from Mom's Kitchen, keychains from CEO's own Presli Garner and handmade soaps from LK's Crafts, as well as many favorites from past years.

They also include valuable coupons and discounts for many other Union County businesses. The retail value of the box exceeds $230.

"Union County CEO in a Little Package" gift boxes can be purchased for $40 on the Union County CEO's website, https://www.unioncountyceo.org, and on their Facebook page, Union County CEO.

You may also contact a UCCEO student or Union County CEO facilitator Melanie Smith at 618-201-2726 for additional information or to purchase a box.

The money raised from this class business does not directly support the CEO Program but is deposited in the students' account for upcoming personal businesses, scholarships and the opportunity to give back to our community.

The goal of this year's UCCEO class business is to encourage and support local businesses in Union County and to encourage the community members to eat, shop and buy locally, first, before heading to businesses in other communities or online.

The Classic Christmas Boxes are Team 24's best effort to showcase the many possibilities and options available from Union County families and friends who have invested into the community by running businesses here.

It is our local businesses who support our schools, our community service organizations, our sports leagues, our community needs and causes, and so much more, the CEO team noted.

Through the UCCEO program, the young men and women team members learn firsthand about these businesses and the impact they make.

The students see that through hard work, creativity and dedication, they too, can one day also be successful business owners, creative employees, and strong community leaders who give back.

The theme of this year's box, "Union County CEO in a Little Package" sums this up.

Crystal Housman, who with her sister, Sherri Agers, owns Annabelle Market and has participated every year, shared: "I love all aspects of the Union County CEO's Classic Christmas Boxes. They are the ideal way to showcase all the great businesses in Union County while supporting a wonderful class project. As a business owner, I look for ways to promote my businesses while giving back to the community and this project is perfect."

The UCCEO program is thrilled with Crystal and Sherri's support along with the many other partners of the Classic Christmas Boxes.

Content Suppliers

This year's box content suppliers include, to date: Anna Tire and Auto, Jim Carter Tire, M&S Catering, Coffman Martial Arts, Whiffle Boys Pizza, AutoTech Diesel & Automotive, Old Route 51 South BBQ.

Presli's Business Designs, Annabelle Market, C's Bees, Nails By Jamie, Shawnee Community College, Farmers Daughter, Kenz Boutique, Quick's Skating Rink.

Rip Stitches, The Here and Now Shop, Plaza Tire, JD Blazin', Bonded Permanent Jewelry, Reppert's Supplies, The Beauty Boutique, Brick House Grill, Rendleman Orchards, Flamm Orchards, Mom's Kitchen.

The Shirt Shop, Wildflower Meadows, LK's Crafts, Girly Nature, Simply Haney Made, Bald Knob Cross of Peace, Anna Baking Company, Dairy Queen.

Davis Pastry, Kiki's Coffeehouse, Bizzy Mama, The Gazette-Democrat, Samantha Dawson, Nana's Farm, Across The Board, Mallard Lawncare, Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau.

SI Pressure Washing Shawnee Hills Real Estate, Kim Conway-Doterra Oils, Jim & Dot's, Rolling Oak Alpaca Ranch, Nalee Rae's Boutique, Schoolhouse Cheesecakes and Debbie Hileman.

Supporters

Those local businesses giving financial support, to date, include:

Union County Hospital, A-J National Bank, E.T. Simonds, Rendleman & Hileman, D&R Tire, Lambdin Farms, City of Jonesboro, Don Sol, Peace Hill Boutique, Union County Farm Bureau, Whitney Accounting.

WIBH, Southern FS, Anna State Bank, Anna Quarry, The Goddard Place, Dongola Bank, Pro-1 Auto Body Shop, Davie School Inn, Hileman Bobcat Service, Partridge Landscaping, Eyedeal Eyecare and A-J Water Commission.

CEO team member, AJCHS student Evan Hall, shared this in his journal:

"Recently Mrs. Jerri Schaefer spoke to us at the Havisham House.

"The whole visit was amazing from start to finish, but oddly enough the thing that stuck out to me the most was the gentleman who was the maintenance man at the Havisham House.

"He had no intention of speaking to us, but it just so happened that he was working on something in the same room that Mrs. Schaefer was speaking to us in.

"He stopped what he was doing, and asked if he could say a few things. He mentioned that he had grown up in Alto Pass and that it has been his absolute joy to see the Havisham House bring people to his little community.

"He was just so grateful, and you could just tell how much it meant to him. As he was talking, I was just like 'Wow, this is what CEO is all about.' It made me realize how important giving back to your community is, and I'm just so glad the gentleman took the time to talk with us."

Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities, CEO, is a 2-credit weighted high school class that educates students about life, leadership and business skills.

The class always meets from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. whether that be at a local business or gathering for a team meeting at their designated "home base."

The class is facilitated by Melanie Smith and taught by business men and women, as well as community leaders who share their expertise and personal stories.

This year there are 13 seniors and one junior selected from 20 applicants from the Union County high schools. This class marks the first time the UCCEO Program has had at least one representative from every local high school.

Union County CEO is a chapter of the Midland Institute of Entrepreneurship and is funded completely by local businesses, organizations and individuals. Program investors are needed. Contact Stephanie Cox at A-J National Bank for more information.



Union County CEO team members

Union County CEO team members are, in the first row, from left, Kaylie Adams, Jadyn Samuels, Ashley Sutliff, Evan Hall and Matti Houseman. In the second row are Presli Garner, Tysen Tripp, Ryan Libbert, Alex Keller, Josh Williams, Lakelyn Carter, Drew Holshouser, Daniel Dover and Kinley Lingle. Photo provided.

Soils project focus of event set at Giant City

Illinois soils tell both a story and reveal a history of how soils have changed over the centuries.

To understand more, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign needs help from residents and landowners.

During an upcoming free program, Andrew Margenot, Illinois Extension specialist and associate professor in the Department of Crop Sciences, part of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, ACES, plans to visit Southern Illinois to share recent findings and to discuss how local residents can get involved with the Illinois Centennial Soil Archive Project.

A key piece of Illinois' agricultural heritage is a world-class, one-of-a-kind soil sample archive collected when local soils were first surveyed.

As early as 1899, soil types across the state were mapped by sampling fields to three-foot depth and characterizing the distinct soil layers.

Predecessors had the foresight to keep records of sampling locations and to store these soil samples on campus.

Margenot and his team have spent four years recovering and curating the archive of soils sampled from 1899 through the 2000s.

With the Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council, Illinois Farm Bureau and residents, researchers now want to resample these locations to identify how soils have changed over time in Illinois.

Margenot plans to discuss findings and share how landowners can contribute to the project during a free program at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 11 at the visitors center at Giant City State Park near Makanda.

To register for the program, visit go.illinois.edu/SoilArchiveProject.

To learn more about the project or to discover a map with the location of sample sites, visit margenot.cropsciences.illinois.edu.

Musical set at arts center

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council is planning to present a holiday season children's musical at the Anna Arts Center.

The arts center is located in the 100 block of West Davie St. in Anna.

Performances of "A Christmas Story: The Musical" are set for 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8-9, and for 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. Brad Stamp directing the musical.

Ticket prices are $15, or $5 for children 12 and under.

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Sports

A-J boys' basketball finishes in third place at Goreville Tournament

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School boys' basketball team finished in third place at last week's Goreville Tournament.

A-J 58, Hardin County 44: Hardin County led throughout the game before the Wildcats came back in the fourth quarter in their final game of the tournament Saturday, Dec. 2.

Hardin County led 21-16 after one quarter and 48-43 after three quarters before A-J rallied for the come-from-behind win.

Dylan Harvel led A-J with 19 points. Taj Hodges scored 14, Aiden McFadden 9, Noah Cavins 8, Evan Hall 5 and J.J. Giradi 3.

Goreville 66, A-J 33: The game was tied 13-13 after one quarter. The host Blackcats went on to take a 52-38 lead heading into the final quarter of the game played Friday, Dec. 1.

