

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Anna, Illinois

\$1.00

Volume 177, Number 10

News Notes

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



February's full moon, known by some as the "snow moon," was shining in a clear sky last week on a cold winter night.

Union County Clerk Lance Meisenheimer reports that early voting is scheduled to begin Thursday, today, for April elections.

A map posted last Saturday night on the website for the National Weather Service office in Paducah showed a Tornado Warning, a Severe Thunderstorm Warning, a Flash Flood Warning, a Severe Weather Statement, a Flood Warning, a Tornado Watch, a Flood Advisory, a Winter Storm Watch, a Flood Watch and a Hazardous Weather Outlook.

Deaconess Illinois Union County Hospital in Anna shared the following message on social media on Feb. 12: "As flu cases rise, Deaconess hospitals in southwest Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois are implementing visitor restrictions to protect vulnerable patients. These include no visitors with illness symptoms, no visitors under 16, and masks encouraged. Visitors should check hospital websites for specific details and exceptions."

Illnesses continued to impact local school activities last week.

Anna-Jonesboro Community High is congratulating this year's outstanding seniors, including Brinley Corbit, Brooklynn Eastman, Chesnee Marks, Ruby Yates, Logan Abernathy and Cash Hodges. They were selected by the school's faculty and staff based on their grade point averages, citizenship, service and academic excellence.

A-JCHS also is congratulating junior basketball player Jayda Shepard for reaching the 1,000-point scoring milestone in her playing career. She posted the achievement in a recent A-J win over Pope County.

After several months of working with the Department of Justice, Shawnee School District 84 hosted a SPIRIT Day on Feb. 13. The event was a one-day, student-focused program which engaged students, school administrators, teachers, school resource

(continued on page 2)

Winter storm warning issued for Tuesday afternoon though Wednesday morning

Heavy rain falls...then snow, arctic cold in forecast

Heavy rain which fell on the area last Saturday was followed by snow which fell early Sunday.

More snow was expected this week, along with Arctic temperatures.

As of Monday afternoon, parts of Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky were under a winter storm warning.

Winter Storm Warning

The National Weather Service office in Paducah issued the winter storm warning for the region.

The warning was in effect from noon Tuesday through 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Heavy snow was expected in the warning area. Total snow accumulations between 4 and 7 inches were possible in the areas included in the winter storm warning.

Roads, and especially bridges and overpasses, were likely to become slick and hazardous. Travel could have become very difficult.

The weather service warned that hazardous conditions could have impacted the Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning commutes.

The weather service office was advising those living in the region to monitor the latest forecasts for updates on the situation.

"Persons should delay all travel if possible. If travel is absolutely necessary, drive with extreme caution and be prepared for sudden changes in visibility," the weather service advised ahead of the storm.

"Leave plenty of room between you and the motorist ahead of you, and allow extra time to reach your destination. Avoid sudden braking or acceleration, and be especially cautious on hills or when making turns. Make sure your car is winterized and in good

working order."

Dangerous Cold Temperatures

Dangerous cold temperatures were expected to follow after the snow ended.

The greatest impacts from the extreme cold will occur Thursday morning (today), the weather service advised.

The forecast for the Anna area was calling for a low of around 1 degree below zero on Thursday morning. The high is expected to be near 16 with a mostly sunny sky. The low Thursday night is expected to be around 2.

Winter Weather Advisory

A winter weather advisory was in effect for parts of the region early last Sunday morning.

Bands of heavy snow produced quick accumulations of 1 to 2 inches.

Gusty winds of up to 35 miles per hour were expected to reduce visibility and cause any lingering water on road surfaces to freeze.

Snow Follows Heavy Rain on Saturday

Sunday morning's snow quickly followed heavy rain which fell for much of the day on Saturday.

Ahead of Saturday's heavy rain, the weather service office in Paducah had advised on Friday, Feb. 14, that concern was growing for a potentially significant or major flash flood event from Saturday afternoon into Sunday morning in parts of Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky.

"This is a particularly dangerous situation," the weather service office warned Friday afternoon on its website.

The weather service advised Saturday morning that some areas in Western Kentucky "could see considerable to catastrophic flooding."

(continued on page 2)



Creek north of Cobden

Brown water was rushing through a creek north of Cobden last Saturday afternoon. Heavy rain was falling at the time.



Wintry reflection

A mirror near the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Cobden reflected a snow-covered landscape last Sunday afternoon.

Weather service issues spring flood outlook for region's rivers



Mississippi River at low level...

The Mississippi River was a very low level in October 2022. The photograph was taken at Grand Tower. File photo.

A spring flood and water resources outlook for the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region has been posted on the website for the National Weather Service office in Paducah.

The outlook, issued on Feb. 13, covers the time period from mid-February through mid-April.

It includes the mid-Mississippi and lower Ohio rivers and their tributaries in the region.

Union County is bordered on the west by the Mississippi River.

Part of northwest Union County is bordered by the Big Muddy River, which is a tributary of the Mississippi.

Flood potential is normal to above normal across the Ohio Valley and its tributaries.

Flood potential is normal

to below normal for the outlook period for the Mississippi River Valley and its smaller tributaries.

A La Nina, albeit a weakening one, has played a role in what has been an increasingly wetter late winter in the Ohio Valley.

Flooding in this region occurs mainly due to conditions of ground moisture, river flows and expected precipitation. Ice jams are rarely a factor in flooding for this part of the country.

A mix of rain, sleet and snow fell over the region in early February, leaving wet conditions. Heavier rain fell across central Kentucky causing the Green River to rise above flood stage. This has also led to a rise on parts of the Ohio River from Owensboro to Shawneetown. Smaller rivers in Southeast

Missouri have been running near normal.

The Ohio River near the confluence with the Mississippi River was running above normal and the Mississippi River above Cairo was running below normal.

Soil moisture has been above normal across extreme Southeast Missouri and southern counties in Western Kentucky. Soil moisture was near normal elsewhere.

There was very little snow in the Mississippi or the Ohio river valleys that would contribute significant runoff for flooding. A fairly strong storm system accompanied by moderate to heavy rainfall moved into the region late last week.

The next spring flood and water resources outlook is scheduled to be released Feb. 27.

Annual "Together We CAN" canned soup drive kicks off

The 5th Annual "Together We CAN" Canned Soup Drive has begun, and this year, organizers are hoping to spread even more love throughout the region by collecting cans of soup to benefit neighbors in need.

The drive will run from Feb. 14 to April 14, with a goal to surpass a past record of 53,000 cans of soup. Canned soup, a staple in many pantries, is not only easy to store, but also serves as a comforting meal that can make a big difference for those struggling to put food on the table.

"This is our fifth year, and we are excited to bring the community together once again," said Dale Fowler, founder and chairman of the Fowler Bonan Foundation.

"Soup is such an affordable and heartfelt way to help others. Every can we collect is one more meal that will warm the hearts and bellies of families in our area."

Organizers are calling on local businesses, schools, and residents to get creative with drop-off locations. Business owners are encouraged to set up a drop box or a soup collection display at their locations. Creativity with displays is encouraged, as is sharing creative displays with the community through photos and videos. "We encourage everyone

to think outside the box when it comes to their displays," said drive organizer, Amy Oxford. "We would love to see your creativity and share the love on our social media pages."

Organizers are also seeking partners and sponsors to help make this year's drive even more successful. Financial sponsors are particularly needed, as monetary donations will be used to purchase additional pallets of soup from small, local businesses across Southern Illinois. By supporting the drive, sponsors can not only help those in need, but also boost the local economy.

Sponsors' logos will be included in promotional flyers, and they'll receive visibility through various media outlets as part of the campaign. Organizers are also hoping to collaborate with local media partners to help spread the word and promote the event further.

"We want to make this a community-wide effort," said Fowler "The more partners and sponsors we have, the more we can give back to the community and help those who need it most."

For more information on how to get involved, please contact the Fowler Bonan Foundation at fowlerbonanfoundation@gmail.com or by calling 618-926-3062.



THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

THE TALK AND COBDEN REVIEW

Serving Union County Since 1849

(USPS 215-280)

ISSN 2834-6165 (Print)

2834-6173 (Online)

112 Lafayette St.

Anna, Illinois 62906-0529

618-833-2158

news@annanews.com

Periodical postage paid at Anna, Illinois 62906-0529



PUBLISHED THURSDAY

Benjamin Marxer.....Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year • July, 2022

In Union County.....\$54.00

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

Out of Area.....\$64.00

Per Copy.....\$1.00

E-edition.....\$54.00



POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

The Gazette-Democrat

112 Lafayette St.

Anna, Illinois 62906-0529

Advertising rates given on application.

The Gazette-Democrat | Monday’s Pub.

www.annanews.com

facebook.com/gazettedemocrat

News Notes

(continued from page 1)
officers and other school and community members in identifying issues impacting their school and developing and implementing solutions to resolve those issues.

The celebration of National FFA Week started Feb. 15 and continues through Feb. 22.

Nearly 100 junior high school students (including local students) participated in a Shawnee Community College band festival last week. They practiced all day and then performed a concert.

Shawnee Community College athletics is congratulating Shaylee Moore, who is ranked eighth among NJCAA Division I women’s basketball players in blocks per game. She leads the Great Rivers Athletic Conference and is second in Region 24.

Shawnee Community College is celebrating homecoming this week.

More than 100 middle school and high school students from throughout the region were planning to attend the inaugural Woodwind Day, hosted by Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s School of Music. The event was scheduled Wednesday, Feb. 19. Students from Anna-Jonesboro Community High School were among those planning to attend.

SIU earns prestigious designation

Southern Illinois University Carbondale has officially entered the ranks of the top research universities in the nation by earning the designated of “Research 1,” in the Carnegie Classifications of Institutions of Higher Education.
The prestigious designation by the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching confirms SIU Carbondale is in the same league as elite private and flagship universities across the country.

Less than 5% of the nearly 4,000 classified institutions are designated Research 1: Very High Spending and Doctorate Production.

“This is an exciting day for Southern and our campus community, and it is a milestone for all Salukis to celebrate,” SIU Carbondale Chancellor Austin Lane said.

Shawnee College earns budget presentation honor

The Government Finance Officers Association, GFOA, has recognized Shawnee Community College with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fiscal year 2025 budget.

This marks the third consecutive year that the college has received thiehonor.

“This award represents a significant achievement by Shawnee Community College. It reflects the governing body and staff commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting,” said Chris Morrill, executive director/CEO of GFOA.

Shawnee Community College had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation to receive the award.

These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity’s budget serves and include a policy document, a financial plan, an operations

Weather

High 48, low 14;
heavy rain Saturday,
snow on Sunday

Weather in the Union County area during the period of Feb. 11-17 was highlighted by heavy rain and snow.

Precipitation for the period totaled 2.76 inches, which included rain and melted snow. Snowfall totaled 3 inches.

Temperatures ranged from a high of 48 degrees to a low of 14 .

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

Tuesday, Feb. 11: high 37, low 33. 0.28 of an inch of rain.

Wednesday, Feb. 12: high 38, low 31. .13 of an inch of rain.

Thursday, Feb. 13: high 32, low 17.

Friday, Feb. 14: high 37, low 14.

Saturday, Feb. 15: high 48, low 35. 2.15 inches of rain.

Sunday, Feb. 16: high 35, low 20. 3 inches of snow; 0.20 of an inch of melted precipitation.

Monday, Feb. 17: high 28, low 17.

guide, and a communications device

Budget documents must be rated “proficient” in all four categories and the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award.

“Receiving this honor three years in a row is a wonderful reminder of the dedication of our team at Shawnee Community College. We’re committed to maintaining a balanced budget each year while continuing to provide high-quality education and services to our community,” said Shawnee Community College vice president of administrative services Chris Clark.

GFOA works to advance excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 22,500 members and the communities they serve.

Snow in forecast

(continued from page 1)
By about 10:30 a.m. Saturday, flash flooding was ongoing in Western Kentucky.

Nearly all of Union County was expected to receive as much as two to three inches of rain. Union County was under a flood watch on Saturday.

Thunder was heard rumbling in the sky over Union County at about 2 o’clock last Saturday afternoon. Heavy rain was falling at the time.

A check of the National Weather Service radar at the time thunder was heard showed rain stretching down into Arkansas and Texas.

Roads Closed

The Union County Sheriff’s Office in Jonesboro reported on social media that a portion of Sweet Potato Road in the Mill Creek/Donkola area had been washed away and was closed.

Morgan School Road between Jonesboro and Ware was closed due to high water.

Airport Road at Old Cape Road south of Jonesboro was closed due to high water.

The weather service office reported on Monday morning that widespread flooding of roads was continuing across much of the region.

Stream and river levels were expected to contin-

County commissioners meeting held

Board hears hospital update, port commission proposal

An update about Deaconess Illinois Union County Hospital in Anna and proposed participation in a regional port commission were on the agenda at last week’s regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners.

The meeting was Friday morning, Feb. 14, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Deaconess Illinois Union County Hospital Report

An update on a number of activities and accomplishments during 2024 at Deaconess Illinois Union County Hospital in Anna was shared. The update was given by Harry Brockus, the hospital’s chief administrative officer.

The achievements included:

- In August of 2024, the hospital unveiled a new name as part of a healthcare system based in Evansville, Ind. The Anna facility’s name was changed to Deaconess Illinois Union County.

- An electric record system installed. The project involved a local investment of about \$5 million.

Brockus reported that the hospital is planning to host a health fair on Saturday, March 1. The event is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Shawnee Community College’s extension center in Anna.

