

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

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Anna, Illinois

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News

Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area

Happy Presidents' Day, which is Feb. 20.

Be sure to attend the upcoming Civil War Weekend activities which are being hosted by the Shawnee Hills Arts Council/Anna Arts Center and the PAST organization of Union County.

Renovations began last week on the former Cobden Medical/Clinic Building. The Union County Historical and Genealogy Society purchased the facility in December.

All of the plumbing and electrical work has been completed, and painting and wall board repairs continue. The building will house a resource and cultural center.



Going up: a bird (a woodpecker, perhaps), makes its way up a branch on a tree at the Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro.

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Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Jonesboro student earns national honors

By Amber Skelton

One Union County student's patriotism and writing ability has led to a second place finish in a national essay contest.

Madilyn Gawrych-Turner, an 8th grader from Jonesboro Grade School, won second place in the National Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen Essay Contest.

The contest was open to any 6th through 8th grade student. The theme was "The America I Believe In."

The excitement began in the fall when Madilyn was awarded the Anna VFW Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 Patriot's Pen contest prize of \$50.

Her essay was entered into the VFW District 15 contest, where she won \$100, presented in January at an awards banquet in Marion. She was informed at the banquet that her essay was one of the top three finalists in the state of Illinois.

The Illinois VFW hosted the three finalists for a two-night stay in Springfield with their families this past weekend over President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

The students visited several monuments, including the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, the Old State Capitol Building and the Illinois State Military

Museum. They were also special guests at Lincoln's Tomb for Lincoln's Eulogy.

Madilyn won first place, which was presented at the state award banquet, along with a plaque and \$1,000. Madilyn's essay was chosen out of 7,000 state en-

tries. This is the first time that anyone from the Anna VFW Carrol P. Poster Post No. 3455 has won the state contest.

The essay then moved on to the national competition.

On Monday, Feb. 13,

Madilyn was informed that she ranked second out of approximately 120,000 students who entered the contest throughout the country. The award was \$4,000, bringing Madilyn's total prize money to \$5,150.

Jonesboro Grade School

principal Tom Stark congratulated and expressed pride for her at a school-wide assembly which was held Tuesday morning, Feb. 14.

Madilyn's winning essay follows:

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Essay contest winner honored

8th grader Madilyn Gawrych-Turner of Jonesboro was recently announced as the second place winner in the National VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. She was congratulated at a school-wide assembly which was held Tuesday morning, Feb. 14. From left are Madilyn's mother, Pam Turner, Anna VFW Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 commander Mark Haddick, Madilyn, chairperson of Patriot's Pen Sherry Haddick and VFW Auxiliary president Diana Robertson. Photo by Amber Skelton.

County board meets Friday

Economic growth, development addressed

Economic growth and development efforts were addressed at last week's regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners.

The meeting was Friday morning, Feb. 10, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

The county board welcomed Mike Stegle, Candy Eastwood and Tabitha Smith to the meeting.

Stegle is president of the Union County Economic Development Corporation. The corporation works to promote local economic growth and development.

Eastwood is executive director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Shawnee Community College near Ullin.

The center, according to its website, provides assistance to small businesses

with start-up, expansion, business and marketing plan assistance, accessing financing opportunities, and a variety of seminars and workshops.

Eastwood noted that over the past several years, the center has worked with some 140 businesses in the Union County area.

Smith is executive director of the Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone Inc., SIDEZ.

SIDEZ has been working since 1999 to promote economic development, infrastructure development and tourism in Alexander, Pulaski, Johnson and Massac counties.

Stegle, Eastwood and Smith asked county officials to consider working with SIDEZ to enhance Union County growth and development efforts.

"I think it's a great op-

portunity for Union County," Eastwood said about the proposal.

SIDEZ offers a wide range of resources, including revolving loan funds, access to USDA rural business development grant funds, a youth entrepreneurial camp, scholarships and a business center.

Smith explained that SIDEZ is a self-sustaining operation.

She said that there would be "no financial obligation" for Union County to participate in SIDEZ.

"We do not want to compete with what you have, we want to assist," Smith said. "It's a service we can offer."

County commissioners responded positively to the presentation and decided to move forward on the proposal.