A-J's Harvel, who needed 17 points to score 1,000 points for his career, led the Wildcats with 20 points. Page had 12 points. Aiden McFadden and J.J. Girardi had 9 each. Evan Hall had 8, Taj Hodges 3 and Noah Cavins 2.

A-J 59, Harrisburg 45: The Wildcats were ahead 19-9 after one quarter on the way to the win Tuesday, Nov. 28.

Girardi led A-J with 15 points. Hodges and Cavins scored 11 each, Page 8, Harvel 6, McFadden 4 and Hall 3.

A-J 53, Johnston City 49: The game was tied 14-14 after one quarter before the Wildcats took over in the tourney win Monday, Nov. 27.

Girardi led A-J with 15 points. Harvel added 10 points, McFadden and Hodges 9 each, Hall and Cavins 4 apiece and Foster Needling 2.

Benton won the tournament with a 5-0 record. Goreville finished second at 4-1 and A-J third at 3-2.

A-J, 3-3, plays Thursday, today, at Century.

53,348: preliminary harvest total for first weekend of Illinois firearm deer season

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 53,348 deer during the first weekend of the Illinois firearm deer season between Nov. 17-19.

In comparison, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, repoerted, hunters took 52,354 deer during the first firearm weekend in 2022.

Hunters in Union County harvested 813 deer during the first weekend of this year's firearm season. That compared to 812 deer harvested in 2022.

Preliminary harvest totals for other area counties included:

Alexander County: 199 this year, 239 in 2022.

Jackson County: 1,371 this year, 1,484 in 2022.

Johnson County: 749 this year, 874 in 2022.

Massac County: 247 this year, 268 in 2022.

Pulaski County: 208 this year, 222 in 2022.

Williamson County: 1,163 this year, 1,287 in 2022.

Illinois' seven-day firearm deer season concluded Nov. 30-Dec. 3.

IDNR noted that other deer hunting opportunities in the weeks ahead include:

Muzzleloader-only deer season Dec. 8-10.

Late-winter antlerless-only and chronic wasting disease deer seasons (in select counties only) Dec. 28-31 and Jan. 12-14; and

Archery deer season through Jan. 14.

A-J girls outscored in three games

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School girls' basketball team lost three times in recent action.

Century 55, A-J 47: Kansas Craig led the visiting Lady Wildcats with 16 points in the game played Saturday, Dec. 2.

Jayda Shepard had 10 points, Eden Lee 6, Raelynn Sadler and Ariana Turner 4 each and Savannah Smith and Riley Cruse 2 apiece.

Marion 64, A-J 36: Visiting Marion pulled ahead 22-4 after one quarter on the way to the win Thursday, Nov. 30.

Shepard led A-J with 14 points. Craig scored 9, Smith and Lee 6 each and Alex Keller 1.

Nashville 60, A-J 18: Shepard led host A-J with 7 points in the game played Tuesday, Nov. 28.

A-J, 2-7, plays again at home against Carterville Saturday, Dec. 9.

Cobden boys' team falls to Christopher

The visiting Cobden High School boys' basketball team fell to Christopher 57-13 in a game played Friday, Dec. 1.

Aron Funes had 4 points to lead Cobden. Matthew Howell had 3, Thomas Coleman and Mitchell Howell 2 each and Kington Kuhn and Jett Kuhn 1 apiece.

Cobden, 4-2, is scheduled to play at Anna-Jonesboro Saturday, Dec. 9.

Sesser-Valier tops Cobden

The Cobden High School girls' basketball team was ahead 15-8 after one quarter but couldn't hold the lead in a 50-33 loss to visiting Sesser-Valier Thursday, Nov. 30.

Natalie Franklin had 15 points and 13 rebounds to lead Cobden. Dixie Kaufman had 12 points and 6 steals. Dora Funes had 5 points, 3 rebounds and an assist. Kylie Hale had 1 point and 8 rebounds.

Cobden, 1-3, plays Hardin County at home Thursday, today.



Jingle Bell Run participants

The Jeff Aden family participated in last Saturday's Jingle Bell Run in Cape Girardeau.

BioBlitz on SIU campus successful

Citizen scientists documented more species than ever during the latest Saluki BioBlitz, an annual survey of flora and fauna on the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Participants documented 435 unique species in a 24-hour window on Sept. 1.

The latest event brought the three-year total to more than 4,000 observations of 675 unique species, said Brent Pease, assistant professor of wildlife in the SIU School of Forestry and Horticulture, who organized the effort.

Saluki BioBlitz is a concentrated effort to record as many species as possible within a designated location and time period, which can vary from a single day to an entire month.

New SIU license plates available

New collegiate Southern Illinois University Carbondale license plates sporting a new look with the Saluki athletic logo and dog head are now widely available.

Any Illinois driver can order random-number, vanity or personalized plates by visiting the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State's website.

Previously this year, only people who already had SIU Carbondale plates were getting the newly designed ones as replacements.

A portion of the proceeds benefit undergraduate scholarships.

SIU chancellor Austin Lane said the newly designed plates fit well with the university's strategic plan, Imagine 2030.

United Missionary planning bazaar

A Christmas bazaar is planned Dec. 9 at United Missionary Baptist Church. The church is located at 125 United Missionary Ln., Buncombe, one mile west of Interstate 57.

The bazaar is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The bazaar will feature gift ideas, gifts for teachers, crafts, gift baskets, baked goods and much more.

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52g

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR ANNA JONESBORO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DIST. 81

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax increase for Anna Jonesboro Community High School Dist. 81 for 2024 will be held on December 18, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. at the High School Library, 608 S. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact the District Superintendent Rob Wright at (telephone 618-833-8421, ext. 122).

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for the year 2023 were $ 2,716,830.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are $3,033,000. This represents a 11.64% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 were $407,941.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are $408,011. This represents a 0.02% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were $ 3,124,771.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are $3,441,011. This represents a 10.12% increase over the previous year.



51p-52g

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

A Sunday morning worship service was held on Dec. 3.

Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins.

Music was led by Pastor Randy Wright and the worship team.

The pastor brought a message titled "Goodness," with scripture selections from both the Old Testament and New Testament.

The message can be listened to on the church's website at annanaz.com and on the Anna First Church of the Nazarene Facebook page.

The church had its annual Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner following Sunday morning's worship service.

The evening worship service on Dec. 3 was cancelled.

Birthdays: Peacelyn Benefield, Dec. 4; Leonard Sadler, Dec. 8.

Anniversary: Scotty and Shannon Thompson, Dec. 8.

Breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

Sunday School is planned at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

A morning worship service is scheduled at 10:35 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

Children's quizzing is planned at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

A evening worship service is planned at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

A Wednesday night service is planned at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 13 in the sanctuary. A youth group meeting and quizzing are planned at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The church can be contacted by calling the church office at 833-6702 and leaving a message if necessary or by calling Pastor Wright at 618-534-7103.

Christmas Spirit Week planned at Anna schools

Christmas Spirit Week activities are planned in Anna Community Unit School District 37.

Anna Junior High/Davie School

Christmas Spirit Week is planned Dec. 14-20 at Anna Junior High/Davie School in Anna.

Special events are planned throughout the week. The schedule includes:

Dec. 14: "Rock Your Jingle Bell Socks" (a day to wear festive socks).

Dec. 15: "Deck the Hall" (a day to wear Christmas colors).

Dec. 18: "Winter Time Wack" (wear a wacky or ugly sweater).

Dec. 19: "Winter Wonderland" (dress as a favorite holiday character or wear a favorite Christmas hat).

Lincoln Elementary School

Christmas Spirit Week activities are planned Dec. 11-20 at Lincoln Elementary School. The schedule includes:

Dec. 11: "Fa La La La Flannel" (wear favorite flannel).

Dec. 12: "Tinsel Toes Tuesday" (wear Christmas socks).