Brockus said the health fair is being planned as the result of a recently conducted community needs assessment survey.

The health fair will feature a variety of screenings, educational opportunities and more.

Plans also are being considered for the development of a local food bank. The hospital is working with the Union County Alliance of Churches on the project.

Union County Board of Commissioners chairman Max Miller commended the hospital and its role in the community.

Miller said the Union County community should

ue to rise in some areas, which could have caused new flooding to develop.

River Flood Warnings

As of Monday morning, flood warnings were in effect some of the region’s rivers. The recent heavy rains were causing river levels to rise.

The Big Muddy River at Murphysboro was forecast to climb above flood stage on Tuesday. Minor flooding was in the forecast.

Northwest Union County is bordered by the Big Muddy River.

The Ohio River at Cairo was on the rise this week. Minor flooding was occurring.

be proud of the hospital. “Were fortunate to have you,” he said.

Southern Illinois Regional Port Commission

Representatives of SI Now attended Friday’s meeting to discuss the county’s participation in a regional port commission.

The proposal was shared by SI Now executive director Deb Barnett and regional development representative Nick Holdinghausen.

According to its website, SI Now’s purpose is to serve as a regional economic development hub and unified voice for 17 southern counties in Illinois “to advance our region as a great place to live, work and do business.”

SI Now’s proposal included a request that the county board approve a resolution in support of the regional port commission. Representatives of SI Now are visiting boards in each of the 17 counties to seek resolutions in support of the proposal.

The regional port commission would have to be established by the Illinois legislature. A measure has been drafted, with a vote expected in the spring.

Information shared by SI Now with county officials showed that the proposed Southern Illinois Regional Port Commission will:

- Respect and support the individual entities of Southern Illinois’ state-designated port districts while advancing regional interests as a federally recognized multi-modal port.

- Elevate the region’s profile to improve regional, national and global competitiveness.

Civil War Weekend set at Anna arts center

The story of the Civil War will be highlighted at an upcoming event scheduled in Anna.

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council and the PAST organization of Union County are planning to host a Civil War Weekend Feb. 21-22 in Anna. The Civil War was fought from 1861 to 1865.

A wide range of activities are planned at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council during the weekend. The arts council is located along West Davie Street in Anna. The schedule follows:

Blue and Gray Dinner

A Blue and Gray Dinner is planned at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21.

Guest speaker is scheduled to be Norma Lee Hackney, Ph.D., who plans to discuss “Four Spies” who changed the course of various events during the Civil War.

At 6:50 p.m., those attending the dinner will be invited to go next door to attend a presentation by award winning folk musician and folklorist Chris Vallillo.

Dinner will be catered by the South Pass Supper Club. The dinner is a fund-raiser for the arts council.

Those who wanted to attend the dinner were asked to RSVP by no later than Feb. 18.

Friday Night Presentation

“Songs of the Illinois Freedom Road” will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, by Chris Vallillo.

He brings the music and the stories of the Underground Railroad in Illinois to life in the presentation. Admission is free and open to the community.

Saturday’s Schedule; Guest Speakers

Speakers and exhibits are planned from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb 22.

- Enhance the ability to compete for and attract public and private investment.

- Advance regional marketing and economic development efforts.

- Create a regional multi-modal transportation infrastructure identity.

- Better serve the State of Illinois and the region as an expanded economic development tool within Southern Illinois.

The county already is in the Jackson-Union Counties Regional Port District. Commissioner Kent Pitts represents the county on the port district’s board. He said a regional port commission would create opportunities for growth in the future.

The proposed resolution will be reviewed and considered at the county board’s next meeting.

Other Business

In other business at Friday’s meeting:

The commissioners approved a bid for corrugated metal pipes used by the Union County Highway Department. Two bids were received. A bid of \$55,443.60 from Metal Culverts was approved.

Commissioner Darryl Harvell voiced concerns about the disappearance of county highway signs. He suggested that the county look into the possibility of finding signs which are made of a material other than metal.

Commissioner Kent Pitts reported that numbers were down at the Union County animal control shelter.

Pitts also reported that plans are being made for a grand opening event at the new shelter.

Exhibits include a walk-through exhibit, “Journey to Freedom – Illinois’ Underground Railroad.”

Picture and story panels tell the known history of the Underground Railroad in Illinois.

The exhibit was created by the Looking for Lincoln organization in Springfield

Speakers and exhibits are all free and everyone is invited.

The following presentations by guest speakers are scheduled:

9 a.m., “Lincoln’s Brown Water Navy” on America’s western rivers by Eddie Price, a retired history teacher and award-winning author.

10:15 a.m., a historical narrative of the soldiers from Johnson County in Southern Illinois by Ed and Diane Annable, award winning authors.

11:30 a.m., The Presumption of Freedom: The Illinois Supreme Court and the Fate of Slavery in the Prairie State by Dr. Sam Wheeler, director of history programs, Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission. Illinois entered the Union as a free state in 1818, but slavery continued to exist within its borders for decades.

1 p.m., Harriet Tubman, portrayed by historical reenactor Marlene Rivero. After escaping slavery, Harriet Tubman used the Underground Railroad to rescue enslaved people.

Lunch

Lunch will be available starting at 11 a.m. The menu will include barbeque, chips and a drink for \$9 or a hot dog, chips and a drink for \$7.

More Information

More information about the Civil War Weekend is available by contacting Lee Hackney by email at vabchlee@gmail.com or by phone at cell 1-904-625-1109.

Snow in parking lot

Snow had been cleared by last Sunday afternoon in the parking lot at Shawnee Community College’s extension center in Anna.

Local historian discusses Kirkpatrick pottery

Brock Buckner was the guest speaker at the Daniel Chapman chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution meeting. The meeting was held the Stinson Memorial Library Monday in Anna on Feb. 10.

Buckner spoke about the history of Kirkpatrick pottery and brought pieces from his own collection to show and discuss.

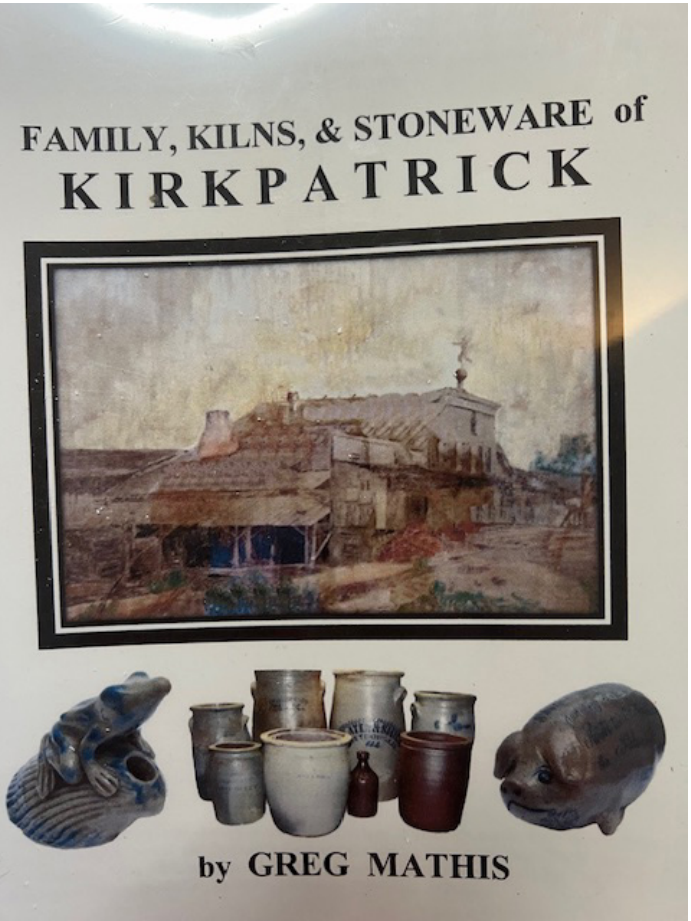
Kirkpatrick pottery is a style of folk art created by brothers Cornwall and Wallace Kirkpatrick in Anna from 1859 to 1910.



An example of Kirkpatrick pottery: a gray pottery flask in shape of pig, showing a map of St. Louis and vicinity. The flask was made by Anna Pottery in 1888.



Brock Buckner (right) held a drawing for the book “Family, Kilns, and Stoneware of Kirkpatrick,” by Greg Mathis valued at \$179. Debora J. Simmons (left) was the winner. Photographer, Martha Ann Webb



“Family, Kilns, and Stoneware of Kirkpatrick,” by Greg Mathis discusses the Kirkpatrick family members, workshops and wares.

Part-Time DRIVER Needed
At The Gazette-Democrat, Anna, IL office

This contract position is a great opportunity for a dependable, short-distance driver and bundle handler!

Primary duties Include:

- Driving personal vehicle to deliver weekly publications to area vendors and post offices
- Lifting, loading and unloading our publications and products
- Helping with product bundling and other tasks that expedite delivery of our products
- Communicating professionally and timely with our team

Candidates must have:

- Dependable personal vehicle
- Valid driver's license
- Working cell phone
- Current auto insurance
- Successful drug screening
- Self-motivation
- Demonstrated ability to take initiative and work effectively with others

This is a contract position (approximately 3 hours per week) with a flat pay of \$100 per week.

Qualified candidates only - For consideration, forward resume to lhinton@annanews.com

Equal Opportunity Employer

Disgraced ex-governor reportedly in consideration for U.S. ambassadorship to Serbia

Trump pardons Blagojevich 5 years after commutation cut prison time short

By Hannah Meisel, Bridgette Fox
Capitol News Illinois

President Donald Trump has granted a full pardon to former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who was convicted on 18 corruption counts, including for his attempt to sell President-elect Barack Obama’s U.S. Senate seat in 2008, Blagojevich holds the distinction of being the state’s only impeached governor.

Trump’s pardon comes five years after he commuted Blagojevich’s 14-year prison sentence in February 2020, sending the disgraced ex-governor home from lockup in a low-security Colorado facility six years early.

In the leadup to commuting Blagojevich’s sentence, Trump used the former Democrat’s criminal case as a way to discount the myriad investigations, indictments and convictions he’s faced, even as a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year granted him immunity from criminal liability for his official acts.

Shawnee school district announces honor roll students

Shawnee School District No. 84 at Wolf Lake announces second quarter honor roll students.

6th Grade Honor Roll
Alivia Holley.

7th Grade Honor Roll

Carlie Chapman, Adalyn Follis, Jonathan Hubbs, Tinley Qualls and Aubree Davison.

High Honor Roll
Murphy Wilson.

8th Grade Honor Roll

Gracelynn Bigham, Hunter Ross and Joseph Willmore.

9th Grade Honor Roll
Saphyre Beasley, Eliza Ford, Eva Ford, Aryana Heisner, Berkli Holtman, Emma Neilson, DJ Rushing and Connor Wilson.

High Honor Roll
Lillie Griffin.

Signing the pardon in the Oval Office on Monday evening, Trump falsely claimed Blagojevich was “set up by a lot of bad people – some of the same people that I had to deal with.”

The president then said he didn’t know Blagojevich but added as an afterthought that “I believe he was on ‘The Apprentice,’” referring to the NBC reality TV show he hosted through 2015.

Blagojevich was “fired” on the fourth episode of “The Celebrity Apprentice” in 2010 during a media blitz the out-of-work governor went on after his indictment in an attempt to sell his narrative.

Blagojevich served six years as governor before his December 2008 arrest and his subsequent impeachment in January 2009.

Though his first trial ended in a hung jury on 23 of 24 counts, he was ultimately convicted in 2011 on charges ranging from shaking down a children’s hospital executive and a racetrack owner for campaign donations to the

attempted Senate seat sale, for which the governor held appointment power.

Blagojevich attempted to extract value from the appointment, including seeking campaign cash, high-paying jobs for both himself and his wife Patti, and an appointment to Obama’s future presidential cabinet, or an ambassadorship.

Sixteen years later, Blagojevich may finally get that ambassadorship.

Trump is considering appointing Blagojevich as ambassador to his family’s native Serbia, according to a report last week from POLITICO.

When he signed the pardon, Trump denied considering Blagojevich for ambassador, but then said it wasn’t out of the cards.

“No, but I would (appoint Blagojevich),” Trump said. “He’s now cleaner than anybody in this room.”

Since his release from prison in 2020, Blagojevich has called himself a “Trumpocrat,” disavowing his former political party and tying himself closely to Trump. At last summer’s Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, the ex-governor spoke at a “Serbs for Trump” gathering.

In a news conference outside of his home on Chicago’s Northwest Side, Blagojevich declined to comment on the potential appointment. He was otherwise unrepentant as ever, railing against what he called the “weaponization of prosecutors for political purposes.”

Blagojevich maintained that what the FBI caught on wiretapped calls was merely a “routine political deal,” an argument mirrored by attorneys for the ex-governor’s political nemesis, former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, who is currently awaiting a verdict in his own corruption trial.

Blagojevich declined to comment on Madigan’s case, instead delivering a variation on the same message he’s had since his arrest.

“I want to say to the people of Illinois two things,” he said. “No. 1: I never raised your taxes. No. 2: I didn’t do it.”



Wounded Warrior waterfowl hunt

For the 14th year, the Wounded Warrior Project and the Grassy Lake Hunting Club hosted a special one-day waterfowl hunting event in late January. The Wounded Warrior Project was founded in 2003 to provide programs and services to wounded military service members returning from post-9/11 conflicts. 15 people participated in this year’s hunt, harvesting 43 ducks and 11 geese. Pictured here, participants in the event honored Collin Crane with a plaque and a US flag which had been flown over Afghanistan.