Union County State's

Attorney Tyler R. Edmonds suggested that a resolution be drafted to formally voice support for participation in the SIDEZ program.

The county board could act as soon as its next meeting on the matter. The board's next meeting is scheduled on Feb. 24.



New officers reelected

The annual meeting of Union County Economic Development Corporation was conducted last week. Officers who were reelected at the meeting included Mike Stegle, center, as president; Richard Kerns (who was not present for the picture) as vice president; Stephanie Cox as treasurer; and Alan Yates as treasurer.

Healthy eating options promoted at A-JCHS

By Lindsey Rae Vaughn

Since the spring of 2015, students at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School have had more options for lunch than are available at several larger schools in Southern Illinois with the addition of a salad bar.

The availability of the options took hard work by students and family and A-JCHS consumer science teacher Alysha Bottje to make it possible.

Students no longer had an open campus in 2015, which meant they couldn't leave campus for lunch.

"The main thing was that I wanted them to have more options," Bottje said.

They made a newsletter and sent it out to people in

the community and asked for donations. The goal was \$2,000 – and \$4,500 was raised.

"A lot of kids may not have healthy options when they go home. If they have the option to eat healthy, I think a lot more kids would," Bottje said.

She met with cafeteria staff and purchased all the necessary equipment they needed to use, along with the salad bar itself. After all the items were purchased, she still had \$2,000 left from the donated funds.

Bottje made a Mission Nutrition account and came up with the idea of making posters, with A-JCHS students in them, promoting

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Healthy eating poster

The volleyball team was one of many sports teams and clubs that helped make healthy eating posters that now hang in the A-JCHS cafeteria.





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News Notes

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The Union County Highway Department is doing a wide range of maintenance work, such as grading and rock hauling. As of late last week, work had been done in about 60 percent of the county.

Southern Seven Health Department representatives presented an annual report at last Friday morning's regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners. More on this to come.

The Union County Board of Commissioners is moving forward with plans to hire a human resources administrator.

Looked like local baseball players were enjoying unusually mild weather Tuesday evening, Feb. 7, at the Anna City Park in Anna.

Weather

Temperatures ranged from a high of 73 degrees to a low of 20 during the period of Feb. 7-13 in Union County.

Precipitation was light, with only .56 of an inch of rain recorded on Feb. 7.

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

H L	
Tuesday, Feb. 7	73 47
Wednesday, Feb. 8	47 28
Thursday, Feb. 9	33 20
Friday, Feb. 10	61 23
Saturday, Feb. 11	70 56
Sunday, Feb. 12	66 39
Monday, Feb. 13	52 26

The City of Anna has received its first application related to guidelines governing signs.

The Cobden Village Board of Trustees recently approved renewal of agreements with Union County's E-911 system to handle calls for the village's police and fire departments.

A Random Act of Kindness Day is on the Cobden School calendar for Feb. 17.

The women of Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church, both in Anna, plan to begin their fourth annual Lenten Walk on March 1, which is Ash Wednesday.

The Cobden Community & Business Association is planning to have a soup and chili supper Tuesday evening, Feb. 21. The event, which has been held for several years, will be at The Old Feed Store in downtown Cobden.

Shawnee Community College is planning to host a job fair on March 15.

'Tis the season...for crocuses, which have begun to bloom in Union County.

Jonesboro School Board to meet

The Jonesboro School District No. 43 Board of Education has scheduled a special meeting for Thursday, today.

The meeting is set for 6 p.m. in the district's administrative meeting room. Items on the agenda include the potential filling of an administrative post (school superintendent).

State's attorney alert consumers about tax filing concerns

Be aware of ID theft, tax refund fraud

Union County State's Attorney Tyler R. Edmonds is alerting the public about identity theft and tax refund fraud associated with April's tax filing deadline.

Tax refund fraud commonly occurs when stolen identity information is used to file a tax return in the victim's name and the thief then obtains the refund that would be due to the victim, the state's attorney said in a news release.

Tax refund fraud has previously been reported in Union County and the state's attorney's office urges the public to protect

identifying documents and information as the tax deadline approaches.

The IRS has completed its annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams with a warning to taxpayers about aggressive telephone scams continuing from coast-to-coast during this filing season.