Dec. 13: "Clash of the Carolers" (kindergarten wears red, 1st grade green, 2nd grade white).

Dec. 14: "Baby It's Cold Outside" (wear holiday attire).

Dec. 15: "Holiday Hair Don't Care" (a day for crazy Christmas hair).

Dec. 18: "Oh Deer! Christmas is Here!" (dress like a reindeer).

Dec. 19: "Too Cozy Tuesday" (PJ day for PBIS movie).

Dec. 20: "Feeling a Little Frosty" (dress like Frosty).

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

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THIN ICE



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We don't have to be on ice skates to experience that sinking sensation known as "skating on thin ice." When we live from day to day feeling sure that our future is becoming increasingly uncertain then we must act. We can move in the direction of dependable support as we cry for help. In Psalm 28:6, David proclaims, "Blessed be the Lord, for He hath heard the voice of my supplications." When you feel you are "skating on thin ice," call upon the Lord. Begin by worshipping Him each week with faith and thanksgiving and He will help with what lies ahead.

Daily Bible Readings

Mark 13:1-23	Mark 13:24-27	Zeph. 1:1-18	Zeph. 2:1-15	Zeph. 3:1-20	Jeremiah 33:1-13	Jeremiah 33:14-26

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society ✕ Daily Devotional at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org

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49-52pc

FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF UNION - JONESBORO, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION;
Plaintiff,
vs.
AMIR MOHABBAT, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ESTATE OF ROBERT BOYD, DECEASED; MADELINE H CORRERA; ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ROBERT BOYD, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendants,
22 FC 9
NOTICE OF SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Union County will on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., Courthouse lobby, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, Illinois 62952, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 14-00-11-863.

Commonly known as 411 SPRINGFIELD AVE., ANNA, IL 62906.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Mr. Chad Lewis at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 205 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109.
I3233764
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52gp

Tamms, IL Village Hall is hiring for full time maintenance superintendent position. As well as part time with potential full time maintenance crew. Some benefits are available with the positions. Please contact Tamms Village Hall at (618)747-2353 or (618)306-6466, or stop by the office at 240 Front Street for an application. We would love to have you on our team.
51gptf

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JOB POSTING: Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81 is accepting applications for the following vacancies:
• Head Track Coach
• Individual Student Aide
Interested applicants should pick up an application or print one from our website at www.aj81.net and return to Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81, Attn: Brett Detering, Principal (for EOC Aide) or Rick Livesay, Athletic Director (for Track Coach), 608 S. Main St., Anna, IL 62906. Please contact the Principal's Office at (618) 833-8502 for more information. Applications will be taken until positions are filled.
50-51p 51-52g

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NOTICE

CHRISTMAS SHOP: 117 So. Appleknocker, Cobden. Weekends, Nov. 4 thru Dec. 17. Saturdays 9-4, Sundays 1-4. Wildlife ornaments, trees, waterfowl, Dept. 56, vintage Barbies, beaded bags. 618-893-2865.
46-52pc, 47-1gc

PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
BOBBY E BARNES A/K/A BOBBY BARNES; CITY OF ANNA; HOME BUYERS NOW, LLC; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.
NO. 2023FC15
307 MORGAN STREET
ANNA, IL 62906
JUDGE
PRESIDING JUDGE
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU, Bobby E Barnes a/k/a Bobby Barnes Home Buyers Now, LLC Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

ALL OF LOT NUMBER FOUR (4) IN JOHN W. HESS' FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ANNA, EXCEPT THIRTY-SEVEN (37) FEET IN WIDTH OFF THE SOUTHWEST SIDE THEREOF, SITUATED IN UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 307 Morgan Street
Anna, IL 62906
and which said Mortgage was made by,
Bobby E Barnes a/k/a Bobby Barnes
Mortgagor(s), to
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Union County, Illinois, as Document No. 2020R2128; and for other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before January 8, 2024, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

You have been sued. To participate in the case, you MUST file an official document with the court within the time stated on this Notice called an "Appearance" and a document called an "Answer/Response". The Answer/Response is not required in small claims or eviction cases unless ordered by the court. If you do not file an Appearance and Answer/Response on time, the court may decide the case without hearing from you, and you could be held in default and lose the case. After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to ilcourts.info/efiling. If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees. It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this. Need help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to ilcourthelp.gov for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at illinoislegalaid.org. All documents referred to in this Notice can be found at ilcourts.info/forms. Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website. ¿Necesita ayuda? Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Illinois Court Help al 833-411- 1121, o visite ilcourthelp.gov para obtener información sobre los casos de la corte y cómo completar y presentar formularios.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
1 N. Dearborn St. Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60602
Ph. (312) 346-9088
File No. 23-16147IL-968547
I3234313
8221-937933

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF UNION - JONESBORO, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION;
Plaintiff,
vs.
AMIR MOHABBAT, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ESTATE OF ROBERT BOYD, DECEASED; MADELINE H CORRERA; ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ROBERT BOYD, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendants,
22 FC 9
NOTICE OF SALE**

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LOT NUMBER THIRTY-FOUR (34) OF THE SOUTH PLAT OF HARTLINE BROTHERS SUBDIVISION, REFERENCE BEING MADE TO PLAT RECORD 4, PAGE 67, IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF UNION IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

P.I.N. 14-00-11-863.

Commonly known as 411 SPRINGFIELD AVE., ANNA, IL 62906.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Mr. Chad Lewis at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 205 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109.
I3233764
8221-937777

**NOTICE UNDER ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME ACT
State of Illinois
SS
County of Union**

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

Filed this 21st day of November, 2023, under the Assumed Name of Pistol City Trucking Company, with the place of business located at 5305 St. Route 3 N, Wolf Lake, IL 62998, and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of said Business is:

Owners: Jim Stanley
Address: 5305 St. Route 3 N, Wolf Lake, IL 62998,
Lance Meisenheimer
Union County Clerk
8221-937754

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On Sunday, Dec. 3, Bro. Perry Williams spoke at the Sunday morning worship service regarding the "Unpardonable Sin." His message was based on scripture from Matthew in the New Testament.

The service was sent by transmitter for worshippers who stayed in their cars on the church's lower parking lot while tuned into their radios on station 87.9 FM.

Due to technical difficulties, the service could not be live-streamed. It is hoped the online service will be back on soon.

Music director Dee Rose led worship. Debbie York was the pianist.

Debbie York and Dee Rose presented a medley of "Your Great Name," along with "There is Something About That Name."

Men's and women's Bible studies were planned Monday night, Dec. 3.

The Living Longer and Loving It senior adult group planned to have a monthly meeting and potluck meal Tuesday morning, Dec. 5. Norma and Danny Weaver were scheduled to be musical guests.

The Celebration Choir plans to present the musical "Come Worship the King" at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

Birthdays: Rhonda Boyd, Dave Johnson, Carmen Schexnider, Dec. 4; Joseph Todd Hancock, Dec. 10.

The regular schedule for worship at Jonesboro First Baptist includes Sunday School classes on Sundays at 9 a.m., Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m. and Sunday evening worship at 6 p.m.

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

The Dig-In children's program meets from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Adult Bible study is scheduled on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Hess News

By Glenn Heisner

Seniors from the Sunshine Inn planned to go to the Kentucky Opera Dec. 5 for their Christmas program.

Fred and Wanda Schlenker went to Flickerwood Arena Saturday to see their two great-grandsons compete.

Union County Saddle Club had its annual Christmas meal and election of officers Saturday evening at the Dongola community building.

The saddle club's officers for 2024 are Vickie Tripp, president; Vicky Miller, vice president; and Beth Frick, secretary/treasurer.

Glenna and Allen Harris will be here this week from Texas for a visit. We will celebrate his birthday on Dec. 7.

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

The first reading of Advent was by Amber Easton. Mary Robinson lit the candle representing Hope.

"A Living Hope" was the title of Bro. Easton's sermon for the first Sunday of Advent. The main scripture was 1 Peter 1:3-4.