Both Republicans and Democrats were critical of Trump’s commutation decision in 2020.

In a social media post on X, Senate Minority Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, said he disagreed with Trump’s decision.

“Illinois taxpayers have and continue to be burdened with the cost of public corruption, and this pardon sends the wrong message,” Curran wrote.

Illinois’ senior Democratic U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin’s X account posted “In a state with more than its fair share of public corruption, the Blagojevich chapter still looms as one of the worst.”

“America and Serbia deserve better,” the post said.

Blagojevich was formally disbarred a few months after his release from prison. He also again claimed he had no plans to return to politics, despite having sued in 2021 for the ability to once again run for state or local office in Illinois.

But a federal judge last year quoted Dr. Seuss in dismissing the ex-governor’s motion, writing that Blagojevich’s lawsuit wasn’t even filed in the right venue to review the Illinois Senate’s unanimous 2009 vote barring him from ever again holding office in Illinois.

Even without the specific ban on Blagojevich holding office, the federal 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago has upheld an Illinois’ law that bars those who’ve been convicted of “infamous crimes,” including bribery, from holding office in Illinois. Trump’s pardon does not erase the ex-governor’s convictions; only expungement can do that.

The U.S. constitution puts few restrictions on holding federal office, meaning Blagojevich would be free to run for his old congressional seat he held from 1997 to 2003.

The ex-governor collects a \$15,000 annual pension from his years in congress but after his 2011 conviction, he was barred from collecting the roughly \$65,000 per year pension he’d otherwise be entitled to for his years in the General Assembly.

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

River to River Trail Society hike planned

A River to River Trail Society has announced its second public hike of the 2025 spring hiking season for Saturday, March 8 at Grindstaff Hollow in Gallatin County.

The hike is free and open to the public. This will be a thru-hike of moderate difficulty 4 miles in length, with 4 hours of hiking time.

The leader of the hike can be reached at 618-499-9629 for more information.

Hikers are asked to meet at 10 a.m. at the High Knob Lookout parking area.

The trail society said the hike is intended for people in good health who have done some hiking.

Hiking sticks and boots or sturdy shoes are recommended. Hikers should bring their own water and snacks. Hikers are asked to not bring dogs.

More information, including driving instructions to the meeting area, can be found online at the River to River Trail Society’s website at www.rivertorivertrail.net

A-JCHS announces spring honor and high honor roll students

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School announces the honor students for the fall 2024 school year:

Seniors, High Honors

Natalie Aldrich, Tristan Belcher, Hallie Black, Daylon Butler, Noah Chotner, Robert Dover-Velasques, Dakota Dunston.

Logan Ebersohl, Allison Fowler, Rylan Frazier, Cameron Golladay, Sarah Koehn, Luke Menees, Grace Mowell, Ryder Ottolini, Ellie Penrod, Hallie Plott, Samuel Skuta, Savannah Smith, Katie Theis, and Ariana Turner.

Seniors, Honors

Logan Abernathy, Keara Bible, Morgan Casey, Madalyn Clark, Brinley Corbit, Kayma Dawson, Brooklynn Eastman, Elijah Glasco, Jacqueline Harris, Benjamin Hauser, Brianna Hileman, Christopher Hodges.

Macie Hoehner, Cassidy Janke, Zoe Jones, Malayna Korb, Nicholas Lingle, Chesnee Marks, Connor Richardson, Zoee Sadler, Lucas Salazar, Olivia Schaefer, Kenzie Stover, Kylie Tripp, Jonah Watkins, Tess Wilkins and Ruby Yates.

Juniors, High Honors

Jaylen Althoff, Drake Bible, Presley Bierstedt, Aleah Box, Dawson Brunner, Zoe Chen, Adam Clark, Kansas Craig, Graydon Edmonds, Emily Edwards, Jordan Gentry, Maggie Gooden, Brody Gulleddge, Alexa Hinkle, Alexis Houseman, Lauren Jackson. Raegan Jones, Reese Jones,

Amelia Lingle, Grant Lingle, Natasha Martin, Aidan McFadden, Mariel McGrath, Madison Moore, Danica Morgan, Dexter Morse, Layne Murray, Foster Needling.

Kurt Petrich, Calie Pinnon, Ethan Plott, Tanner Powell, Raelynn Sadler, Jayda Shepard, Samuel Smith, Timothy Taylor, Zachary Taylor, Lucas Tehandon, Drue Teske, Edwin Thompson, Kale Waller, Kayleigh Wheaton, and Mason Yates.

Juniors, Honors

Jerome Benefield, William Bergfeld, Addison Bonner, Travis Burgher, Aiden Colson, Sadie Cross, Miles DeLashmutt, Mariah Downs, Angel Guijon, Heidi Miller.

Kenzie Miller, Jayci Needling, Dawson Nicholas, Enma Piqueras, Avery Poole, Victoria Quick, Owen Rock-Pfau, Ally Simmons, Jack Smith, Nevaeh Walsh and Bryan Wright.

Sophomores, High Honors

Blake Abernathy, Valeria Ambrocio, Mackenzie Barnhart, Lyra Casper, Caden Cerney, Nicholas Cook, Natilyn Corbit, Taylor Crews, Tilman Dallas, Tyler Haywood, Elizabeth Hill, Milla Hunter.

Evan Inman, Bodhi Laws, Kinley Leek, Reese Lofton, Kylee Myers, Zander Navarro – Ballard, Maxwel Ruddick, Jaron Taliseo, Brian Thompson, Beckett Thorpe, Matthew Turner, Haydyn Williamson, John Wright Jr., and Lizbeth Zamora.

Sophomores, Honors

Hunter Alsip, Courtney Brame, Tristan Brown, Kylee Campbell, Landen Carter, Hunter Craft, Emma Craig, Lauren Crow, Finley Diemer, Lark Fleming, Jimena Flores, Faelyn Foss.

Grayson Garner, Hannah Hale, Norah Kelley, Rocelin Lilly, Camiah Lowe, Benjamin Marggraf, Zane Plummer, Brooke Sheffer, and Abigail Shipley.

Freshmen, High Honors

Shooter Belcher, Kaysee Benefield, Joshua Binversie, Ava Boreup, Julian Brust, Elina Chen, Mya Clutts, Seth Cochran, Allison Daniels, Damon Easter, Camron Easterly.

Ava Frazier, Landon Grant, Jase Holshouser, Melissa Isaacson, Hayden Keller, Camryn Kelley, Alexis Kinder, Anthony Mathis, Elly Mays, Gabriel Morey, Xailex Morgan, Zachary Orange Aryanna Ozment.

Logan Pearl, Elliott Poulos, Molly Roach, Jaida Smith, Hayden Staples, Adalyn Suggs, Emma Thurston, Brooklyn Tripp, Sophia Vaughn, Sophia Wells, Kenleigh Wheaton, and Allie Yana.

Freshmen, Honors

Brayden Barnhart, Melaina Bundren, Kendall Carter, Landen Curry, Cayleigh Ferguson, Isabella Grey, Sophia Hill, Cobie Hodges, Lera Hoehner, Jalyynn Moss, Madalyn Moss, Paisley Salyers, Roi Schumacher, Reaslyn Shepard, Zebidiah Sullivan, and Kysten Toedte.



Icicles in Alto Pass
Icicles were seen Friday afternoon, Feb. 14, in rock formations along the Quettil Trail in Alto Pass. Frigid cold is expected this week in the region.

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship on Sunday, Feb. 16.

Pastor Lupe greeted everyone in the sanctuary and on the church’s live stream of the service.

The call to worship was on praise and adoration – blessings, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

The call to worship was taken from the Book of Revelation.

The worship team led in the singing of “Lilly of the Valley,” “New Wine” and “I Speak Jesus.”

Pastor Lupe’s sermon was “Pergamos Compromise” and was taken from the Book of Revelation.

Highlights of his sermon included Pergamos compromising its faith by blending Christianity with pagan practices. In Revelation 2: 12- 17, Jesus rebukes the church for tolerating the doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans, leading to spiritual corruption. This unholy alliance between the church and the

world weakened their witness and invited judgment. Christ called them to repentance, warning that He would come against them with the sword of His mouth if they did not turn back to the truth.

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

The church’s worship service for adults and children’s church start at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday.

The church has a prayer time at 6 p.m. on Wednesday. The church has a youth program which meets at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

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

First Baptist Church is located at 409 Morgan St. in Anna. The church’s phone number is 833-5416.

The church’s Facebook page is Facebook.com/Anna-FirstBaptistChurch.

The church’s email is fb-canna409@gmail.com.

The church’s YouTube channel is Anna First Live Stream.

Free income tax preparation assistance available for qualifying taxpayers

Several trusted Illinois programs offer free income tax preparation for low-to-moderate income families and older adults who may need assistance in filing their 2024 income taxes.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), American Association of Retired Persons’ (AARP) Foundation Tax-Aide Program and the Ladder Up Tax Assistance Program (TAP), provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals in select locations statewide.

“It is important for Illinois taxpayers to know they can receive help from qualified volunteers certified by the IRS at various locations statewide,” said Illinois Department of Revenue Director David Harris. “These individuals are ready and willing to assist taxpayers in filing their state and federal tax returns accurately and on time by the Tuesday, April 15 deadline.”

How taxpayer assistance is

provided and when services are available varies by region, based upon volunteer capacity.

“Tax professionals and software companies can charge hefty fees, which are often unaffordable for low and moderate-income older adults,” said Illinois Department on Aging Acting Director Mary Killough. “Now is a great time to check out the free resources available to help you file your taxes and get the most out of your refund.”

The IRS’ Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals needing assistance in preparing their own tax returns. People making \$67,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English-speaking taxpayers can take advantage of this service. In addition, the TCE program offers free tax help, particularly for those who are 60 years of age and old-

er, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. VITA and TCE sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations across the state.

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program provides free tax assistance, with a special focus on taxpayers over the age of 50 or who have low-to-moderate income. Availability is determined at the local or community level. AARP membership is not required to receive assistance.

Taxpayers can learn more about free tax assistance by visiting IDOR’s website tax.illinois.gov. Individuals with questions should contact IDOR’s Taxpayer Assistance Division at 800-732-8866.

Taxpayers may also visit any of IDOR’s offices in Marion to receive assistance. Staff at these locations can help with any Illinois state income tax filing inquiries and are available weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

The morning worship service was held at 10:35 a.m. on Feb. 16 on zoom due to the weather.

The message “A New Life In Christ” was brought by Pastor Wright from Luke 7:12-16, Psalm 30:11, John 10:10, Ephesians 3:20, John 4:13-14, Acts 1:8, Revelation 22:17.

There was no evening service.

Birthday: Bryce Wright, Feb. 21.

Thursday, Feb. 20

The NDI & Church Board Meeting will be held at 6 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 16

Breakfast, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning service, 10:35 a.m. Evening worship service, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

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

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

Lick Creek School announces second quarter honor students

The Lick Creek School District has announced honor roll and high honor roll students for the second quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

High Honor Roll

Leah Buchheit, Bella Cook, Madelyn Coomer, Owen Corbit, Hayden Craft, Lawson Duty, Taylynn Gerardi, Kooper Glasco, Elijah Hall, Eli Houseman.

Emilyn Hunter, Braxton Jordan, Buchheit Knueven, Isabella Mendez Fabery, Rosaleigha Mendez Fabery, Henry Moberley, Fritz Moberley, Hayes Pinnon,

Daniel Plott and Brooklyn Shipley.

Honor Roll

Taylor Baker, Payton Brown, William Brown, Bentley Cobb, Ayla Corbit, Easton Corbit, Tanner Gerardi, Alex Hall, Lilliah Hoehner, Ryan Houseman, Eli Huff, Emma Hutchason.

Camden Knueven, Kayleigh McMahan, Millie Morris, Paisley New, Jet Newman, Jaylyn Nice, Emmie Orange, Maggie Roach, Mackenzie Sadler, Emma Schlenker, Michael Schmidt, Kaleb Stover and Zander Sullens



Birthday bout

Cape Girardeau Roller Derby (CGRG) is holding their 15th Birthday Bout and season opener at the AC Brase Arena Building in Cape Girardeau on Saturday, Feb. 22. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and the first whistle will sound at 6 p.m. CGRD will face off against the Rock Town Roller Derby out of Little Rock, Ark. Tickets are \$10 at the door and kids ages 7 and under get in free.

Check out The Gazette-Democrat online at annanews.com

Jonesboro names second quarter honor students

Jonesboro Grade School announces second quarter honor roll students.

8th grade, high honors: Levi Hill, Allison Leek, Clara Mix and Smith Wilson.

8th grade, honors:Kylie Dillow, Lindyn Eudy, Hayden Lewis, Trent Miller and Kynlee Needling.

7th grade, high honors: Hank Goss, Peyton Harvel and Gavin McFadden.

7th grade, honors: Colton Barnhart, Arianna Black, Reagan Cheek, Addison Ebberts, Eli Fehrenbacher and Ryley Nance.

News from Camp Ground Church, Community

Due to the icy back roads, in-person services were not held at Camp Ground Church Sunday. Instead, worship service was via Facebook live.

Bro. Easton’s sermon was titled “Love Your Enemies” with scripture from Luke, 2 Corinthians, and other New Testament verses.

The sermon stated: “Did you celebrate with a loved one, or other special folks Valentine’s Day?”

“Unfortunately, much of the money spent this past week expressing “love” was spent expecting something in return. The world’s definition of love is skewed.”