Along with aggressive and threatening phone calls, e-mail phishing schemes are among the "Dirty Dozen" tax scams.

Members of the public with questions or reporting suspicious activity may call the Union County state's

attorney's office at 833-7216 or the IRS toll-free at 1-800-908-4490.

The IRS list of "Dirty Dozen" tax scams include the following:

Phone Scams
 Phone calls from criminals impersonating IRS agents remain an ongoing threat to tax payers.

The IRS has seen a surge of these phone scams in recent years as scam artists threaten taxpayers with police arrest, deportation and license revocation, among other things.

Phishing
 Taxpayers need to be on

guard against fake emails or websites looking to steal personal information.

The IRS will not send taxpayers an email about a bill or refund out of the blue. Don't click on one claiming to be from the IRS.

Taxpayers should be wary of strange emails and websites that may be nothing more than scams to steal personal information.

Return Preparer Fraud
 Taxpayers need to be on the lookout for unscrupulous return preparers. The vast majority of tax professionals provide honest high-quality service.

But there are some dishonest preparers who set up shop each filing season to perpetrate refund fraud, identity theft and other scams that hurt taxpayers.

Legitimate tax professionals are a vital part of the U.S. tax system.

Inflated Refund Claims
 Taxpayers need to be on the lookout for anyone promising inflated refunds.

Taxpayers should be wary of anyone who asks them to sign a blank return, promises a big refund before looking at their records, or charges fees based on a percentage of the refund.

Scam artists use flyers, advertisements, phone store fronts and word of mouth via community groups where trust is high to find victims.

Fake Charities
 Taxpayers should be on guard against groups masquerading as charitable organizations to attract donations from unsuspecting contributors.

Be wary of charities with names that are similar to familiar or nationally known organizations.

Contributors should take a few extra minutes to ensure their hard-earned money goes to legitimate and currently eligible charities.

IRS.gov has the tools taxpayers need to check out the status of charitable organizations.

Additional information is also available online at www.unioncountyil.gov/sa and at www.irs.gov/identitytheft.

The full list of the "Dirty Dozen" tax scams is available at https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/dirty-dozen.

Student earns honors

(continued from page 1)
 "The America I Believe In"

"When you hear the word America, what thoughts come to your mind? Do you think of our freedoms? Do you think of our brave soldiers fighting beneath our beautiful waving flag? Do you think of a young child dreaming of becoming president? Former U.S. Senator Paul

Tsongas once said the following about America, 'America is hope. It is compassion. It is excellence. It is valor.' I agree.

"The America I believe in is hope. The Statue of Liberty has always given hope to the millions of immigrants who come to the United States to start a new life. America is a place that allows everyone an equal playing field.

Healthy eating options

(continued from page 1)
 healthier eating, to hang in the cafeteria.

"I think it's good because the kids see people in the school and it makes the cafeteria look good," Bottje said.

With the help of local photographer Tiffany Dillow, students came in during the summer of 2015 and took the photos.

Each poster is of a sports team or club with a slogan about healthy eating.

"During the second year, I had people come up to me and ask 'are you going to do the posters again?'" Bottje said.

Two rounds of posters have been made, but the funds are almost out of the Mission Nutrition account, so no new posters are planned to be made.

A few months ago, the television show "The Spiel" contacted Bottje and asked her and a couple students to come on the show to talk about their salad bar, posters and make a few healthy recipes.

Students Mackenzie Boget and Kortnie Bonner accompanied her.

"It was a good experience for a high school kid to have," Boget said,

"I thought it was going to be a 30-second clip, but

it was a big deal," Bonner said.

The students and Bottje made bell pepper pizza and apple cookies during their segment.

Boget and Bonner were part of the group of students that helped Bottje raise funds for the salad bar. For them, it was an important option to bring to A-JCHS.

"I really enjoy it because I thought it was different from eating the basic school lunch every day," Bonner said.

"I play volleyball, so nutrition is something that I need," Boget said.

The girls said they see about 75 percent of the students utilize the salad bar, whether they have a whole chef salad, a side salad, or just use it for its veggies.

Bottje said she understands change can sometimes be difficult, but with the support of the community and a supportive administrator, it's been great.