The message shared that "Jesus is the only hope we have. In His great mercy, He has given us an opportunity for salvation and the fulfilled hope of eternal life. No sin is too bad to be forgiven.

"Worldly hope is wishful thinking, a false hope, not assurance of a living hope. As Christians, we have the true hope.

"Why do we put our hope in Jesus Christ? Who else can you put your faith in besides the only Son of God?

"Jesus was the first and the only one to defeat death. As Christians, we will be able to defeat death as we have eternity with Him."

Prior to the beginning of worship, a short congregation meeting was held for the purpose of nominating and electing two elders to serve for the years 2024-2026.

Karen Vaughn and Rachel Bonner were unanimously elected. An ordination and installation date will be announced later.

Camp Ground Church's lead elder for December is Tony Gerard.

Best wishes go to Reed Crain, whose birthday is Thursday, Dec. 7.

Following worship next Sunday, those who wish will remain to wrap the gifts for the six children the adopted for Christmas.

Looking ahead, the church's annual candlelight service is planned at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24. Camp Ground Church invites everyone to join them for this joyous remembrance of our Savior's birth.

The service will be preceded with a time of fellowship and refreshments beginning at 5 p.m.

All are welcome to worship at Camp Ground Church. Morning worship is at 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, coffee and sweets are at 9:15 a.m., followed by Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:30 a.m.

Cobden Women's Club meeting scheduled

The Cobden Women's Club plans to meet Thursday, Dec. 14.

Club members will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the parking lot at the First Baptist Church in Cobden.

Members will go to Patti's 1880s Settlement in Grand Rivers, Ky., where they will have a Christmas lunch.

After lunch, club members will browse in the shops before they return to Cobden.



Dinner outing

The ladies from Apostolic Lighthouse in Cobden enjoyed an outing Friday evening. There was about 18 ladies who met at Cummare's Italian Ristorante in Murphysboro. The young ladies, as well as seniors, enjoyed themselves. They reported also the food was delicious. Photo provided.

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

On Dec. 3, Sunday morning services began with adult and children's Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Morning worship and the children's worship service began at 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Lupe Lopez greeted everyone and led in the opening prayer to begin the service.

Sharon Farris gave announcements and went over the church's prayer list. Those present prayed over the prayer list and the worship service, asking for God's presence.

Sue Wilkins gave a short talk about Lottie Moon, who was a missionary in the late 1800s.

The call to worship was led by Menda Cash and was on The Lord's Supper. Menda also led the congregation in the 100th Psalm to give honor and glory to God.

Jean Denny led the hymns worship as the church began the Christmas season with "Emmanuel" and "The First Noel."

The contemporary worship team led in the sing of "Agnus Dei" and "I Have Decided."

Pastor Lupe's sermon was titled "Born Again," with scripture from John, Romans and 2 Corinthians.

The sermon shared that "the concept of being 'born again' holds profound spiritual significance across various religious and philosophical traditions.

"Primarily associated with Christianity, it denotes a spiritual rebirth or renewal of one's life, often marked by a transformative encounter with faith.

"To be 'born again' entails a profound personal awakening, a spiritual awakening that leads to a fundamental change in beliefs, attitudes and behaviors.

"It symbolizes a departure from an old way of life, embracing a new identity grounded in spiritual growth, forgiveness and a closer relationship with God.

"This concept emphasizes the idea of starting afresh, shedding past limitations and embracing a renewed purpose and understanding of oneself in the context of their faith and spirituality.

"It signifies a journey of inner renewal and a commitment to living a life aligned with one's newfound spiritual convictions."

The church family then shared together the Lord's Supper, remembering the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for everyone.

Anna First Baptist Church is located at 409 Morgan St. in Anna.

The church has programs for children, youth and adults.

More information is available by calling the church office at 833-5416. Office hours are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The church has a bus available for transportation to services. Information is available by calling the church office.

The church's service can be watched on the YouTube Anna First Live Feed.

Carols in Park set in Villa Ridge

Villa Ridge Union Church and Shiloh Baptist Church are planning to host the second annual Carols in the Park event at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

The event will be at the park in Villa Ridge. There will be chili, desserts and drinks, along with an old-fashioned Christmas carol sing along.

Organizers invite the community to join for a "time of fellowship to honor the birth of our Lord and Savior and celebrate the joyous season."

Television Listings

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7, 2023

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	Special	Bang (HD)	SVU (HD)	Big City	(:05) 30 Coins (HD)	"Citizen" Jamie Foxx.	(5:15) "Scream" ('22)
:30			Local		ESPN Films	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City			
7 PM	Bachelor in Paradise (HD)	The Price Is Right at	Hell's Kitchen (HD)	Christmas at the Opry (HD)	NHL Hockey *Dallas Stars at Washington Capitals* (Live)	Bang (HD)		Hailey's	★★★½ "Watchmen" ('09, Adventure) Malin Akerman. (HD)	"The Strangers: Prey at Night"	(:15) "Earth Mama" ('23, Drama) Tia Nomore.
:30						Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Hailey's			
8 PM		Ghosts U.K	Lego Masters (HD)			Bang (HD)		Moon Girl			
:30		Ghosts U.K				Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous		"The Witch" Anya Taylor-Joy. (R)	
9 PM		SEAL Team (HD)	Local Programs *Local info.*	Organized Crime (HD)		Jokers		Miraculous			Fellow Travelers (HD)
:30					NHL Hockey (Live)	Jokers	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	(:45) The Gilded Age		
10 PM	Local	Local		Local		NFL		Villains		(:58) "Bandits" ('01, Comedy) Bruce Willis.	★★★½ "The Whale" ('22) Brendan Fraser. (HD)
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	Villains	(:45) Murder Boston		
11 PM			Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)	"Movie"		Bluey			
:30	Nightline	Comics		Late Night			SVU (HD)	Bluey	(:45) TBA		

THURSDAY

7:00pm

HBO Watchmen ★★★½ (2009, Adventure) Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup. A group of retired superheroes returns to action to solve the murder of one of their own and discovers a conspiracy that may provoke a nuclear war. R (HD)

8:00pm

FOX Lego Masters Ten teams of two individuals demonstrate the depth of their Lego-building expertise as they compete in a series of construction challenges. TVPG (HD)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8, 2023

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Football Awards (Live)	Young	9-1-1 *"Fear-o-Phobia"*	Big City	"xXx" ('02) Vin Diesel.	★★½ "Never Say" ('83)	"Southpaw" ('15) (R)
:30						Young		TBA			
7 PM	Shark Tank (HD)	The Price Is Right at	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (HD)	To Be Announced		"Movie"	9-1-1 (HD)	TBA	"Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit" Chris Pine.	"Green Room" Imogen Poots. (R)	The World
:30								The Ghost			
8 PM	(:01) 20/20 *Investigative news.* (HD)	Raid The Cage (HD)		Dateline NBC *Investigative news.*	Top Ten He		9-1-1 *"Performance"*	The Ghost			"Thriller 40" ('23) Vincent Price.
:30					Herbies			Miraculous		(:36) "Drive Angry" ('11, Action) Nicolas Cage.	
9 PM		Blue Bloods (HD)	Local Programs *Local info.*		NBA Basketball (Live) (HD)	(:05) "Movie"	9-1-1 (HD)	Miraculous	Real Time Maher (HD)		
:30								Miraculous			"Dead Shot" ('23) Sophia Brown.
10 PM	Local	Local		Local			9-1-1 *"Lost & Found"*	Hailey's	The Gilded Age		
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)				Hailey's		(:21) "Sin City" ('05) Jessica Alba.	
11 PM			Local Programs			(:59) "Movie"	9-1-1 *"Jinx"* (HD)	Bluey	Real Time Maher (HD)		"Dead Presidents"
:30	Nightline	Comics		Late Night	Sports			Bluey			

FRIDAY

7:00pm

ABC Shark Tank The Sharks spread holiday cheer as they meet four hopeful entrepreneurs who show off their innovations and services designed to turn spirits merry and bright. TVPG (HD)