“Real love is the love that God gives us because He has made a way for us to spend eternity with Him.”

“If we do not love, we do not have God in our hearts. Because God loved us first, we should love others without hoping for something in return.”

“When someone is evil to us, it is hard to love them.

vites anyone who does not have a church home to join them in study and worship any or every Sunday.

Fellowship and coffee are at 9:15 a.m., followed by Bible study for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

In case of inclement weather, check our Facebook page, “Camp Ground Cumberland Presbyterian Church”, as to whether services will be in-person or online.

The church is located at the intersection of Camp Ground Road and Tunnel Lane east of Anna and just north of Illinois Route 146.

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



618-893-2861 • 618-534-2391

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



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

Jason Martin, Owner
Visit our website:
triplecmeats.com

Duty's Auto Glass
Windshields • Door Glasses
Back Glasses • Chip Repair

*Serving All of Southern Illinois
Over 30 Years Experience*

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



Anna-Jonesboro National Bank
Dedicated to our customers, committed to our community

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



**Bulk & Bag Feed
Pet & Horse Supplies
Home & Garden**

Not just for farmers anymore! Take a look around!

400 S. Main • Jonesboro, IL 62952
Phone (618) 833-2494
Fax (618) 833-3868



Josh's Heating & Cooling

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

joshuahathy@gmail.com



**Dine-In
Carryout
Delivery**

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



Cardinal Corner

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



GROSS BUSTERS
Exterior Cleaning

Pressure Washing • Deck Staining • Gutter Cleaning
618.697.5968

A New Identity



Photo Credit istockphoto.com/Foonia

Every day we leave impressions on those around us. How we present ourselves reflects on our unique individuality, our personality and convictions. Our selfishness or unselfishness in small ways, our ability to remain calm when a storm surrounds us, whether we mostly smile or mostly frown...these traits tell others something about us, something about who we truly are. In 1 John 5:7 we hear, “And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth.” Celebrate your identity at your house of worship each week; let God’s truth leave an impression on you.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
John 10.22-42	Matthew 18.1-14	Matthew 19.13-30	Matthew 22.15-40	Leviticus 19.1-18	Deut. 6.1-25	1 John 1.1-2.6

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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



GIVE US A CALL....WE CLEAN IT ALL
618.697.7030
618.697.9502



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

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

Serving the area for over 35 years
Gurley & Son Heating & Air Conditioning

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



Schaefer Enterprises
Website: www.sewlparts.com

P.O. Box 136 • Wolf Lake, IL 62998
Email: parts@sewlparts.com
800-626-6046 • (618) 833-5498
Fax: 618-833-7765



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

Community Integrated Living, Inc.
Improving the lives of the individuals we serve.

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



THE FIRST STATE BANK OF DONGOLA
Old and Reliable, Established 1906

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



FARMERS STATE BANK

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



MIDWESTERN PROPANE GAS CO.
Anna, IL • 833-6300
Mike Jones, Manager



Welcome

Serving the community since 1979!
DUTCH GUTTERING
CALL FOR SUMMER SPECIALS!
618-351-1881
Seamless Aluminum Guttering
Gutter Clean Outs • Leaf Guards
Roof Repairs • Home Improvement
Service and Repair • Siding & Overhang



A&G AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

109 Transcraft Drive
Anna, IL 62906
833-8755



Apostolic Lighthouse Church

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

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



ASB Anna STATE BANK

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



You're Invited! CrossPointe Church

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

Sunday Worship Service 10:30am

Wednesday Bible Study 7pm



Union County Abstract Office, Inc.

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

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

Obituaries

Mattilene “Mat” Page

Mattilene “Mat” Page, 93, of Anna, passed away, Saturday, Feb. 15 at Three Springs Senior Living in Chester. She was born Nov. 30, 1931, the daughter of James Maddison and Tommie (Tilley) Moore. She married Harold W. Page on Dec. 30, 1948 in Piggott, Ark. He preceded her in death on June 28, 2010.

Mat is survived by her son, Tommy and wife Lisa Page of Chester; four grandchildren, Amanda Page, Amy and husband Aaron Eggemeyer, Ashley and husband Luke Lochhead, and Jimmy Page; five great grandchildren, Cooper, Emma and Zane Eggemeyer, Saylor and Tommy Lochhead; other relatives and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Harold W. Page; son, James Harold “Jimmy” Page; sister, Claudine Lovejoy; and niece, Linda Berry.

Mat was a devoted member of Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church in Anna for many years. She was active in the church choir and various other activities with her church family. Mat served as the Union County Circuit Clerk for thirty-five years until her retirement. She was very active in Union County politics during her time as Circuit Clerk.

RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES Mat was a kind soul, she always



said hello with a smile on her face, and asked how you were doing. She was a class act, never did you see her that she was not dressed to a T. Mat dearly loved her family and will be missed beyond measure.

Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with Pastor Mark Hasty officiating. Interment will be in the Anna Cemetery.

Visitation will be after 12 p.m. and until the service hour at 1 .m. Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church or Chester Memorial Hospital. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

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

Greg Browning

Greg Browning, 56, of Anna, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 13 at his residence surrounded by his family and loved ones.

He was born on April 24, 1968 to Evelyn Browning in Anna. On Sept. 20, 2014, he married Tonya Glasford and together they have spent over ten years together and she survives.

Greg had worked for RAVE in Anna. He loved fishing, Karaoke, barbecuing, and being outdoors.

Along with his wife, survivors include his daughter, Jessica (Quinton) Jerger of Princeton, Ind.; step-son, Nathan Nance; step-daughters, Faith Glasford and Christian Glasford, all three of Anna; mother, Evelyn Browning (Randy Lynch) of Billings, Mont.; brother, Michael (Holly) Cole of Billings, Mont.; in-laws, Phil and Libby Glasford of Anna; and half-sister, Gail Jones Dunkel of Springfield, Ill.; along with other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Russell and Martha Browning.

Crain Funeral home A time of remembrance was



held on Tuesday, Feb. 18 with Rev. Jay Franklin officiating and eulogies by family and friends at Crain Funeral Home in Anna.

The cremation of Greg Browning was be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

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

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

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

Roscoe Chester Nance

Roscoe Chester Nance, 87, of Cobden, passed away peacefully in his home at 5:03 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Roscoe was born on March 30, 1937 in Pamona, the son of Charles Stanley and Ida Louise Canada Nance.

He married Linda Rae Harrison on Aug. 1, 1963 in Murphysboro.

Roscoe is survived by his wife, Linda Rae Nance of Cobden; three children, Robert Eugene Nance (Tish), Daniel Roscoe Nance and wife Della, Sandra Rae Bridges and husband R.E. of Cobden; one sister, Wilma Dean Heern of Makanda; 8 grandchildren, Brandy Nance (Kaleb), Kelly (Chris) Flamm, Stephanie (Danny) Todd, Nathan Nance, Samantha Nance, Casi (Justin) Doiel, Buddy Bridges, R.J. (Kendra) Bridges; 21 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild, other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers; Jim, K.O. and Bobby Nance.



Funeral service for Roscoe were held on Monday, Feb. 17 at Makanda Baptist Church with Rev. Doug Bridgeman officiating. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery in Makanda.

Memorials may be made to Evergreen Cemetery in Makanda or the Heart Foundation, and envelopes will be available at the church.

Meredith Funeral Home in Carbondale assisted the family with arrangements. To leave a story or memory of Roscoe, visit www.meredithfh.com

Corinne D. Brown

Corinne D. Brown, 100, of Anna died Saturday, Feb. 15.

She was born May 18, 1924 in Russell, Ky., the daughter of James and Ethel Beare Durrett. She was married on June 28, 1947 to Billy J. Brown to whom she was married 58 years before he passed Nov. 24, 2005.

Mrs. Brown was a band director and music teacher in Union County Schools with a career spanning over 40 years. During this time, she taught students ages K-12 in classroom music, Junior and Senior Band, and Orchestra. She was at Dongola Unit School 30 years, Jonesboro one year, and Cobden seven years.

Highlights of her teaching career were leading the first ever invited Illinois band ever to perform at the Kentucky Derby, and participation in the Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. July 4th celebrations.

She was selected as 1971 “Leader of American Secondary Education” and 1980 recipient of Those Who Excel Award. She served as a co-operative consultant in music education for the State of Illinois in 1977-78; served as consultant for 1979 music leadership summer program at SEMO State University; and had served on the Illinois State Board of Education Region Five Arts Education Committee for the lower 32 counties from 1982 to 1989.

Corinne was a member of the First Lutheran Church of Dongola, a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, the American Legion Auxiliary, VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Illinois Retired Teachers Association, and a 50-year member and past worthy matron of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Crain Funeral home Mrs. Brown not only

William Lee Reeves

William Lee Reeves, born Nov. 17, 1953, passed Feb. 14, 2025.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Ira and Adell Reeves, older brother, Michael, sister-in-law, Marj Reeves, brother-in-law, Alex Paull, nieces, Blake Reeves and Esther Reeves and nephew, Levi Nelson.

Survivors include fiancé, Sharon Icenogle, siblings, Sue (David) Fischer, Jim (Susan) Reeves, Randall Reeves, Kevin Reeves, Ronald (Linda Raters) Reeves, Janice Paull, and Steven (Paula) Reeves, nephews, Daniel Fischer, Nick Fischer, Michael (Lucinda) Reeves, Adam (Ara) Paull, Cameron Schwenk, and nieces, Kimberly (Sam) Penn, Julie (Lee) Nelson, Rebekah (Henry) Hampton, Sarah (Ian McCall) Paull, Brooke (Alex) White, Rachael Paull, great nieces and nephews and cousins.

Born in Murphysboro, Bill was raised in Gorham and Murphysboro. He grew up hunting, fishing and hiking all over Southern Illinois with his siblings and friends. He especially enjoyed fishing for crappie and bluegill from Lake Murphysboro and Bob Hanson's farm pond and hunting waterfowl with Tom Clark.

Bill was a member of First Christian Church in Murphysboro where he studied with the Men’s Group and 55 & Alive, and was also a long time Lions Club member in Cobden and Murphysboro.

He also spent several summers traveling with the Black Knights Drum and Bugle Corp, and enjoyed going to Drum Corp shows, watching the Cardinals, Salukis and Murphy Red Devils.

Crain Funeral home Bill graduated from Mur-



achieved numerous awards and recognition over her life but her biggest achievement were all the students she taught, cared for, believed in and loved. Her influence with all students is a lasting memory of the Best Teacher Ever and that she truly cared about them.

Besides her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Jane Brown. Survivors include niece, Linda (Jerry) Jones, nephew J.C. (Judy) Brown.

Funeral services for Corinne D. Brown will be Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. at Crain Funeral Home in Anna with Rev. Cherie Riedel officiating and eulogies by friends. Interment will follow at Christian Chapel Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Crain Funeral Home in Anna.

Flowers are welcome, but Corinne requested memorial contributions in her honor be made to Christian Chapel Cemetery, the Dongola Lutheran Church, or P.A.S.T.

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

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



physboro High School, John A. Logan College and earned his teaching degree from SIU Carbondale. He taught Jr. High woodshop and math at North County Jr. High School in Bonne Terre Mo., Chester Jr. High, and Anna Jr. High, where he also coached basketball, scholar bowl, and organized a Math-a-Thon for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Bill retired from Anna Jr. High in 2012.

The Family would like to thank all Bill’s caregivers who were so kind to him over the last few years, especially Kathy Browder.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22 at Crain Pleasant Grove –Murdale Funeral Home at 31 Memorial Drive in Murphysboro. Visitation will be held from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. with interment to follow the funeral service at Pleasant Grove Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Jude Children’s Hospital and/or Hospice of Southern Illinois.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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

Faye Marie Eaves

Faye Marie Eaves, 96, of Lick Creek, died Thursday, Feb. 13, at Sunshine Gardens Assisted Living in Marion. She was born Oct. 7, 1928, in Cobden, the daughter of John H. and Lydia (Trees) Haire. She married James Woodrow Eaves on Oct. 2, 1953, in Anna. He preceded her in death on Nov. 15, 2010.

Faye is survived by her children, Jo Ellen (Steven) Rich of Marion and James David (Kathy) Eaves of Anna; four grandchildren, Steven Matthew (Rebecca) Rich, Jennie Jo Rich, Jaime (Daniel) Welborn, and Janna (Karl) Sweitzer; four great-grandchildren, Brynley and Hailee Welborn and Kendall and Knox Sweitzer; other relatives and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Eaves; parents; sisters, Elizabeth “Bet” Manus, Irma Blankenship, Maye Stout and Vera Colboth and brothers, Jesse David, Arthur L “Art”, Lowell Ray, John Richard and Charles R. Haire.

Faye was a member of Anna First Christian Church. She was a homemaker, always taking care of her family. Throughout the years, she also took care of many children from other families. Those driving through Lick Creek often saw Faye and twin sister Maye sitting on the



front porch watching the cars pass. Faye was a strong supporter of Lick Creek School, always cheering on the Eagles. As sports seasons ended, she and Maye took each team out for a meal to celebrate their accomplishments.

Funeral services for Faye Eaves were be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17 at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with Bill Littrell officiating. Interment followed in the Anna Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Anna First Christian Church Missions Fund. Envelopes will be available at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home.

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

Terry Ray Miler Sr.

Terry Ray Miler Sr., 75, of Champaign, Ill. passed away peacefully on Feb. 5 surrounded by family.

Terry was born on April 7, 1949 to Virgil and Willadine Miller in Anna.