"My principal has been so supportive. He's taken risks on stuff I've come up with and trusted me," Bottje said.

The episode of "The Spiel" featuring Bottje, Boget and Bonner is scheduled to air March 25 on channel 23. "The Spiel" airs Saturdays at 11 a.m.

"The Preaching Pen" Respect - A Lost Virtue

The dictionary defines "respect" as: "esteem for or a sense of the worth or excellence of a person, a personal quality or ability, or something considered as a manifestation of a personal quality or ability. That esteem and courtesy seem to be in short supply today, so I want to suggest a few things that are worthy of our respect, and encourage us to demonstrate it.

1) Respect for the Bible: We need to get back to the Bible, because that's the answer to the problem of sin. As we communicate to God through prayer, God communicates to us through his Holy, inspired word (II Tim. 3:16-17). He doesn't reveal His will through dreams, visions or feelings today.

Colossians 3:17: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Not just any authority is adequate.

2) Respect for parents: What a shame that so many today have a glaring disrespect for the elderly, especially their parents. Today's generations need to learn more perfectly the will of God regarding respect for parents. Proverbs 30:11, "There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother." This could be said of many in our time. Paul writes in Eph. 6:2: "Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise." We must respect our parents, regardless of our, or their, age.

3) We need to respect our government. God demands that we assume civic responsibilities, that we be law-abiding citizens (Rom. 13:1-7). As long as civil law does not go contrary to God's law, we have a God-given responsibility to obey and uphold civil law, including the paying of taxes; abiding by speed limits, seatbelt laws, etc. Let us get back to, and respect once more, Bible ethics. Let us respect the laws of the land.

4) Finally, what has happened to respect for our employers? God demands mutual respect, fairness and responsibility in employer/employee relationships (Eph. 6:5-9). Service should be conscientious - work for that hour of pay, and what about when employees want to quit? The time was, out of respect and courtesy for the employer, that a two-week notice was given so the employer could have time to interview and hire a replacement, but in today's world of selfishness and disrespect (especially younger generations), when an employee quits, he or she doesn't give more than a day's notice, often less.

Let us always demonstrate respect when and where it is due, and may we above all demonstrate respect for the Word of God, for it is a "lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path."

R.W. McAlister, Minister
 Anna church of Christ



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School board member honored

The Anna Community Consolidated School District No. 37 Board of Education recently honored Dale Foster for his service. From left are board members Craig Dillman, Elaine Ray, Tina Waller, Dale Foster, Grant Capel, Pam Needling and Dave Sullivan. Foster served on the board of education from 2005 to 2017. During his tenure, Foster served as the board's president and vice president. In November 2016, he was elected to serve on the Union County Board of Commissioners. Photo provided.

IEMA encourages earthquake preparedness

In recognition of the earthquake risk in Southern Illinois from the New Madrid and Wabash Valley seismic zones, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, IEMA, and local emergency management agencies will promote earthquake preparedness throughout February.

"While we don't experience major earthquakes with the same frequency as the western U.S., some of the most powerful earthquakes to ever occur in the continental U.S. happened along the New Madrid seismic zone about 200 years ago," IEMA director James K. Joseph said in a news release.

"We can't predict when the next major earthquake will occur, but we can help people learn how to stay safe and reduce damage to their homes."

The U.S. Geological Service recalls on its website

that in the winter of 1811 and 1812, the New Madrid seismic zone generated a sequence of earthquakes that lasted for several months.

Three very large earthquakes, estimated to be between magnitude 7 and 8, occurred.

The three largest 1811-1812 earthquakes destroyed several settlements along the Mississippi River, caused minor structural damage as far away as Cincinnati, Ohio, and St. Louis, and were felt as far away as Hartford, Conn., Charleston, S.C., and New Orleans, La.

In the New Madrid region, the earthquakes dramatically affected the landscape.

They caused bank failures along the Mississippi River, landslides along Chickasaw Bluffs in Kentucky and Tennessee, and uplift and subsidence of

large tracts of land in the Mississippi River floodplain.

One such uplift related to faulting near New Madrid, Mo., temporarily forced the Mississippi River to flow backwards.

In addition, the earthquakes liquefied subsurface sediment over a large area and at great distances resulting in ground fissuring and violent venting of water and sediment.