9:00pm

CBS Blue Bloods "Justifies the Means" The Reagan family learns that Joe Hill's identity as an undercover ATF agent has been revealed and they try to keep him from being killed on duty. TV14 (HD)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 2023

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball *UCLA vs Villanova* (Live)	Local Programs	SportsCenter (Live)	(4:02) "Movie"	(4:00) "The Green Mile" ('99) Tom Hanks. (HD)	Villains	"Sum Fear" ('02) (HD)	(5:10) "Taken 3" ('15)	(:15) "The Lesson" ('23) Richard E Grant. (R)
:30								Kiff			
7 PM	NBA (Live)	Merry Soulful Christmas (HD)		Law & Order (HD)	Ceremony (Live)	Burgers		"Movie"	★★★½ "Skyfall" ('12, Action) Daniel Craig. (PG-13)	★★½ "Into the Blue" ('05) Jessica Alba. (HD)	
:30	NBA Basketball *"Teams TBA"* (Live) (HD)					Burgers					
8 PM			College Basketball *Notre Dame vs Marquette*	Weakest Link (HD)	ESPN Original	Burgers	★★★★ "It's a Wonderful Life" ('47, Holiday) James Stewart. (NR) (HD)	(:40) Kiff			"Everything Everywhere All at Once" Stephanie Hsu.
:30						Burgers		Big City			
9 PM		48 Hours (HD)		Password (HD)	Top Rank Boxing on ESPN *"Ramirez vs. Espinoza (Main Card)"* (Live)	Burgers		Big City	The Gilded Age	"Into the Blue 2: The Reef" ('09)	
:30						"Movie"		Hamster			
10 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs *Local info.*	Don't (HD)	Local				Hailey's	Real Time Maher (HD)	(:24) ★★½ "Black Butterfly" ('17)	"Boogie Nights" Mark Wahlberg.
:30				Saturday Night Live (HD)				Bluey			
11 PM	Local Programs		Local Programs				Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	Dolphins		
:30											

SATURDAY

Remove: 12/09/2023

HBO Skyfall ★★★½ (2012, Action) Daniel Craig, Judi Dench. With MI6 under attack, James Bond comes to M's rescue when her daunting past comes back to haunt her, forcing him to take down whoever gets in his way. PG-13

8:00pm

USA It's a Wonderful Life ★★★★ (1947, Holiday) James Stewart, Donna Reed. A suicidal man's guardian angel gives him the chance to see what life in his town would be like if he had never been born. NR TVPG (HD)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2023

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Mickey	NFL (Live)	Lego Masters (HD)	Football America (HD)	SportsCenter (Live)	Grinch	Law & Order: SVU	(5:15) "Movie"	(5:27) ★★★½ "Skyfall" ('12, Action) Daniel Craig.	"Wilson's War" ('07)	Dexter: New Blood
:30	Olaf's	60 Minutes (HD)				Grinch					
7 PM	"Frozen" ('13, Adventure) Kristen Bell. (HD)	A Grammy Salute to 50 (HD)	MasterChef Junior *"Home for the"* (HD)	(:15) Sun. Night Football *Philadelphia Eagles at Dallas Cowboys* (Live) (HD)	Sports	"Deck the Halls" ('11, Holiday) Kathy Najimy.	Law & Order: SVU	Villains		"Ex Machina" Domhnall Gleeson.	Mayor of Kingstown
:30					Bowl Mania (T) (HD)			Big City			
8 PM							Law & Order: SVU	Big City	The Gilded Age		Fellow Travelers (HD)
:30								Big City		(:49) ★★½ "Gemini" ('18, Thriller) Lola Kirke. (R)	
9 PM	Christmas Light Fight	The Equalizer (HD)	Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live) (HD)	(:07) "8-Bit Christmas" ('21) June Diane Raphael. (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	The Gilded Age		The Curse (HD)
:30								Miraculous			
10 PM	Local Programs *Local info.*	Local	Local Programs	Local Programs *Local info.*			Law & Order: SVU	Villains	Oliver		Fellow Travelers (HD)
:30								Chibiverse	(:40) The Gilded Age	"The Witch" Anya Taylor-Joy. (R)	
11 PM		Local Programs	Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)	"Deck Halls"	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey			The Curse (HD)
:30								Bluey	Oliver		

SUNDAY

7:00pm

ABC Frozen ★★★ (2013, Adventure) Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel. After her sister accidentally curses their kingdom with eternal ice, a princess teams up with a mountain man and his reindeer on a journey to break the spell. PG TVPG (HD)

8:00pm

HBO The Gilded Age "Wonders Never Cease" Bertha rethinks her loyalty to the Metropolitan Opera, while an engagement party leaves Marian full of doubts and George strikes a deal with a union leader. TVMA

MONDAY DECEMBER 11, 2023

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	Monday Countdown	Bang (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Big City	"Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit" Chris Pine.	"Hot Summer" ('18)	★★½ "The Contractor"
:30	Countdown		Local			Bang (HD)		Hailey's			
7 PM	(:15) Monday Football *Green Bay Packers at New York Giants* (Live)	Big Brother Reindeer Games (HD)	Kitchen Nightmares	The Voice *"Live Semi-Final Perform."* (HD)	(:15) Monday Football *Tennessee Titans at Miami Dolphins* (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	WWE Monday Night Raw (Live) (HD)	Hailey's		"Paper Towns" Cara Delevingne.	The Curse (HD)
:30						Bang (HD)		Hailey's			
8 PM			Special (HD)			Bang (HD)		The Ghost	Murder Boston	(:50) "Garden State" ('04, Drama) Zach Braff.	Fellow Travelers (HD)
:30						Bang (HD)		The Ghost			
9 PM		NCIS *"Big Rig"* (HD)	Local Programs *Local info.*	Barry Manilow's (HD)		Dad (HD)		Scary	30 Coins (HD)		★★½ "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" ('98)
:30						Dad (HD)		Scary			
10 PM	(:15) Local	Local		Local	Monday	Dad (HD)	Barmageddon (HD)	Secrets	Murder Boston		
:30	(:50) Jimmy Kimmel Live (HD)	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (Live)	Dad (HD)		Secrets		"Barely Lethal" Hailee Steinfeld.	
11 PM			Local Programs			Dad (HD)	(:01) Barmageddon	Bluey	(:55) 30 Coins (HD)		★★★ "X" Jenna Ortega.
:30		Comics		Late Night	Sports	Dad (HD)		Bluey			

MONDAY

7:00pm

MAX Paper Towns ★★★ (2015, Romance) Cara Delevingne, Nat Wolff. A high school teen enlists the help of four friends for a bizarre road trip involving the mysterious disappearance of the elusive girl next door. PG-13 (HD)

8:00pm

FOX Special Forces: World's Toughest Test Famous celebrities tough it out through the most grueling challenges from the special forces selection process, struggling to survive another day. (HD)

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2023

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	Sports	Young	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	"The Bourne Ultimatum" ('07) Matt Damon.	(4:56) "Bandits" ('01)	★★ "The Counselor"
:30					NHL Hockey *Detroit Red Wings at St. Louis Blues* (Live)	Young		Big City			
7 PM	Santa Claus Is Comin	NCIS: Sydney (HD)	Name Tune (HD)	The Voice (HD)		Bang (HD)	WWE NXT (Live) (HD)	Hailey's		"Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2"	"Lucky Number Slevin" ('06) Josh Hartnett.
:30						Bang (HD)		Hailey's			
8 PM	The Great Christmas Light Fight (HD)	Big Brother Reindeer	(:02) 9-1-1: Lone Star	The Voice (HD)		Bang (HD)		Big City	Miami Dolphins		
:30						Bang (HD)		Big City		"Strangers: Prey at Night" ('18)	
9 PM		FBI True (HD)	Local Programs *Local info.*	Found (HD)	NHL Hockey *Chicago vs Edmonton* (Live)	Bang (HD)	(:08) ★★★ "Troy" ('04, Action) Brad Pitt. (R) (HD)	Kiff	"Trees, and Other Entanglements" ('23)		★★ "Mafia Mamma" Toni Collette.
:30						Bang (HD)		Kiff			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local		Young		Villains		(:07) "Ghost" ('90, Romance) Patrick Swayze.	"Reservoir Dogs" Harvey Keitel.
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)		Young		Villains			
11 PM			Local Programs			Young		Bluey	(:55) 30 Coins (HD)		
:30	Nightline	Comics		Late Night	Sports	Young		Bluey			