After he graduated from Cobden High School, he served in the Air Force for 9 years before returning to Anna to ensure his children had educational stability.

The best interest of his family was consistently the driving force in his decision-making throughout his life.

Upon returning "home", he obtained his Master's Degree in psychology from Southern Illinois University to pursue his interest in human behavior. His career was dedicated to improving the lives of others as a psychologist at Copper Country Mental Health in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and then as a nursing home administrator at Bayside Nursing Home during the latter part of his career.

Terry married his high school sweetheart, Kathlyn Murphy in 1968. During their 56 years of marriage, they had two children, Christina Maria Gingle and Terry Ray Miller Jr.

Throughout the span of his life, he enjoyed many activities which allowed him to foster his appreciation for the outdoors including riding motorcycles and corvettes, ATV's, mountain biking, snowmobiling, collecting and



polishing rocks, hiking, camping, birding, and traveling (to name a few!). In addition, he had a love of dogs and had a small dog sled team at one point.

Despite the sheer number of interests, he engaged in all of them to the fullest as he did in all other aspects of his life.

Terry was preceded in death by his parents, Virgil and Willadine Miller; siblings Patty and Gary, and granddaughter Linnea.

He is survived by his wife Kathlyn Miler (Murphy); sisters, Mary Wallace (Mike), and Joyce Rossen; daughter Christina Gingle (Jim); son Terry Miller (Susan); grandchildren Anika, Abram, Sam, Miles and nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at Giant City Lodge in Makanda on March 1 from 12 to 3 p.m with a meal at 1 p.m.

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

This past Sunday, Feb. 16, church was canceled due to road and parking lot conditions. Pastor Perry Williams livestreamed a short devotional online.

He spoke about being in the presence of God; and also, how important it is to reverence the holiness of God. His text was found in the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel in the 4th chapter. The service was live streamed on Facebook, so if you missed it, you still have an opportunity to view it. Please check our Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, for the videos and latest info on church events.

Men’s and women’s Bible studies were scheduled at 6

p.m. Monday, Feb. 17.

Birthday: Marilyn Hale, Feb. 16; Jackie Dillow, Feb. 19; Cynthia Hall, Feb. 21; and Jean Eudy, Feb. 23.

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

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

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

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

View Obituaries Online at
annanews.com

Obituaries

Allan Joe Jackson

Allan Joe Jackson was born 26 Jan. 1945 in Harrisburg, Ill. His parents were Earl and Virginia Evelyn (Morton) Jackson. He graduated from Mound City High School in 1963. He was employed as a broadcast engineer and general manager for Sangamon Broadcasting, first at WTAX-WDBR in Springfield, Ill. and later and WDAN-WDNL in Danville, Ill. He also worked as a broadcast engineer at Voice of America (VOA) in Washington, D.C.

As part of the engineering and operations staff at WTAX AM/FM in Springfield, Joe was instrumental in developing an automated radio system for the FM station in the late 1960s. His most significant contribution to the station occurred on Jan. 14, 1972, when WTAX-FM became WDBR, further developing it as a totally independent station from its AM counterpart.

WTAX-FM was redeveloped as a contemporary music station using a more sophisticated and extensive automation system airing a syndicated format. At that time, Joe was promoted to WDBR's station manager position.

A year later, he further developed a "live" sounding contemporary music format using a state-of-the-art automation method with local DJs, helping WDBR become a leading station in central Illinois. In mid-1977, when Sangamon Broadcasting purchased WDAN/WMBJ in Danville, he was named General Manager of the stations.

By the end of 1977, he guided the transformation of WMBJ to WDNL with a contemporary music format using an updated version of the automation

system used at WDBR. L i k e



WDBR, WDNL became the leading station in the Danville area. Meanwhile, he also used automation to improve WDAN to a news/information station. He would continue at the Danville stations through the mid 1980's before leaving to work in radio in Terre Haute, Ind., and eventually at VOA.

Joe married Virginia Elaine Mitchell in 1962 and they were the parents of three children. They were divorced in 1987 and Joe later married Lisa Sue Switzer and Penelope Jane Steinert.

Survivors include three children: Juliet (Johnetta) Jackson, Jill (Chip) Bulgin and Joshua (Kim) Jackson; six grandchildren: Mitchell Jackson, Austin Davis, Benjamin Jackson, Andrew Gluck, Christiana Bulgin and Garrett Bulgin; one great-grandchild, Remington Davis; a sister, Mary Anne (Donald) McGinness and a nephew, Charles McGinness.

He was predeceased by his parents.

The remains will be cremated and a private service will follow at a later date.

Crain Funeral Home in Cairo is in charge of arrangements.

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

Longest-serving legislative leader in U.S. history found guilty on 10 charges

Illinois lawmakers react to Madigan guilty verdict for corruption charges

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois lawmakers voiced a wide range of reactions following former House Speaker Michael Madigan’s conviction on multiple federal corruption charges.

Republicans, who have long complained about his style of leadership, amplified their call for broader ethics reform in the Capitol while Democrats tried to put the Madigan era behind them and shift their focus to the future.

“We all knew this day was coming,” House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, said at a virtual news conference.

Madigan, the longest serving legislative leader in U.S. history, was convicted of bribery and conspiracy.

Most of the counts for which he was convicted related to him allegedly seeking favors, such as no-work contracts for his allies, from officials at utility giant Commonwealth Edison in exchange for his support for favorable legislation.

After being convicted on 10 charges, Madigan was found not guilty on seven others, while the jury deadlocked on the six remaining charges shared by him and his co-defendant, former lobbyist Mike McClain.

Madigan was sometimes known to be a thorn in Illinois governors’ sides. Former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner once claimed “I am not in charge,” when talking about Madigan. But Madigan wasn’t a major barrier to Gov. JB Pritzker, who only served two years alongside the now-convicted ex-speaker.

“The Madigan verdict by a

jury of everyday Illinoisans is an important message to anyone in government, or those thinking about public service, that if you choose corruption you will be found out, and you will be punished,” Pritzker said in a statement.

House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, D-Hillside, ascended to the speakership in January 2021 after Madigan lost support from enough House Democrats to doom his reelection bid. According to the Tribune, Madigan called Welch after it was clear he lost support to ask if he would want to become speaker.

Welch had protected Madigan in the year prior after Republicans sought to oust him from office for “conduct unbecoming of a legislator” via a special House investigating committee.

The House GOP launched that effort after ComEd was charged with handing out favors to Madigan allies in an attempt to gain support from Madigan on legislation. But Welch, who was appointed by Madigan’s majority leader to chair the committee, voted with two fellow Democrats to shut down the investigation, calling it a “sham show trial.”

Republicans accused him of protecting Madigan from discipline more than a year before he was charged with crimes related to his relationship with ComEd.

“I have always believed that a court of law was the place for this to be all sorted out,” Welch said in a statement. “Today’s outcome leaves me with great appreciation and respect for our legal system. Investigators, prosecutors, and a jury of Illinoisans did their job.”

Welch, who began his third term as speaker in January, said House Democrats are now “focused on delivering for working people.”

Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, who helped initiate the committee to investigate Madigan, criticized Welch’s leadership of the committee at a news conference on Wednesday.

“Our efforts could have put a stop to this situation many years ago if we had cooperation from the majority party to support ethics reform and to investigate the pattern of corruption that has now been on full display for Speaker Mike Madigan,” Spain said at the news conference.

Democrats shift focus

Madigan was also the longtime chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois. As party chair, he was able to direct campaign contributions to help Democrats win their races and grow a majority in the Illinois House, a majority that has remained intact since the mid-1990s.

Democratic Party of Illinois Chair Lisa Hernandez said in a statement her “focus has been on building a more transparent, accountable, and people-focused party” since she took over in 2022 after U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly succeed Madigan in 2021.

“Public service is a responsibility, not a privilege, and those who break the public trust must be held accountable, no matter who they are,” Hernandez said.

Republican party leaders said Democrats are not absolved of their ties to their former party chair as many can credit their electoral victories to Madigan.

“Make no mistake: nearly

every Democrat in Illinois has benefitted from Madigan’s corruption in some way, and they have all been willing to sell their souls for hefty donations and the support of the political machine Madigan built,” Illinois Republican Party Chair Kathy Salvi said in a statement.

Rep. Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, had been outspoken in the final years of Madigan’s tenure about the handling of sexual harassment issues in the Democratic Party of Illinois and bullying in the House. Her name came up early in the trial as prosecutors dug into the inner workings of the House and Madigan’s circle.

“That there will be some measure of accountability for the decades of abuse of power and corruption is critically important and will have implications for our state government for generations,” Cassidy said in a statement.

“Particularly in a moment when our federal government has been subsumed by blatantly corrupt forces, we need our state government to be trustworthy to the public and focused on the will of the people, not self-interest.”

Cassidy was one of 19 House Democrats who put the final nail in the coffin of Madigan’s speakership in 2021 by opposing his reelection as speaker, ultimately forcing him to bow out of the race and, shortly after, resign from the House. The group opposed Madigan’s handling of harassment allegations and shared concerns about a possibly corrupt relationship between Madigan and ComEd.

Rep. Ann Williams, D-Chicago, briefly challenged Madigan for the speakership in 2021.

“It’s clear we have unequivocally moved away from the practices of the past, which put politics before people,” Williams said in a statement to Capitol News Illinois. “It is time to put this chapter behind us as we face incredibly difficult challenges as a state and nation.”

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said the “verdict is a sobering reminder that our work is never finished.”

“The jury’s verdict closes a long, disturbing chapter in Illinois’ history,” Harmon said in a statement. “It’s a stark reminder that corruption, abuse of power and manipulation of public policy for personal gain can never be tolerated. We cannot be effective if people don’t trust us.”

Republicans call for reform

House Republicans said Madigan’s legacy continues to live on in the House rules, which govern how the House operates.

“The issue at the heart of the ComEd scandal here and these convictions had to do with the unchecked ability of Mike Madigan to decide whether or not a bill would be considered for a vote by the House,” Spain said.

Republicans want changes to the House rules to make it easier for members to influence which bills get called for votes.

They also argued more ethics reform is needed, such as providing more power to the legislative inspector general and enacting more restrictions to make it harder for a legislator to resign their office and immediately become a lobbyist.

“We cannot afford to have federal prosecutors continue to enforce our weak ethics laws, regardless of what Speaker Welch feels,” McCombie said.

Illinois locked in legal battles with Trump administration over immigration policy

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois participated in one court battle with the Trump administration Thursday, Feb. 6, when a federal judge temporarily blocked enforcement of an executive order that sought to end “birthright citizenship” under the U.S. Constitution.

But the legal battles between the state and the White House over immigration policy continued along other fronts as well.

The Justice Department filed a new suit against the state of Illinois, Cook County and the city of Chicago over their respective “sanctuary” jurisdiction laws that restrict local law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement actions.

Meanwhile, Democrats in the Illinois House passed a series of resolutions Wednesday, Feb. 5, amid a walkout by the Republican caucus, condemning the Trump administration for a series of actions taken in the opening weeks of the new administration.

Among Trump’s actions were the executive order on birthright citizenship, a short-lived freeze on distribution of federal aid and grants, threats of tariffs against Canada, Mexico and China; and the pardon of people convicted in the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

“What’s coming out of Washington, D.C., can be summed up in one word: fascism,” House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, D-Hillside, said during a speech on the House floor as he chastised Republicans for walking out. “They should be here to speak out against fascism. We cannot be silent.”

Speaking at their own impromptu news conference outside the House chamber, however, Republicans accused Democrats of ignoring more urgent issues facing the people of Illinois.

“Illinois is broke and people are leaving,” Rep. Chris Miller, R-Hindsboro, who attended the Jan. 6 protests in Washington, said during the news conference. “It’s all because of bad public policy, and we aren’t addressing the kitchen table issues that Illinois citizens are interested in. We aren’t talking about safety and security, we aren’t talking about quality education, we aren’t talking about economic opportunity.”

The debates on the House floor Wednesday evening, Feb. 5, and the legal developments Thursday, Feb. 6, illustrated the deep partisan chasm that exists between the Democratic-controlled state government of Illinois and the Republican administration of President Trump, particularly over the issues of immigration and the rights of undocumented residents.

Birthright Citizenship

During his first day back in office Jan. 20, Trump issued a flurry of executive orders, including some meant to follow through on his campaign promises to crack down on immigration, both legal and illegal, into the United States.

Among those was one entitled “Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship” that purported to deny citizenship to certain people born in the United States to parents who were either not lawfully present in the country or were lawful but temporary residents.

That order was immediately challenged in federal courts around the country, including

one filed in Seattle that Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul joined on behalf of the state, along with the states of Washington, Oregon and Arizona.

Plaintiffs in that case argued the order violated the plain text of the 14th Amendment – a post-Civil War amendment that, among other things, extended constitutional civil rights to formerly enslaved individuals under both federal and state law.

A key part of the amendment states, “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

On Jan. 23, U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour issued a temporary, 14-day restraining order blocking enforcement of the order, giving the court time to schedule a full hearing and review evidence.

That hearing was held Thursday, Feb. 6, and the court heard brief oral arguments from Assistant Washington Attorney General Lane Polozola and Justice Department attorney Drew Ensing.

Afterwards, Coughenour, a judge on senior status who was appointed to the bench in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan, made it clear he did not accept the White House’s argument, saying that for Trump, “the rule of law is but an impediment to his policy goals.”

He then issued an order granting a nationwide temporary restraining order, stating in the order, “Citizenship by birth is an unequivocal Constitutional right.”