One account of this phenomena stated that the Pemiscot Bayou "blew up for a distance of nearly fifty miles."

In conjunction with Earthquake Preparedness Month in Illinois, IEMA is adding a new 30-second TV spot to the Ready Illinois broadcast preparedness campaign, which is aired in cooperation with the Illinois Broadcasters Association, IBA, Public Education Partnership, PEP, program.

The new spot directs people to the Ready Illinois website for information on

"Submit Observations" on the home page.

Or, the free eBird Mobile app can be downloaded to enter data on a mobile device.

For more information, visit <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/> or contact the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge at 618-634-2231.

News from

First Baptist Church, Cobden

Pastor Ed Falgout's message on Sunday, Feb. 12, was titled "Broken: The True Story of Pain and Suffering," with scripture from Genesis. The message was about "the fall and death of man and the hope for man."

Appreciation is voiced to the BMEN, Bobby Myers and crew, the decorating crew and Banded for putting on a Valentine's event.

Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. Sunday morning worship begins at 10 a.m. The Sunday evening service begins at 6 p.m. A Wednesday service begins at 6:30 p.m.

News from

First Christian Church, Anna

"The Blessing of Tithing," with scripture from Malachi was the title of the sermon preached by Senior Minister Dee Armes on Sunday, Feb. 12.

The message was about giving, tithing and supporting the local church or organizations and shared that "by tithing we are putting God on our priority list where God belongs: at the top."

Birthdays: Eleanor Kinsey and Connie Barbatti on Feb. 12, Melanie Weilmuenster on Feb. 13, Lisa James on Feb. 14, Mary Frances Sheeley on Feb. 15 and Adam Eastman on Feb. 16.

First Christian Church of Anna is a nondenominational family of believers meeting at 200 Mallard Ln. in Anna.

Sunday School for all ages is at 9:30 a.m., with worship service beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The Sunday evening program begins at 6 p.m. with the junior high youth group and senior high school youth group led by Aaron Filbeck at the church. An adult Bible study meets at 6:45 p.m.

Anna City Council meets

Budget, solar eclipse topics of discussion

Budget talks were on the agenda for a special meeting of the Anna City Council which was called for Monday afternoon, Feb. 13. Anna's new fiscal year begins on May 1.

The budget, and plans for the special session, were discussed at last week's regular meeting of the city council.

The regular meeting was held Tuesday evening, Feb. 7, at Anna City Hall.

The upcoming total solar eclipse in August also was a topic of discussion at last week's regular meeting.

Budget

City officials have already been discussing the new budget. More in-depth discussion was planned at Monday's meeting as the council prepares the new budget for approval.

In other business at the Feb. 7 regular meeting:

Solar Eclipse

Council member Brandon Bierstedt asked what steps the city might be able to take related to the total solar eclipse which is slated to occur on Aug. 21.

The eclipse is expected to bring thousands of visitors to Southern Illinois to view the event.

Bierstedt is welcoming input regarding the mat-

ter. Those who may want to share their thoughts are welcome to contact Anna City Hall.

Project Updates

City administrator Steve Guined shared an update about several projects which are moving forward.

One of those projects calls for major improvements at the Anna Park.

Guined said it is hoped that advertising to seek bids for the project can be done in the next few weeks.

The city administrator said that it is hoped that the bidding process can be completed by late March or early April. Plans call for the project to be completed by Aug. 1. The project includes improvements at basketball and tennis courts at the park, as well as construction of a concession/restroom building.

The project is expected to cost in the range of \$314,000. The city is slated to receive \$150,000 in state grant funds to help pay for the project. The city will pay for the remainder of the costs.

Also at last week's meeting, the council approved a zoning permit for RAVE to build a single family dwelling at 101 Michaelson Ct.

2016 activities

Anna Police report more than 2,300 calls

The Anna Police Department received more than 2,300 calls which required a response during 2016.

Nearly 300 criminal arrests also were reported by the department for the year.

The statistic was highlighted in Anna Police Chief Mike Hunter's annual report for last year.

The police chief also released a monthly activity report for January.

2016 Statistics

The police chief's report for last year showed:

2,838 calls which required a response. 1,250 walk-in requests.