TUESDAY

8:00pm

ABC The Great Christmas Light Fight "Heavyweights/1103" Host Taniya Nayak examines heavyweight light displays, including the River of Lights and NYC Winter Lantern Festival; families compete for the grand prize. TVPG (HD)

9:08pm

USA Troy ★★★ (2004, Action) Brad Pitt, Eric Bana. When a Trojan prince steals a man's wife, a war of epic proportions begins as the wronged man seeks his brother's aid and launches a thousand ships. R TV14 (HD)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	ESPN Films (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(:10) Miami Dolphins	(4:53) "Ghost" ('90)	"Bridget Jones's Diary" Renée Zellweger.
:30						Bang (HD)		Big City			
7 PM	Family Feud (HD)	Survivor (HD)	The Masked Singer	Quantum Leap (HD)		All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite	Law & Order: SVU	Hailey's	"Black Adam" ('22) Dwayne Johnson. (HD)	"The Soloist" ('09, Drama) Jamie Foxx. (HD)	
:30								Hailey's			
8 PM	Celebrity Wheel of	The Amazing Race (HD)	(:02) Snake Oil (HD)	Magnum P.I. (HD)	ESPN Original Documentaries		Law & Order: SVU	Moon Girl			"Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason" ('04)
:30								Miraculous			
9 PM	The Pyramid (HD)		Local Programs *Local info.*	Chicago Med (HD)		Power Slap	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	(:08) Murder Boston	(:57) "Law Abiding Citizen" ('09)	
:30								Miraculous			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (Live)	Young	Law & Order: SVU	BUNK'D	(:03) 30 Coins (HD)	"The Witch" Anya Taylor-Joy. (R)	"Bridget Jones's Baby" Renée Zellweger.
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)		Young		BUNK'D			
11 PM			Local Programs		SportsCenter (Live)	Young	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	(:03) "Orphan" ('09)		
:30	Nightline	Comics		Late Night		Young		Bluey			

WEDNESDAY

7:00pm

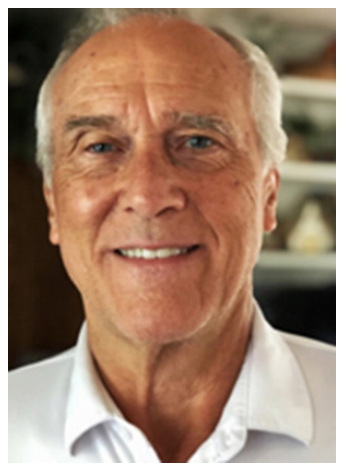
HBO Black Adam ★★★ (2022, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Sarah Shahi. A man is imprisoned after he was gifted with God-like powers, and when he is released, he quickly realizes that there is a force stronger than himself. PG-13 (HD)

8:00pm

ABC Celebrity Wheel of Fortune "Lil Rel Howery, Paula Abdul and Matt Rogers" Actor Lil Rel Howery, musician Paula Abdul and comic Matt Rogers spin the wheel and compete for their chosen charities, which include MAAFA Redemption Project. TVPG (HD)

Obituaries

Larry Wayne Austin



Larry Wayne Austin, 75, of Florence, S.C., died Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, at his home, surrounded by his loving family and three loyal dogs.

He was born on March 22, 1948, the son of Henry and Eula Austin.

He married Patty, the love of his life, in 1977. They have two daughters, Sarah and Caitlin (Billy); four grandchildren, Bailee, Austin, Rosalie and Ronan; and one great-grandchild, Nora.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Danny; and two sisters, Diane and Janice.

He ran a successful business, Austin Industrial Inc., which he started in 1992 from the ground up. He was still working until a few days before his death. He was preparing his son-in-law, Billy Charboneau, to take over and he will continue where Larry left off. He considered Billy as his son and they were wonderful friends.

Mr. Austin was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam. He was a kind, loving, funny, wonderful man and was respected and loved by all who knew him.

In respect for his wishes, there will not be a service. Cain Calcutt Funeral Home in Florence, S.C., assisted the family with arrangements.

Memorials can be made to the Jayne Boswell Animal Shelter in Florence, S.C.

Isaac 'Ike' Richardson



Isaac "Ike" Richardson, 74, of McClure, died Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Evansville, Ind.

He was born on Jan. 12, 1949, in Hornersville, Mo., the son of C.W. and Esther Barton Richardson.

Mr. Richardson is survived by his siblings, Barbara Sterling of Bakersfield, Calif., Glenda Moore of California, Katie Copert of Montana, Brenda Hennings of California and Jimmy (Leona) Richardson of Anna; nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and four sisters.

He loved the Lord. He read a Bible verse every day. He greatly enjoyed travelling and being outdoors. He had a very charitable spirit; he spent a lot of time helping the homeless and others in need. No one ever had a bad thing to say about him.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, today, at Friendship Cemetery in Dongola, with Bill Littrell officiating. Friends can call from 12:30 p.m. until the service hour at 1 p.m. at the cemetery.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Homes

Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Envelopes will be available at the cemetery, as well as at the funeral home.

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

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

Henry J. Mulder Sr.

Henry J. Mulder Sr., 91, of Cobden, died Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

He was born on Jan. 16, 1932, in Chicago, the son of Klaas and Elizabeth Huzinga Mulder.

In 1953, he married Patricia Stuart and they spent many loving years together until her passing in 2015.

Mr. Mulder retired in 1992 after working 30-plus years for the Gust K. Newberg Construction Company in Chicago.

His work with Newberg Construction Company, as site superintendent, allowed him to oversee construction of skyscraper buildings in Chicago, such as the Civic Center and First National Bank.

He also worked on McCormick Place, White Sox Park and the deep tunnels under the Chicago River. He worked on constructing Interstate 80 from Chicago to Aurora, as well as several nuclear power plants along the Illinois River. Mr. Mulder also participated in building some of the locks and dams on the Ohio River.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Homes

Along with his work, he made and poured concrete for friends and family.

Henry is survived by his daughter, Sandra French; sons Henry J. Mulder Jr., Michael (Susan) Mulder and Patrick Mulder; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

Along with his wife, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Jan Bender; and two sisters, Teresa and Eleanor.

No services are planned at this time. Cremation rites will be accorded by Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro.

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

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

David Ury

David Ury, 64, of Jonesboro, died Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, at his home.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with Bill Littrell officiating.

Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Homes

Family and friends can gather from 11 a.m. until the service hour at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the funeral home.

To view his memorial page and to leave online condolences for his family, visit the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

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

View Obituaries Online at **annanews.com**

Angie Lentz-Bryant



Angie Lentz-Bryant, 74, of Ullin, died Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at her residence.

She was born on Dec. 6, 1948, in Cairo, the daughter of Gilbert and Rosann Baker Lentz in Cairo.

She married John Bryant. He survives.

Throughout her working years, she worked at the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center, The Gazette-Democrat newspaper and Union County Hospital in Anna.

She loved the Lord and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Ullin. She was a wonderful painter and used painting as a form of mental therapy.

Other than her husband, John, survivors include her son, Jason Hacker; stepsons John B. Bryant and Timothy D. Bryant; granddaughter Lacey (Tyler) Shepard; step-granddaughters Andrea Haley Bryant, Maddysn Bryant and Aribella Bryant; sisters Toni Capel and Patsy Veldhouse; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Crain Funeral Home

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Kathy Lentz; and a brother-in-law, David Veldhouse.