“I am pleased the court has granted our request for a nationwide preliminary injunction and refused to let ‘the

beacon of light’ that is the rule of law darken,” Raoul said in a statement after the judge’s ruling. “The 14th Amendment was enshrined in our nation’s Constitution more than 150 years ago, and since then, the right of an individual born in this country to be a citizen of this country has been uniformly recognized.”

The order came one day after a federal judge in Maryland, ruling in a separate case, likewise issued a nationwide restraining order.

Sanctuary Status

Meanwhile, even as the birthright citizenship case was proceeding, the Trump administration continued its offensive charge on immigration policy.

The administration filed its own lawsuit in federal court in Chicago against the state, Cook County and the city of Chicago, challenging what are often called “sanctuary” laws that the administration argues are intended to shield undocumented immigrants from federal law enforcement.

The suit challenges two state statutes: the 2017 TRUST Act, which prevents state and local law enforcement officials from assisting the federal government with civil immigration enforcement; and a 2021 amendment to that act, known as the Way Forward Act, which prohibits law enforcement agencies from detaining individuals solely based on an immigration detainer or civil immigration warrant.

It also challenges the city of Chicago’s Welcoming City Ordinance and a Cook County ordinance, both of which, the suit alleges, inhibit the ability of local law enforcement to provide assistance or information to federal authorities engaged in immigration en-

forcement.

The suit argues all of those laws conflict with numerous federal immigration laws, including the recently-enacted Laken Riley Act, which mandates the federal detention of undocumented immigrants accused of theft, burglary, assaulting a law enforcement officer and other violent crimes.

The suit also cites the supremacy clause of the Constitution, found in Article VI, which states that federal laws and treaties of the United States are the “supreme Law of the Land,” regardless of any state laws to the contrary.

“The United States has well-established, preeminent, and preemptive authority to regulate immigration matters,” the suit states. “This authority derives from the United States Constitution, numerous acts of Congress, and binding U.S. Supreme Court precedent.”

But Gov. JB Pritzker said in a statement Thursday, Feb. 6, that he believes the Trump administration’s lawsuit is without merit, adding, “We look forward to seeing them in court.”

“Unlike Donald Trump, Illinois follows the law,” Pritzker said. “The bipartisan Illinois TRUST Act, signed into law by as Republican governor, has always been compliant with federal law and still is today. Illinois will defend our laws that prioritize police resources for fighting crime while enabling state law enforcement to assist with arresting violent criminals.”

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

The Gazette-Democrat

Classified Section

Anna Office

618-833-2158

classifieds@annanews.com

AD DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. MONDAY

CLASSIFIED RATES

Classifieds35¢ per word

\$8.00 minimum for each paid ad per week

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY RATES

Per inch\$14.00

REAL ESTATE

Looking to buy a home, very private. Around 1,800 to 2,000 sq ft., acreage OK. Location in the city limits or AJ vicinity. Call 618-614-2777

10-13gp

FOR RENT

For Rent: Very nice 1,000 sq. ft. one bedroom apartment with garage, laundry and free city utilities. Call 618-833-0433.

11-12gp

HELP WANTED

Part-Time DRIVER Needed at The Gazette-Democrat, Anna, IL office. This contract position is a great opportunity for a dependable, short-distance driver and bundle handler! Primary duties Include: Driving personal vehicle to deliver weekly publications to area vendors and post offices; Lifting, loading and unloading our publications and products; Helping with product bundling and other tasks that expedite delivery of our products; Communicating professionally and timely with our team. Candidates must have: Dependable personal vehicle; Valid driver's license; Working cell phone; Current auto insurance; Successful drug screening; Self-motivation; Demonstrated ability to take initiative and work effectively with others. This is a contract position (approximately 3 hours per week) with a flat pay of \$100 per week. Qualified candidates only - For consideration, forward resume to lhinton@annanews.com. Equal Opportunity Employer

9gp TFN

Jonesboro CCSD #43 is looking to hire the following positions; Part-Time Bus Drivers; Part-Time Custodian and Classroom Paraprofessional. For more information, please contact the Superintendent's office at 618-833-6651.

11-12g

Full-Time Pressure Wash Technician needed at Gross Busters Exterior Cleaning for the upcoming spring/ summer season. Tasks include pressure washing, gutter cleaning, deck staining, interacting with customers etc. Full time Monday-Friday based in Anna. Starting at \$18/hr with potential to increase. Call Joe at 618-697-5968 for more information.

10-15g

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

6-17gp

The City of Anna, IL is accepting applications for the position of a General Clerk. Applicants must be 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. The position will be 40 hours a week, 8 am to 4 pm. Candidates must have a positive attitude, be able to multi-task and work well with the pub-

lic and employees. Duties include but are not limited to: greeting customers, answering multi-line phone system, collecting and posting payments, entering data and creating customer bills. Must be able to operate basic office equipment, proficient computer skills (including Window Office), and basic accounting knowledge. Applications will be available for interested candidates at Anna City Hall or online at cityofanna.org. Please return resume and employment application to the Human Resources Department at Anna City Hall, 103 Market Street Anna, IL 62906 or by email to mmcreynolds@cityofanna.org. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

11-12g

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF
Alexis Roeker,
Petitioner,
vs.
Aurora Roeker,
Respondent
Case No. 2024-DN-22

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN YOU, Aurora Roeker, that this case has been commenced in this court by the petitioner against you for dissolution of marriage and other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Circuit Court of this Court in the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, Illinois, on or before 10:00 AM on March 24, 2025, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE PETITION.

Dated: February 6, 2025
Keri E. Clark
Clerk of the Circuit Court
8221-950393

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VICKY ARNOLD
Deceased
2024PR31

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN CREDITORS

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of: VICKY ARNOLD of Jonesboro, Illinois

Letters of Office were issued on 01/13/25 to Independent Administrator Connie Arnold, 485

Saint Johns Road, Anna, IL 62906. The estate will be administered without Court supervision, unless any interested party terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition to terminate to the clerk under 755 ILCS 5/28-4.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, IL 62952, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the initial date of publication, and any claim

filed with the clerk must be delivered to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Any claim not filed within that time will be barred.

January 14, 2025 /s/Matthew Benson
Matthew Benson, IL ARDC 6282507
The Benson Law Firm, PC
601 S. Washington St. DuQuoin, IL 62832 (618) 542-5500
notice@mbensonlaw.com 8221-950159

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

ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK, A National Chartered Bank,,
Plaintiff,
vs
JEREMIAH O. DAVIS,
UNKNOWN OWNERS
and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No.: 2025FC1

PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, Jeremiah O. Davis, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants in the above entitled suit, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, by the said Plaintiff against you and other defendants to foreclose a certain Mortgage covering the following described premises, to-wit:

Legal Description
LOT 21 AND THE WEST HALF OF LOT 13 IN D.W. BROWN'S FOURTH ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ANNA, SITUATED IN UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

P.I.N. 14-00-08-796
COMMON ADDRESS: 309 EAST CHESTNUT STREET, ANNA, IL 62906 and for other relief, that summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that said suit is still pending.

Now, therefore, unless you, the said Defendants, Jeremiah O. Davis, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, file your answer to the Complaint in the suit, or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, in the County Courthouse in the City of Jonesboro, Illinois, on or before the 24th Day of May, 2025, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Keri Clark
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Prepared by:
JOHN R. SCHNEIDER
JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C.
212 North Main Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Tel: (573) 335-3300
Fax: (573)335-1978
8221-950068

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 28th day of January, 2025, under the Assumed Name of The Bread Basket, with the place of business located at 1155 E. Vienna St., Ste. D, Anna, IL 62906, and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietors of said Business is:

Owners: Vincent Millard Hahn and Naomi Rose Hahn
Address: 2880 Friendship School Rd., Anna, IL 62906
Lance Meisenheimer
Union County Clerk
8221-949971

University of Illinois Extension offers information

What to know about avian flu in wild birds, poultry and pets in Illinois

The nationwide spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza, HPAI, also known as avian or bird flu, has many in Illinois concerned about livestock, pets, wildlife, food safety and public health.

HPAI is an extremely contagious and frequently deadly respiratory disease for domestic birds; it can kill entire flocks in a matter of days.

The H5N1 strain has spread from wild birds to commercial and backyard poultry flocks as well as mammals, including dairy cattle and pets, raising concerns about how the virus might be mutating.

University of Illinois scientists, experts and Extension specialists offer information about bird flu's impact and discuss safety recommendations to help prevent further spread.

Bird Flu Safety Precautions

When outdoors: Do not handle sick or dead wildlife. Report five or more sick or dead wild birds in an area to an Illinois Department of Natural Resources District Wildlife Biologist or USDA Wildlife Services at 1-866-487-3297.

Farm workers: Apply biosecurity measures to protect flocks and wear personal protective equipment. The Illinois Department of Public Health has specific guidelines for H5N1. Report suspected infections to the Illinois Department of Agriculture at 217-782-4944.

Pet owners: Monitor pets and keep them on a leash when outside. Do not let them come into contact with dead wildlife. Avoid raw pet food products.

Waterfowl hunters: Cook game meat to an internal temperature of 165 degrees. Find more information on hunters and bird flu.

Questions? Connect with your local University of Illinois Extension office for more guidance.

Has Bird Flu Been Found in Illinois?

A Northern Illinois farm lost 3,000 chickens to what is suspected to be bird flu, according to a Jan. 22. news report.

Commercial poultry in Indiana and Missouri have tested positive in the past 30 days, according to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. No cases have been reported in dairy cattle.

Bird flu was detected in a wild goose in Tazewell County on Jan. 16 and in a captive hawk in DuPage County on Dec. 27, according to USDA APHIS. Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo reported a flamingo and seal both died from HPAI in early January.

How Does Bird Flu Infect So Many Species?

Dr. James Lowe, professor of veterinary clinical medicine, studies viral transmission in farm animals.

He said scientists the-

orize the virus has transferred from birds to mammals from exposure to bird feces. The impact of the virus also varies by species.

"The virus interacts with specific sialic acid receptors on the surfaces of cells, and those receptors may be more prevalent in different parts of the body in different groups of animals," Lowe said in an interview with the U of I News Bureau.

In some carnivorous mammals, the virus affects the brain and causes neurological problems. In humans, the virus affects the lungs.

Joy O'Keefe, associate professor and Extension wildlife specialist in the department of natural resources and environmental sciences, said stressors such as habitat loss create more of a risk of disease spillover and could place humans in closer contact with wild animals.

"Healthy wildlife populations are less likely to succumb to pathogens and become sick, so they are less likely to transmit those pathogens to humans," O'Keefe said.

What is the Risk for People? Should I Change What I Eat?

The CDC is currently advising that HPAI is a low risk for public health. The spread of bird flu from animals to humans is rare but not impossible.

Since 2024, 67 cases of HPAI and one fatality have been reported in humans in the United States. Many are farm workers who contracted it from infected dairy cattle or poultry.

Infections have not spread from human to human. The H5N1 virus can present as mild respiratory problems, pink eye, gastrointestinal problems, or no symptoms at all in healthy people, Lowe said. Those who are more vulnerable can have severe respiratory distress.

Cooking meat and pasteurizing milk kills viruses, but the risk remains for raw products.

"I would say the risk to humans is incredibly small, at this time, from the dairy products that we've consumed from stores," said professor of animal sciences Jim Drackley in an interview.

"I would always recommend that people don't consume raw milk, in which case the virus could still be there."

How Could This Impact the Poultry and Dairy Industry in Illinois?

About 4,500 commercial farms in Illinois raise 9 million poultry annually, according to 2022 USDA National Agricultural Sta-

tistics Service data.

Most of these, 7.2 million, are egg-laying hens, while another 290,000 chickens and 986,000 turkeys are for meat production.

Any flocks that become infected with HPAI would likely need to be culled to prevent further spread. Bird flu is potentially a large economic risk for farmers.

Illinois has more than 600 dairy farms with 73,000 cows or calves, according to USDANASS estimates.

Since the outbreak began, 943 dairy herds across 16 states have been affected, according to the CDC.

Lowe said the virus appears to be self-limiting in cows; they may be infected, but the virus is undetectable or causes only mild disease.

Are There Concerns About Pets Getting Bird Flu?

Cats, dogs and other pets can contract HPAI from eating infected wild birds or eating raw meat or unpasteurized milk products from infected poultry or cows, according to Stephany Lewis, a professor of zoological medicine. Some raw pet food products have been linked to fatal HPAI infections in cats.

Do not feed pets raw meat or poultry and unpasteurized milk.

When outdoors, leash and monitor pets to keep them away from wildlife and poultry. There is an extremely low risk of infected cats and dogs transmitting bird flu to humans, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

How Can Those with Domestic Poultry Protect Birds?

There is no treatment for HPAI in poultry, and those with chickens, ducks, and other domestic poultry should take steps to protect their flocks.

The virus is transmitted when one bird ingests fecal matter from an infected bird. It can also be transmitted through contaminated equipment and clothing.

Follow biosecurity measures such as keeping birds in a covered enclosure to prevent contact with wild birds.

Store food and water away from wildlife and rodents. Change clothing,

wash hands before and after working with poultry, and limit visitors.

More information about biosecurity measures is available from APHIS.

What are the Symptoms of Bird Flu in Poultry? What if I Suspect an Infection?

Infected birds may have low energy or appetite reduced or altered egg production, nasal discharge coughing, sneezing, diarrhea or sudden death with no prior signs.

Report suspected HPAI infections to your veterinarian and the IDOA at 217-782-4944 or USDA APHIS Veterinary Services at 1-866-536-7593.