813 traffic stops. 180 crashes handled. 74 vehicles impounded. 162 motorists assisted.

291 criminal arrests. 526 traffic citations. 538 written warnings.

176 code violation cita-

tions. 42,265 miles patrolled.

In terms of investigative cases, there were:

459 total cases approved. 140 submitted for prosecution. 69 pending investigations. 250 cases closed.

January Report

For the first month of 2017, the police chief reported:

191 calls requiring response. 95 walk-in requests.

87 traffic stops. 12 crashes handled. Two vehicles impounded. 18 motorists assisted.

Nine criminal arrests. 45 traffic citations. 55 written warnings.

Seven code violations cited. 3,165 miles patrolled. 868 hours worked.

27 cases approved for investigation. 10 cases submitted for prosecution. 10 pending investigations. Seven cases closed.

National FFA Week February 18-25.



The National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, operates on a state and national level to promote agricultural education programs to middle and high school students.

The FFA mission and motto is Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

Please join Anna Jonesboro National Bank in saluting our local FFA Chapters.

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SPORTS



Award winner

Lance Meisenheimer received numerous honors at the racking horse industry's winter meetings in Alabama. Photo provided.

Meisenheimer Stables honored at racking horse winter meeting

Union County resident Lance Meisenheimer has returned from the racking horse industry's winter meeting in Huntsville, Ala., where the riders and horses are honored for high point awards for showing the past year at racking horse shows.

Meisenheimer Stables of Union County was very surprised to have received

so many honors for its horses.

The horse named Pumped Up Kicks, a gray roan, won three awards in his division of showing, including horse of the year.

"Kicks" as he is called at home, was also reserve world grand champion during the world championship show in September.

Another horse, a mare

named I'm Lucky in the Sky, won a high point award in her division. She was the world grand champion in her division in September at the championship horse show.

Meisenheimer also received a big honor when he was named performance high point amateur of the year.

Meisenheimer Stables is starting to prepare for the 2017 season, which will be starting in April.

There will be a few changes this year, as Reece Lofton will be showing her new horse; this is the first full season for her to show. She is the third generation of the Meisenheimer family to show racking horses.

Commentary

Saluting an A-J standout

By Mike Estel

The Anna-Jonesboro High School Community girls' basketball fans haven't seen a standout on the court for several years since Kasee Drew graduated.

But the fans did get a treat this season with the play of Elle Basler.

She might not have all the moves of Kasee, but she had a lot of them down and was pretty impressive to watch on the floor.

Her uncanny shooting abilities from all over the floor and that behind the back dribbling when she brought the ball down the floor were both unique.

She didn't make all the 3-pointers that Kasee made, but she made her share.

Apparently, the word got out on her because she was game in and game out closely guarded by opposing teams' best defensive players.

On Senior Night, she showed a lot of class. One particular player guarding her pushed and shoved her repeatedly throughout the game.

It wasn't observed by any of the three officials calling the game and somehow she seemed to maintain her composure and not once lose her temper. That showed me a very class act individual.

Other basketball fans told me that in the tournaments she was in this season that seemed to happen a lot.

In the 42-36 win over the Lady Indians on Senior Night, she finished with a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Very impressive to close out regular season play in front of the home fans.

Making the all-tournament teams for the Lady Wildcats in all the tourna-

Du Quoin spoils

Senior Night for A-J

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School boys' basketball team couldn't hold a first quarter lead in a 70-66 loss to visiting Du Quoin to spoil Senior Night festivities for the Wildcats Saturday, Feb. 11.

The Wildcats built a 26-15 first quarter lead around three, 3-pointers by Jacob Zimmerman. Blake Pena closed out the quarter with an unbelievable half court desperation 3-pointer for the 11-point A-J advantage.

A-J was outscored 19-8 in the second quarter as the Indians tied the game 34-34 at the half. Du Quoin led 51-48 going into the final period.

Jake Parr led the Wildcats with both a season-high in both categories with 32 points and 18 rebounds.

Sheldon McGrath had 12 points and a rebound. Zimmerman finished with 9 points and 2 rebounds.

Pena had 5 points and a rebound. Logan Sawyer had 4 points and 2 rebounds.