Funeral services were at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 4, at Crain Funeral Home in Ullin, with Kim Capel officiating.

Interment followed the funeral service at the American Legion Cemetery in Dongola.

Memorials can be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

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

Crain Funeral Home in Ullin was in charge of arrangements.

Southern 7 works to raise awareness about Hepatitis B

Southern 7 Health Department reports that an estimated 1.4 million Americans are affected by Hepatitis B.

The Hepatitis B Virus, HBV, can cause serious liver disease that can eventually lead to liver cancer without proper treatment.

Southern 7 Health Department, together with other Illinois healthcare providers, continues to work to raise awareness about HBV and to encourage the public to get screened and vaccinated.

In October, Southern 7 renewed funding from the Center for Asian Health Equity, CAHE, at the University of Chicago Medicine and the Hope Light Foundation, HLF, to reach and engage community members and residents around HBV prevention.

This is the fourth year the health department has received the funding, which will be utilized to disseminate HBV prevention information for the public and high-risk populations through area agencies, healthcare facilities, schools and other community partners.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, screening and routine HBV vaccination rates dropped significantly statewide.

Increasing HBV knowledge and ensuring timely vaccination can reduce prevalence of Hepatitis B and lead to elimination of the disease, the health department advised.

The most common way HBV is spread is from mother to baby during birth.

Southern 7 Health Department said all pregnant women should be tested for Hepatitis B.

Other high-risk populations include individuals who use or formerly used injection drugs, those born or whose parents were born in high endemic countries, such as most Asian and African countries, and men who have sex with men. Screening is done through a simple blood test.

Most people with HBV do not feel sick and may not present with any symptoms until severe liver damage leads to liver cancer.

Approximately one in four individuals with untreated HBV will eventually die from HBV-related health conditions.

Although there is no cure for HBV, individuals with HBV can live a full and normal life with a treatment plan and routine care.

The HBV vaccine is highly effective in preventing HBV.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, ACIP, recommends vaccination for everyone under the age of 60.

The HBV vaccine requires multiple doses for full protection, the health department said.

For example, the three-dose HBV vaccine requires doses at zero, one and six months.

Southern 7 Health Department provides the HBV vaccine to children and adults.

For more information about preventing Hepatitis B, or to schedule an HBV vaccine appointment, contact Southern 7 Health Department at 618-634-2297, download the Southern 7 App or visit www.southern7.org.

Diaper drive underway

A Southern Illinois state legislator is sponsoring a holiday season diaper drive to benefit needy area children.

The drive is being sponsored by State Rep. Paul Jacobs, R-Pomona.

His offices will be collecting diapers during the weeks leading up to Christmas to assist multiple childcare entities, children and their parents.

Diaper donations can be dropped off by appointment at Jacobs' Carbondale office, which is located at located at 206 W. College, Suite 122, in Carbondale. The Carbondale office can be reached by calling 618-534-9880.

Donations can also be dropped off by appointment at Jacobs' office in Marion, which is located at 600 Halfway Rd., Suite 103, in the Futiva Building. The Marion office can be reached by calling 618-559-7018.

Donations will be accepted through the close of business on Monday, Dec. 18.

Gnomes can be spotted at Giant City this winter

December and January are going to be a good time to look for gnomes at Giant City State Park near Makanda.

Park officials have shared that on each of the seven trails at Giant City (excluding the Red Cedar Backpacking Trail) there is one winter hiking gnome just waiting to be discovered.

Each gnome is holding a different item recommended for a winter hike.

Visitors are invited to go on a hike at the park and to record all seven of the gnomes by taking a photograph of themselves and the gnome... or by making a list of the items they are holding.

Make of a note of the date when the gnome is found, since locations will be changing, and the trail where the gone was found. Gnomes will be located along the designated trails.

Bring proof of the gnome spotting to the visitors center at the park for a free Giant City Gnome Roam patch.

The rosy-cheeked gnomes will be hanging out on the Giant City State Park trails during the months of December and January.

The Giant City State Park visitors center is open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., seven days a week.

Hours may change closer to the upcoming holidays. More information is available by calling 618-457-4836.

JusticeCorps Fellow serving in area counties

Southern Illinois First Judicial Circuit Chief Judge William J. Thurston is welcoming Illinois JusticeCorps Fellow Julian Valdes.

Valdes is providing on-site support and guidance for self-represented litigants at county courthouses in Jackson, Massac, Pulaski, Saline, Union and Williamson counties.

Valdes may provide direct services to members of the general public who are in the courthouse to address their civil legal needs by adding capacity to existing self-help services and circuit clerks.

He may provide legal information and procedural guidance, assistance with web-based and other self-help resources, e-filing assistance and courthouse navigation.

The offices of local circuit clerks can be contacted for a schedule of his visits.

JusticeCorps is a program of the Illinois Bar Foundation, IBF.

The program is made possible through a unique collaboration of stakeholders, including the IBF, the Chicago Bar Foundation and the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice.

The program's staff recruit, train and support AmeriCorps members throughout their year of service.

Courthouses provide on-site support and guidance to volunteers and AmeriCorps members.

County's new fiscal year started Dec. 1

Union County government's new fiscal year started on Dec. 1. The fiscal year runs through Nov. 30, 2024.

At a regular meeting just prior to Thanksgiving, the Union County Board of Commissioners approved a combined annual budget and appropriations ordinance for the new fiscal year.

The meeting was Thursday morning, Nov. 22, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Approval of the ordinance culminated many hours of hard work which went into drafting a balanced budget.

Some of the major appropriations included in the county's new budget included:

General fund $7,834,546. Ambulance $1,299,078. Project Redeploy $775,642.

County highway general $920,946. County bridge $154,081. Federal aid matching $148,663.

County motor fuel tax $1,048,379. Unit road district $467,544. Unit road district bridge $230,754. Unit road district motor fuel tax $1,238,699. Township bridge program $378,998.

Courthouse repair and maintenance $553,155. Capital improvements $1,508,237.

The commissioners also approved five amendments to collective bargaining agreements and four addendums to employment agreements.

The action provided 6 percent raises to approximately 80 county employees for Fiscal Year 2024. Elected officials are not included in those raises.

The amendments covered collective bargaining agreements between the county and the Union County circuit clerk's office, the treasurer's office, the county clerk's office, the state's attorney's office, the assessor's office, the sheriff's office and the county highway department.

The addendums covered the county engineer, the supervisor of assessments, the county administrator and the human resource director.

Varying cost of living increases already were in place for the employees. With the action by the county board, 6 percent raises were approved – which were higher than what was already in place.

County board chairman Max Miller said the increase in pay represented a show of appreciation and was "very worthwhile" and also showed that the commissioners were "trying to do the best we can" for employees.

"It's all well deserved. We appreciate what you do," the board chairman said about the hard work being done by county employees. He thanked everyone for their "hard work and what we've accomplished."

During recent talks about the new budget, the commissioners had praised the work which has been done to allow the county to stay within its budget.

Christmas parade set in Tamms

A Christmas Light Parade and other holiday season events are planned on Dec. 16 in Tamms.

Pictures will be available with Santa Claus from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at village hall.

The Christmas Light Parade is scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

Line up and parade set up will start at 5:30 p.m. at the park on Tamm Avenue.

Businesses, school bands, athletic teams, classic cars, ATV's, UTV's, trucks and more are invited to be a part of the parade.

Donations of unopened toys, money, candy and candy canes, cookies, boxes of hot chocolate and cups are welcomed.

Donations can be dropped off at Tamms Village Hall, which is located at 240 Front St. More information is available by calling village hall at

Opinion and Commentary

Book It To The Library

By Rachel Weir, Outreach Coordinator
Stinson Memorial Public Library

All About Family...

This time of year is all about family. There's just something about the holidays that makes you remember loved ones. Those who live out of town, but especially those who have passed.