How Does Bird Flu Affect Wildlife?

Bird flu is not common in wild birds, but it is more likely to be found where there are large concentrations of birds, said O'Keefe.

It mostly affects wild aquatic birds, such as ducks and geese, as well as gulls, crows, and raptors. Songbirds are not as likely to be affected.

There are also cases of foxes, bobcats, skunks and other carnivores contracting bird flu.

"While avian influenza is unlikely to appear in wild bird populations in backyards, it is always a good idea to regularly clean feeders to prevent the spread of other pathogens, like salmonella," O'Keefe said.

As a precaution, anyone with free-roaming poultry should keep flocks separated from areas with wild bird feeders.

What if I Find Dead or Dying Birds?

Avoid handling dead or dying wild or domestic birds, and do not send birds to veterinarians or wildlife rehabilitators.

Report five or more sick or dead wild birds to a local IDNR district wildlife biologist or USDA Wildlife Services at 1-866-487-3297.

Need to remove a dead bird? It is unlikely handling dead birds would lead to an infection, but it is best to follow these guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Wear gloves, safety goggles and a mask. Avoid touching the face and wash your hands thoroughly afterward.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

February ills

While we are better, the lingering effects of the flu are getting way past the point of annoying. This year has certainly seen a variety pack of illnesses and it seems like the month of February is when it strikes the worst. It was that way when covid first hit, then each year if it's not some type of flu, bronchitis, or sinus infection, it's something else. Yet another reason I'm not a fan of winter. The yo-yo weather is another gripe and complaint.

Remembrance

I had a cousin pass away this past week, while I was sick, so I didn't get to the funeral. My deepest sympathies go out to her daughters, brothers and other family.

Ramona Brown Wright, you'll be missed. Her mother and my grandfather, Oliver Smiddy, were siblings. In the last 12 years, it seems like the only time I've seen her has been at funerals, which is a sad statement of everyone's aging and lifestyles.

We also offer our condolences to the families

of Mary McIntosh and Sammy Bryan and to the many others listed in the papers. Its never a good time to say goodbye, but winter seems to give a harder edge in the loss of loved ones.

A snow moon looms

February is a short month...by a couple of days compared to others, and I wish spring would hurry up and kick winter's door shut. Even February's full moon is called a Snow Moon...brrrr.

I know March is not without its cold days, and neither is April, but it seems like once we hit mid-March, the glow of spring seems to shine warmer.

The taunting of the seed catalogs in the mail doesn't help.

Mill Creek Baptist Church

Mill Creek Baptist held their annual Valentine's dinner on Wednesday the 12th, with the gentleman cooking up a spaghetti dinner that was wonderful, with a full clean up afterwards. We appreciate our guys and their thoughtfulness!

Knollwood

Apartments

112 Leigh Ave.

Anna, IL 62906

Professionally managed by

WINTERWOOD

INCORPORATED

Accepting applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments.

EEO

Equal Opportunity Employer

(618) 833-7766

TDD 800-648-6056

Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m

www.WinterwoodOnline.com

Equal Opportunity Provider

Equal Housing Opportunity



Snow along the highway
Snow covered the landscape along new U.S. Route 51 near Anna last Sunday afternoon. The snow came after heavy rain fell in the Union County area on Saturday.

Television Listings

THURSDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Local	Local Programs	The Point	Pregame Show (Live)	(4:00) College Basketball (HD)	Big City Big City	The White Lotus (HD)	(4:57) "Wanted" ('14)	(5:25) "Breathe" ('24)
7 PM :30	Ext. Makeover (HD)	Marriage Ghosts	Next Level Chef (HD)	Law & Order (HD)	NHL 4 Nations Faceoff (Live)	International Soccer (Live)		"Cloud 9" ('14) Dove Cameron.	"Waitress: The Musical" ('23) Sara Bareilles. (HD)	"Gods of Egypt" ('16) Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.	Yellowjackets "It Girl"
8 PM :30	(:01) Scamanda (HD)	(:01) Matlock (HD)	Animal Dutch	Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order: SVU	Wizards			Yellowjackets (HD)
9 PM :30	(:01) Perfect Wife	Elsbeth "Foiled Again"	Local Programs Local info.	Found "Grieving" (HD)		Postgame	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards		(:07) ★★★ "The Tree of Life" ('11, Drama) Brad Pitt. (HD)	★★★ "Suffragette" ('15) Carey Mulligan. (HD)
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	★★★ "Solo: A Star Wars Story" ('18) Alden Ehrenreich.	Law & Order: SVU Sex crimes. (HD)	Jessie	(:28) The White Lotus		
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)			Jessie Bluey Bluey	(:32) "Waitress" ('07) Keri Russell.		Dexter: Original Sin
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night						"Sleepless"	

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

THURSDAY

7:00pm

ABC Extreme Makeover: Home Edition
"Banner MD Anderson, Part 2" The crew organizes the grand opening of the Wellness Center at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center; a couple moves into their Home Away from Home residence. TVPG (HD)

8:01pm

FOX Animal Control After being fired for trying to expose corruption, a former police officer joins the local animal control office as they deal with various animal emergencies. TV14 (HD)

FRIDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	(:13) NBA Basketball <i>New York vs Cleveland</i> (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	"Ratatouille" ('07) (G)	The White Lotus (HD)	"Three Musketeers"	"Gladiator" ('00) (HD)
7 PM :30	Shark Tank (HD)	NCIS: Sydney (HD)	College Basketball (Live) (HD)	Place Place		★★★★ "Creed II" ('18, Drama) Michael B. Jordan. (HD)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (HD)	Wizards Jessie Jessie ZOMBIES	"Uncharted" ('22, Action) Tom Holland. (HD)	"Sherlock Holmes" ('09) Robert Downey Jr.	Dexter: Original Sin Yellowjackets "It Girl"
8 PM :30	(:01) 20/20 <i>Investigative news.</i> (HD)	Fire Country (HD)		Dateline NBC	(:35) NBA Basketball <i>New Orleans vs Dallas</i> (Live) (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	ZOMBIES	Real Time with (HD)	"The Zone of Interest" ('23) Sandra Hüller.	Yellowjackets (HD)
9 PM :30		S.W.A.T. (HD)	Local Programs			★ "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" ('15) Daisy Ridley.	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards Big City	The White Lotus (HD)		★★★ "Bad Moms" ('16) Mila Kunis.
10 PM :30	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local			Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(:05) ★★★ "Keanu" ('16)	"Midsommar" ('19)	Yellowjack
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)						
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night							

FEBRUARY 21, 2025

FRIDAY

7:30pm

NBC Happy's Place "Fish Fry Monday" Emmett tries to give Bobbie a break to go fishing by telling her they should revive the tavern's Fish Fry Mondays; Isabella tries bartending with Gabby. TVPG (HD)

9:33pm

TBS Star Wars: The Force Awakens ★★★½ (2015, Science Fiction) Daisy Ridley, John Boyega. Thirty years after the defeat of the Galactic Empire, the fates of a former stormtrooper, a skilled X-Wing pilot and a self-sufficient scavenger all intertwine. PG-13 TV14 (HD)

SATURDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Local	Local Programs	Hoops Tip-off (Live)	Local Programs	College Basketball	"The Last Jedi" ('17)	(3:30) IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship (HD)	Big City Chibiverse	The White Lotus (HD)	(5:23) "Crank 2" ('09)	(:10) Yellowjackets
7 PM :30	NBA (Live)	56th NAACP Image Awards	College Basketball <i>Illinois vs Duke</i> (Live) (HD)	The Voice "The Blind Auditions Part 3" (HD)	College Basketball "Teams TBA" (HD)	★★★ "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" ('19) Daisy Ridley. (HD)		"The Proud Family Movie" ('05)	"Elevation" Morena Baccarin.	"Mechanic: Resurrection" ('16)	"Star Trek: Section 31" ('25) Michelle Yeoh.
8 PM :30	NBA Basketball <i>Los Angeles vs Denver</i> (Live) (HD)							Chibiverse	(:35) The White Lotus (HD)	(:39) "Deadpool" ('16, Action) Ryan Reynolds.	
9 PM :30		48 Hours (HD)	Local Programs	Saturday Night Live	College Basketball "Teams TBA" (HD)		9-1-1 (HD)	Chibiverse Moon Girl			Yellowjackets "It Girl"
10 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	Extracted (HD)	Local		Foul Play	9-1-1 (HD)	Moon Girl		★★ "3 Days to Kill" Kevin Costner.	Yellowjackets (HD)
11 PM :30	Local Programs		Local Programs	Local Programs	SportsCenter (HD)	"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" ('17)	9-1-1 (HD)	Moon Girl Miraculous Big City	"Movie"		"The Godfather" (R)

FEBRUARY 22, 2025

SATURDAY

7:00pm

MAX Mechanic: Resurrection ★★★½ (2016, Action) Jason Statham, Tommy Lee Jones. Arthur Bishop is forced to turn back to the life that he left behind as he must complete three seemingly impossible assassinations. R TV14 (HD)

9:00pm

CBS 48 Hours Investigators take an in-depth look at a single story of real-life crime, considering the case from multiple angles in their pursuit of the truth. TV14 (HD)

SUNDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	Next Level Chef (HD)	The Americas (HD)	NBA Basketball <i>Miami Heat at Milwaukee Bucks</i> (Live)	Postgame Bang (HD)	To Be Announced	"The Incredibles" ('04) Craig T. Nelson. (HD)	"Elevation"	(:03) The Knick (HD)	Yellowjackets (HD)
7 PM :30	Videos	Tracker "Nightingale"	Family Guy Grimsburg	The Americas (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	James McAvoy. (R)	The White Lotus "Same Spirits"	"Wanted" ('08) James McAvoy. (R)	Yellowjackets (HD)
8 PM :30	(:31) "Thor: Love and Thunder" ('22) Chris Hemsworth.	Watson	North (HD)	Suits: L.A.		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	StuGo	The White Lotus (HD)	(:50)	Yellowjackets (HD)
9 PM :30		The Equalizer (HD)	Local Programs	Grosse Pointe "Pilot"	NBA Basketball <i>Oklahoma City vs Minnesota</i> (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Kiff	(:03) The White Lotus	"RoboCop" ('14, Action) Joel Kinnaman.	★★★★ "Interstellar" ('14, Science Fiction) Matthew McConaughey. (HD)
10 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local		Foul Play	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	Last Week	(:48) "A Most Wanted Man" ('14)	
11 PM :30		Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	(:46) The White Lotus		
						Rebecca Ferguson.		Bluey	(:50) Lotus		

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

SUNDAY

7:00pm

CBS Tracker "Nightingale" Hired to track down a missing singer connected to a violent crime, Colter soon discovers his target is just as much of a loner survivalist as he is himself. TV14 (HD)

8:00pm

NBC Suits: L.A. "Seven Days a Week and Twice on Sundays" Attorney Ted Black and his partner prepare to merge with a firm led by Ted's ex, but a snag in the merger forces Ted to step back into a role he despises. TV14

MONDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Big City Big City	"We Live in"	★★★ "Paris Can Wait"	★★½ "Geostorm" ('17)
7 PM :30	The Bachelor (HD)	Neighbor.	Extracted (HD)	The Voice "The Blind Auditions Part 4" (HD)		Bang (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Primos	(:15) "Flow" ('24, Adventure) (HD)	"Menashe" ('17) Menashe Lustig.	"Star Trek: Section 31" ('25) Michelle Yeoh.
8 PM :30		Poppa's			College Basketball <i>Houston vs Texas Tech</i>	Bang (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Primos			
9 PM :30	(:01) Mormon Wives	Watson "Redcoat"	Rescue: Hi-Surf (HD)	The Hunting Party		Dad (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Wizards	(:45) ★★★ "Speed" ('94, Action) Keanu Reeves.	★★ "Red Dawn" Chris Hemsworth.	Yellowjackets (HD)
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	College Basketball <i>Kansas vs Colorado</i> (Live)	Dad (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Jessie			
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)		Dad (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Kiff	(:45) The White Lotus	★★½ "Pride" ('07) Terrence Howard.	School Spirits (HD)
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Dad (HD)		Bluey	Last Week	"Mechanic"	Yellowjackets (HD)

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

MONDAY

7:00pm

MAX Menashe ★★★½ (2017, Drama) Menashe Lustig, Ruben Niborski. A hapless widower, living in Brooklyn's ultra-orthodox Hasidic Jewish community, struggles to gain custody of his son while respecting religious tradition. PG (HD)

9:00pm

CBS Watson "Redcoat" The team investigates a man with a bullet lodged in his head who believes himself to be a Scottish soldier; Watson looks into who his estranged wife is dating. TV14

TUESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City Big City	(4:35) "Malcolm X" ('92) Denzel Washington.	"Forever My Girl"	"40 Days"
7 PM :30	Will Trent "Abigail B."	FBI "Hitched" (HD)	Kitchen Nightmares	Medical Night (HD)	TGL Golf "The Bay Golf Club vs. Jupiter Links Golf Club" (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City		"Love & Basketball" ('00) Omar Epps. (HD)	"The Intervention" Clea DuVall.
8 PM :30	The Rookie "Wildfire"	FBI: International	Doc (HD)	Deal or No Deal (HD)		The Joe Schmo Show	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	Eyes On The Prize III		Yellowjackets (HD)
9 PM :30	High Potential (HD)	FBI: Most Wanted	Local Programs Local info.	The Irrational (HD)		Family	Law & Order: SVU	ZOMBIES	Eyes On The Prize III	(:05) "A Bigger Splash" ('16) Ralph Fiennes.	★★★ "The Last Voyage of the Demeter" ('23)
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (Live)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	The White Lotus (HD)		
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Raven Home			
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Family		Bluey	Eyes On The Prize III	"May Marlene" ('11)	"Murder Company"