Carson Reynolds had 2 points and 4 rebounds. Michael Hill had 2 points.

Meridian outscores

Dongola

Meridian rolled to a 52-26 win over Dongola in an elimination game at the Lady Bobcats regional tournament in girls' high school basketball Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Makenzie Prout had 17 points to lead the Lady Demons. Tiffany Shirkey added 14 points, Barb Gorst and Kylie Flores 3 apiece and Delaney Cummins 2.

Dongola 52, Joppa 26: The Lady Demons advanced in the tournament with the win in first-round action Monday, Feb. 6.

Prout scored 22 points to lead Dongola. Shirkey added 14 points, Cummins 12 and Gorst and Flores with 2 apiece.

Dongola finished its season at 8-13 overall.

The Wildcats were 18 of 31 in shot attempts from the floor, 5 of 19 from 3-point range and 15 of 19 from the free throw line.

The Indians were 15 of 28 in shot attempts from the floor, 10 of 25 from 3-point range and 10 of 12 from the charity stripe.

Pinckneyville 74, A-J 35: The visiting Wildcats couldn't recover from a bad first quarter in the loss on the road Friday, Feb. 10.

A-J fell behind 21-6 at the end of one quarter and 40-18 at the half. The Panthers led 54-24 going into the final period.

McGrath led the way for the Wildcats with 12 points and 4 rebounds.

Parr added 6 points and 7 rebounds. Hill had 5 points and 3 rebounds.

Ross Pinnon had 4 points and a rebound. Jade Gillis had 3 points and 3 rebounds. Pena had 3 points and a rebound.

A-J was 10 of 35 in shot attempts from the floor, 3 of 11 from 3-point range and 6 of 9 from the free throw line.

The Panthers were 19 of 32 in shot attempts from the floor, 10 of 24 from 3-point range and 6 of 8 from the charity stripe.

The Wildcats will not graduate any senior starters and will return their starting five next season.

A-J, 9-18, closes out regular season play Friday at Sparta.

Season ends for Cobden

The Cobden High School girls' basketball team lost 50-18 to Century and was eliminated in the Class 1A regional tournament at Gorville Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Alaina Hartline and Jenna Hartline had 7 points apiece to lead Cobden. Grace Rhodes added 3 points and Bridget Clark 1.

Cobden 35, Hardin County 21: Alaina Hartline led the way in the first-round tournament win with 15 points Monday, Feb. 6. Jenna Hartline added 12 points, Makynzie Peterman 7 and Rhodes 1.

Cobden finished its season at 10-16 overall.



Taking aim

Shawn Flanagan prepares to fire at some snow geese from the top of the underground pit when they came in range during the Wounded Warriors snow goose hunt at Grassy Lake Hunting Club near Ware Thursday, Feb. 9. Flanagan was one of six Wounded Warriors participating in the two-day hunt at the club. Photo by Mike Estel.

Wounded Warriors go snow goose hunting at local club

By Mike Estel

Snow goose hunting is special to a certain group of hunters.

"This is a like a bucket list hunt," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Thomas. "I've got some very great memories here."

Thomas was one of six soldiers from the Wounded Warriors Project out of Kentucky and Tennessee who went snow goose hunting in an underground pit at the Grassy Lake Hunting Club near Ware on Thursday, Feb. 9.

"We've been out here before light and after dark the last two days," Wounded Warrior Shawn Flanagan said. "It gets us together with people we've got a lot in common with."

The group was participating in the last day of a two-day hunt at the club. The hunters harvested six snow geese on the first day

and 20 on the second day.

"I've killed my first duck and goose here," Thomas noted. "I love it here because you don't have to worry about someone looking at you differently."

It's a chance for the medically retired soldiers to get together to do something they all enjoy.

"I'm glad we have the opportunity to do it," Sgt. Everett Redner said about the hunt. "I've met new people every time I've come here."

At least one of them credits his better half with introducing him to the program.

"My wife talked me in to this because I wouldn't be able to do this if we didn't

go to something like this," Kyle Sexton said. "This is my first time with snows hunting. I really enjoy it. These people make you feel welcome. Every person at Grassy Lake is amazing."

To some of them, the hunting takes a back seat.