Where did my family come from? What was it like for my grandparents growing up? What side was my family on during the Civil War?

If you have ever wondered about your family history, some of these questions can be answered at the Stinson Library.

Our extensive historical and local genealogy collection may just provide the answers you've been looking for. We have census/courthouse records, DAR Patriot Index, cemetery records and maps, too.

But beware, more times than not, genealogy research leaves you with more unanswered questions than you started out with.

Road Trips...

Some of you may have travel plans to see loved ones this holiday season. Take the library with you on your road trip – with audio books.

We have a great selection of new and classic fiction, and family favorites like "Hatchet" by Gary Paulsen. Hear first-hand accounts of exiled royalty with Prince Harry, or sympathize with historical figures in "Dressmakers of Auschwitz."

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Do you have little ones in your family? If they are anything like mine, their stuffed animals are a part of the family too.

The sixth annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover at Stinson Library is planned Dec. 15-16. Friday night at 5 p.m., bring your little ones in their favorite PJs for a bedtime themed story time. Leave your stuffed animal overnight and see what adventures they discover.

December 16 at 10 a.m., join us for a pick up breakfast. You'll hear and see what mischief they were all up to overnight in the library, enjoy a light breakfast and get a keepsake photo craft.

Cherish Family

So...patrons of the library, cherish your family. Whether they have passed, or if you plan to see them soon or if they are stuffed animals, family comes in all shapes and sizes.

Volunteers sought to record weather conditions in region

The National Weather Service office in Paducah is looking for people in Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky who enjoy recording weather conditions in their backyards to consider joining the CoCoRaHS network.

Every morning, CoCoRaHS observers record important measurements of how much rain, hail or snow fell at their location during the previous 24 hours and send that information out via the CoCoRaHS web page or mobile app.

Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds serve as citizen scientists by measuring precipitation in their own backyards as part of CoCoRaHS : the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network.

The network has grown to more than 20,000 volunteer observers covering every state of the country. Helping with the program takes less than five minutes a day, the weather service noted.

"We are pleased that this simple backyard monitoring program has become so popular," said Nolan Doesken, the Colorado State Climatologist at the Colorado Climate Center in Fort Collins, Colo., in a news release.

"These volunteers are providing scientists around the country with excellent precipitation and hail monitoring statistics for tracking weather patterns and water supplies."

The CoCoRaHS network engages volunteers of all ages, from grade schoolers on up to folks in their 90s, to document the size, intensity, duration and patterns of precipitation by taking simple measurements in their own backyards.

Volunteers only need a cylindrical rain gauge, some training and an interest in weather to participate in the program.

The specific rain gauge that CoCoRaHS uses is available from distributors on the network's website (www.cocorahs.org) for about $40 plus shipping.

Data from CoCoRaHS volunteers are being routinely viewed and used by many professions and organizations, including the National Weather Service, meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities, insurance adjusters, agribusinesses, engineers, science teachers and many more.

Data are used for many applications, such as water resource planning, severe storm warnings, teaching earth science, predicting crop yields and for assessing hail damage.

Joining the CoCoRaHS program is free. Sign up is available on the network's website.



Colorful November sunset...

Colorful and eye-catching sunsets were common during November in the sky over Union County. Mother Nature created this sunset on the evening of Nov. 29.

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Once again...a little bit of this...a little bit of that...



Perfect timing...perfect pose...The Other Half and yours truly saw a bald eagle which was perched high in a tree along Illinois Route 146 near the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area.

How can it be December already?

This week, once again, bear with me as we take a look at a little bit of this...and a little bit of that...

We'll start with many, many apologies to the spirit of John Lennon...

...and so this is Christmas...

...and you can tell that it's "officially" Christmas when some very strange commercials for various perfumes and colognes start showing up.

Perhaps, as an "official" old guy who just might not be "with it" (not that I ever was) and just might not "get it," I truly do not understand some of those commercials.

For example, one of the commercials has an elegantly dressed couple who appear to be dancing on what appears to be the surface of the moon. As the commercial unfolds, the couple appear to start floating above the surface of wherever they area.

Like I said, I don't get it... and I certainly do not understand why it would be necessary to acquire that particular product...

Meanwhile...

The Other Half and yours truly paid a visit to an event last Saturday in our hometown which featured the art and craft creations of folks from right here in our little corner of the world. Let me just say that we are blessed to have so much creative talent...and to be able to see it, too...

Meanwhile...

In the midst of a pre-bedtime nap last Sunday night, I watched what I thought might be another appearance of Taylor What's Her Name on the tube. Never did see her...but the football game was pretty good...

Meanwhile...

Speaking of "official" sorts of things...

Thanksgiving "officially" came to an end (for this writer, anyway) at about 6:35 p.m. on the 29th day of November.

That was the moment when the container of spray whipped cream which I had purchased just for the holiday sputtered to the end...like a car coughing to a herky jerky stop when it runs out of gasoline.

Leftover turkey had pretty much ran its course by that time, too. I don't think I ever did get to put any of the whipped cream on some leftover turkey...

Meanwhile...

The Other Half and yours truly motored to the big city of Cape Girardeau on a bright, sunny day last week. She had an appointment with a dentist, which meant that I had an appointment as a chauffeur.

As we often do, during our journey to west bank of the Mississippi River, and back home again, we kept an eye out for critters...especially when we made a bit of a side trip through the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area (a place most of us know just as "the refuge").

We ended up seeing four bald eagles (three of which were flying when we saw them on the way to Cape Girardeau), five hawks, and a meager two Canada geese at a pond at the refuge (although there were more geese flying overhead off in the distance). Given the arrival of the holiday season, I was kind of disappointed that we did not see a partridge in a pear tree. Of course, I don't know if there are any pear trees at the refuge. Or partridges for that matter.

While we driving through the refuge, I said something to The Other Half about how it would be nice to see a bald eagle...perhaps one perched in a tree so a certain somebody could take a photo or two or three...

As we got closer to the Illinois Route 146, I spotted what looked like a pretty good sized bird perched high in a tree along the highway near the entrance to the refuge. I figured the bird was probably a hawk.

Turned out the bird was a bald eagle. I guess the majestic bird somehow sensed somebody was out looking to get a photograph of a bald eagle. I ended up stopping the car on the road at the refuge (the Other Half is used to such things) and took about a dozen photographs.

We didn't see any more bald eagles on the way back home. However, later that day, while heading home from metropolitan Anna, I looked up and saw...yup...another bald eagle...soaring overhead in a clear, blue sky...



A heron appeared to be taking advantage of warm late autumn sunshine when it was spotted at the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area.

Candlelight tours set

The Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site, the oldest surviving capitol building in Illinois, plans to host public candlelight tours on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 9, as part of the site's annual Christmas open house.

Visitors will find the building illuminated by more than 150 candles and trimmed with holiday decorations.

The festivities are scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Visitors will be invited to stroll through the historic site while having a cup of hot apple cider and homemade cookies made by the Vandalia High School Okaw culinary class.

The first 100 families who visit will receive a free Christmas ornament.

The site will collect nonperishable or canned food items from visitors to donate to a local food pantry.

The event is hosted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which manages the site, and the Old Capitol Foundation.

The site, at 315 W. Gallatin St., is open to the public 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. More information is available by calling 618-283-1161.

'This is what really happened...

...some thoughts about newspapers
from the Oregon Digital Newspaper program's website

"This is what really happened, reported by a free press to a free people. It is the raw material of history; it is the story of our own times." Henry Steel Commager

"Newspapers cannot be defined by the second word—paper. They've got to be defined by the first word—news." Arthur Sulzberg, Jr.

"A good newspaper is a nation talking to itself." Arthur Miller

"The newspaper is a greater treasure to the people than uncounted millions of gold." Henry Ward Beecher

"Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." Thomas Jefferson

"Most of us probably feel we couldn't be free without newspapers, and that is the real reason we want newspapers to be free." Edward R. Murrow

"All I know is what I read in the papers." Will Rogers