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

TUESDAY

7:00pm

ABC Will Trent "Abigail B." Marion and Will work on a child trafficking case, and they unearth dark secrets during their investigation; Ormewood helps Ariana Madix with personal security. (HD)

9:05pm

MAX A Bigger Splash ★★★½ (2016, Drama) Ralph Fiennes, Dakota Johnson. A rock legend, vacationing with her partner on the volcanic island of Pantelleria, is surprised by the unexpected arrival of her ex and his sultry daughter. R (HD)

WEDNESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	(:13) NBA Basketball <i>Philadelphia vs New York</i> (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City Big City	"Crouching Tiger"	★★★★ "The Bling Ring"	(5:15) "The Boy" ('16)
7 PM :30	Gears	Survivor <i>Deserted island.</i> (HD)	The Masked Singer	Chicago Med (HD)		All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(:55) The White Lotus	"Confidence" ('03) Edward Burns.	★★★ "Poltergeist" ('82) JoBeth Williams. (HD)
8 PM :30	Celebrity Jeopardy!		(:02) The Floor (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	(:35) NBA Basketball <i>San Antonio vs Houston</i> (Live) (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	Kiff: Ring	Eyes On The Prize III		
9 PM :30	What Would You Do?	Hollywood Squares	Local Programs Local info.	Chicago P.D. "Marie"		Pregame	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	Prize III	(:38) ★★ "3 Days to Kill" ('14) Kevin Costner.	Yellowjackets (HD)
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local		Women's Int'l Soccer <i>Japan vs United States</i>	Law & Order: SVU	ZOMBIES	The White Lotus (HD)		
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	Raven Home		★★½ "Cut Bank" Liam Hemsworth.	★★★★½ "Into the Wild" ('07) Emile Hirsch. (HD)
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Postgame		Bluey	Eyes On The Prize III		

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

WEDNESDAY

7:00pm

ABC Shifting Gears "Picnic" Matt confronts the owner of Premiere Dance Lab over a picnic table placed in their shared alleyway, which escalates their feud; Carter and Matt talk. TVPG (HD)

10:00pm

PARSHO Into the Wild ★★★½ (2007, Drama) Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden. Fed up with the trappings of the modern world, a college graduate gives up all of his possessions and embarks upon a trek into the Alaskan wilderness. R (HD)

Opinion and Commentary

‘Is farming worth it?’

Ag groups testify on ag economy
By Tammie Sloup, FarmWeek

For fourth generation rice, corn and soybean farmer Jennifer James, last year was her family’s most financially difficult year. And the Arkansas farmer is even more worried about what’s going to come.

“Just last week, we had one of the most difficult business conversations my family has had. Is farming really worth it?” James told U.S. Senate Ag Committee members as her voice trembled. “What scares me is we are only one farm family of thousands having these conversations.”

James was one of a dozen witnesses during the committee’s first in a series of hearings on the current state of America’s rural economy. Representatives from numerous commodity and ag groups testified Feb. 5 for nearly four hours, reiterating that coupled with ongoing challenges involving high input prices, low commodity prices and lack of a new farm bill, new barriers are coming into focus, including the potential risk of tariffs.

While thankful for the \$31 billion in economic and disaster aid approved late last year by Congress for farmers, the witnesses agreed farmers need long-term stability of a new farm bill rather than ad hoc assistance.

USDA’s latest forecast for net farm income shows an increase in 2025, however, that bump is driven by higher government payments this year.

Released Feb. 6, the Economic Research Service’s report forecasts government farm payments at \$42.4 billion for 2025, a \$33.1-billion increase from 2024.

Net farm income, a broad measure of profits, is forecast to increase in 2025 after declining in 2023 and 2024 from a record high in 2022. Forecast at \$180.1 billion for 2025, net farm income would be \$41 billion (29.5%) higher than in 2024. Net cash farm income is forecast at \$193.7 billion for 2025, an increase of \$34.5 billion (21.7%) relative to 2024 (not adjusted for inflation).

In inflation-adjusted 2025 dollars, net farm income is forecast to increase by \$37.7 billion (26.4%) from 2024 to 2025, and net cash farm income is forecast to increase by \$30.6 billion (18.8%) compared with the previous year.

While government payments are expected to grow, farm cash receipts are forecast to decrease by \$1.8 billion from 2024 to \$515 billion in 2025 in nominal dollars. Total crop receipts are forecast to decrease by \$5.6 billion from 2024 levels to \$239.6 billion following lower receipts for soybeans and corn. Conversely, total animal/product receipts are projected to increase by \$3.8 billion to \$275.4 billion in 2025.

In good news, total production expenses, including those associated with operator dwellings, are forecast to decrease by \$2.5 billion from 2024 to \$450.4 billion in 2025. Spending on feed is expected to see the largest decline in 2025 while livestock/poultry purchases are expected to see the largest increase relative to 2024.

During committee testimony, ag leaders noted that a growing number of farmers are struggling to obtain operating loans for the 2025 planting season, and some producers likely won’t qualify for those loans.

National Corn Growers Association President Kenneth Hartman Jr. said corn farmers are facing losses of more than \$160 per acre for the 2025 crop year, which puts them in a “vulnerable financial position.”

“Looking ahead, corn growers across the country still face economic headwinds and further action is needed to improve the farm bill safety net programs and the market outlook for producers,” Hartman, of Waterloo, said in his testimony.

American Soybean Association Chairman Josh Gackle pointed to the shifts in supply and demand as underpinning uncertainty by soybean farmers.

Even with the U.S.’s abundant soy harvest this crop year, Brazil is anticipating a record harvest, and Argentina is looking at its largest harvest in years. Strong harvest predictions across the largest global soy producers will likely result in a world-record soy harvest this year, Gackle noted in his testimony. At the same time, the world’s largest buyer of soybeans — China — continues to face economic woes and increasingly is shifting purchases toward Brazil amid tariff uncertainty.

“This economic downturn results in a diminished demand for U.S. soy at a time of excess supplies,” he said.

Both committee leaders appeared in tune with the witnesses’ concerns.

“My highest priority for the next farm bill is to improve the farm safety net, whereby every farmer in every region will have access to modernized risk management tools, regardless of the commodity that they grow,” Committee Chairman John Boozman, R-Arkansas, said. “If we fail to modernize the safety net, agriculture will see further consolidation as farm families leave the business and the ripple effects to our country will be truly profound.”

Ranking member Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota, recognized bipartisan agreements on many farm bill priorities, but said there’s still work to do.

“There’s changes we need to make from the last farm bill to make it even better, and our committee has an opportunity at a time when we’ve got high input costs, where we’ve got avian flu, we have an opportunity to pass a bipartisan farm bill and deliver that certainty,” she said.

Both the Senate and House ag committees are gearing up for renewed farm bill talks by holding hearings on the farm economy to gauge current conditions as well as educate new committee members. The House Ag Committee held its first hearing on Feb. 11.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Please read this...

February can’t come to an end soon enough...

By Geof Skinner

This week has reminded me, once again, why we should skip the whole month of February and move right on to March...or maybe even April...

Truth be told, the only sort of “satisfactory” February I can think of came long ago and far away and involved a trip halfway around the world, where it was summer time...in the middle of February...

I suppose there is one good thing about February. Major League Baseball spring training is underway. Hopefully, that means warm spring breezes are right around the corner in our little corner of the world. And for those of us who are fans of the St. Louis Cardinals, we can only hope that this season will be at least a little better than last year...

Meanwhile...

How could there be traffic on the Clear Creek Levee Road? Twice. In just a few days.

Your writer had to make a couple of trips to Cape Girardeau last week. The journeys were necessary because my old, but reliable (at least for now) laptop needed an energy boost.

While motoring back and forth on such travels, I often try to find a “scenic” route to take, with the idea that a photo opportunity or two might show up. Last week’s return home from the Show Me State included a short cut on the Clear Creek Levee Road. The road I took runs from Illinois Route 146 to the State Forest Road.

I took the levee road twice. Both times, there was traffic, which, at least in terms of everything else happening the universe, was no big deal. Just seemed kind of odd.

Meanwhile...

Speaking of traveling... and traffic... One of the other “scenic” routes I took while motoring back and forth to Cape Girardeau was through the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area, known to most of us as the “refuge.”

I tend to drive rather slowly through the refuge. That

way, I might spot a critter or two...and take a photo...or two. I’ve never been able to figure out why some people tend to zoom through the refuge. They miss so much...

Meanwhile...

Let’s move on to a few Critter Sighting Updates, which are much more fun. I think.

Three white-tailed deer running through a field covered with newly fallen snow. Yup. Saw them along new U.S. Route 51 last Sunday afternoon while motoring to Anna. The scene would have made for a nice photo, but the folks in the vehicles behind me probably would not have appreciated it much if I just stopped in the highway to take a picture. Oh, well.

A whole bunch of crows on the Clear Creek Levee Road. Yup. There might have been as many as four and twenty black birds. I did not count.

Feathered fowls of some sort frolicking in the rain. Yup. Spotted them last Saturday afternoon, in the midst of our February downpour, along one our rural roads. At least they seemed to be enjoying the deluge.

Love birds. On Valentine’s Day. Yup. A pair of mallard ducks were paddling their way through water at the refuge. I’d like to say that since it was Valentine’s Day, they were holding hands. Then again, they were ducks...

That’s about it for this week. Stay warm...



Spring may indeed be on its way...a fellow traveler on the Journey Through Life shared a picture of some crocuses in bloom in Union County.



A kingfisher was kind enough to pose for a photo while perched on a tree at the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area one day last week.



Rocky looked like he’s been on a bit of a rough road on his Journey Through Life. He was moving slowly as he meandered through the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area on a cold, misty February afternoon.

Donation funds upcoming Veterans Honor Flight

Gary Nelson of McLeansboro joined the U.S. Army in February of 1968 to serve his country.

Eventually deployed to fight in Vietnam, Nelson was honorably discharged in 1971 and returned to McLeansboro.

Proud of his service, he applied to fly with Veterans Honor Flight in 2018. Diagnosed with terminal cancer, Nelson was overjoyed in February 2024 when he received the call to fly as an Honored Veteran with Veterans Honor Flight.

Mission 12 departed early in the morning on May 7, 2024, with Nelson onboard.

After a long day in Washington, D.C., stopping eight times to visit memorials and Arlington National Cemetery, Nelson returned with his flight to Marion to a hero’s welcome.

Nelson returned home, reflecting on his Honor Flight experience and felt he must do something to help other veterans experience the flight.

Deeply moved by the Honor Flight experience, Nelson felt compelled to give back.

Determined to ensure other veterans had the same opportunity, he reached out to Randy Rubenacker of Rocking for A Cause and Bill Bonan, chairman of the board of Peoples National Bank, both of whom immediately stepped up to help fully fund an upcoming flight.

Rocking for a Cause Inc. fosters growth and development in agriculture, education, healthcare and children’s welfare through the power of music.

Now, its reach has extended to supporting Veterans Honor Flight.

Bill Bonan, a Vietnam veteran himself, recognized the significance of this mission and was eager to contribute.

On Feb. 8, Nelson, Rubenacker, and Bonan joined members of the Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois board and volunteers to present a check for \$112,000 to the organization which fully funds Mission 14, which is scheduled for May 6, 2025.

“It was the highlight of my life,” Nelson said of his Honor Flight experience.

Bryan Questelle, chairman of the board for Veterans Honor Flight, said the donation was truly unique.

“To have an Honor Flight veteran come up and want to fund a flight for others is

something I never expected. We are all honored that Mr. Nelson felt so highly of the experience that he wanted to do this,” Questelle said in a news release which was shared on the Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois website.

Questelle said this is the fourth flight in the hub’s history which has been fully funded. “Honored, that’s all I can say,” Questelle said of those who have donated to the organization.

Mission 14 is expected to carry 88 veterans to Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

The flight is scheduled to depart from Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois in Marion at 6:30 a.m. and is expected to return at 8:50 p.m.

The public is invited to attend a Welcome Home Celebration to honor those veterans returning on the flight.

More information will be posted to social media at www.veteranshonorflight.org closer to the flight date.

Veterans who would like to participate in Honor Flight can apply online at www.veteranshonorflight.org or call 618-942-3930 to request a paper application. All veterans are eligible to fly, regardless of age or dates of service.

For those who would like to support Veterans Honor Flight, donations can be

made at www.veteranshonorflight.org or at any Peoples National Bank or Banterra Bank facility in Southern Illinois. All donations are tax deductible.

Additionally, donations may be made in association with sponsorships, such as a wheelchair banner sponsorship (\$100) which places a banner on one of the wheelchairs taken to Washington, D.C., in honor or memory of a veteran or with a personal message. For additional sponsorship information, visit www.veteranshonorflight.org.

Follow Veterans Honor Flight on Facebook (www.facebook.com/veteranshonorflight) or Instagram (www.instagram.com/vethonorflight) for the latest information.

Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois is a hub of the Honor Flight Network and is dedicated to the service of the veterans in Southern Illinois.

Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with all available donations going directly to flight costs. As of 2019, 97.5 percent of all donated money was used for flight costs.

Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois has flown more than 1,000 veterans from all across Southern Illinois and the surrounding area.

The Gazette-Democrat
Serving Union County
Since 1849.