"Hunting is secondary here," Patrick Howland said. "The camaraderie here is great. I don't think we've ever had a bad time here."

An organizer of the Wounded Warrior hunt, Tom Goetz of the Grassy Lake Hunting Club, said he believes the 7,449 snow goose decoys they put out in the field for snow goose season is possibly the largest spread in Southern Illinois.

Three A-J wrestlers advance to state

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School wrestling team qualified three wrestlers at the Vandavia Class 1A sectional Saturday, Feb. 11, who advanced to the state tournament in Champaign which begins Thursday, today.

A-J wrestling coach Eric Massey said this is the first time in school history that three Wildcat wrestlers have advanced at the same time to the state tournament.

The Wildcats who advanced include a pair of third place finishers in Arieh Hart, 39-3, (152 pounds) and Nick Jimenez, 34-8, (285 pounds), and fourth place finisher Nick Harvel, 30-12, (195 pounds).

Three alternates advanc-

ing for the Wildcats are Nate Kisat, 32-10, (132 pounds); Dylan Fox, 28-18, (145 pounds); and Ethan Krumrey, 24-11, (160 pounds). The three will advance as alternates to the state tournament and if someone fails to make weight in their weight class, they will get to compete.

The state tournament series at Assembly Hall in Champaign runs from Thursday, today, through Saturday, Feb. 18.

The Wildcats will compete in the Class 1A team sectional at Litchfield on Feb. 21. A win at the team sectional will advance the Wildcats to the state team competition at Bloomington on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Lady Wildcats fall to Sesser-Valier at regional tournament

The host Anna-Jonesboro Community High School girls' basketball team lost 61-38 to Sesser-Valier in the Class 2A regional tournament Thursday, Feb. 9.

"We had to play a perfect game and we didn't," A-J coach Matt Denny said. "But our kids battled."

The Lady Wildcats were also hampered by illness to one of their top players, Elle Basler, who was still recovering from the flu.

A-J remained close early and trailed 16-12 after one quarter. The Lady Red Devils pulled ahead 34-23 at the half and 47-31 headed into the final period.

Angel Helm led A-J with 10 points and 6 rebounds. Basler finished with 9 points and 3 rebounds.

Jasmin Foster had 7 points and a rebound. Connor Hadley had 7 points and 7 rebounds. Sydney Heath had 3 points and Lexa Sharp added 2 points.

A-J 48, Vienna 36: Helm led the way with 16 points and 6 rebounds in the first-round tournament win Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Basler finished with 9 points and 6 rebounds. Heath had 8 points and 3 rebounds.

Hunter Denny had 6 points and a rebound. Sharp had 5 points and 2 rebounds. Hadley had 2 points and 8 rebounds.

A-J finished its season at 17-13 overall.

"We had five or six games we should have won," Denny said. "But I'm proud of them, we're improving every year."

Basler and Sharp are the lone senior starters graduating. "We've got a lot coming back," Denny said.

Pope County tops Shawnee

Pope County defeated Shawnee 59-36 in first-round action of the Gorville Class 1A regional high school girls' basketball tournament Monday, Feb. 6.

Abbey Livesay had 14 points to lead the Lady Reds. Autumn Livesay added 8 points, Kylie Holloway 5, Madi Ellet 3 and Katie Charles and Kirsten Pitts 2 apiece.

IDNR: 141 bobcats taken during state's new hunting, trapping season

Hunters and trappers took a preliminary total of 141 bobcats during the recent Illinois bobcat hunting and trapping season.

"We are very pleased with the response to Illinois' new hunting and trapping season for bobcats," Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, director Wayne Rosenthal said in a news release.

"The recovery of the bobcat is a conservation success story in Illinois.

We were pleased with the response of hunters and trappers that applied for permits, and we will continue to evaluate the program."

More than 6,400 people applied for 500 permits to take bobcats.

Those awarded a permit in the lottery had to register their harvest within 48 hours and purchase a bobcat pelt temporary permit.

They reported taking 69 bobcats by hunting, 49 by trapping, 12 by archery, and

salvaging 11 from roads.

Bobcats were harvested in 44 counties in the open zone, which included western and southern parts of the state.

Top counties were Pike with 11, Jackson with 10, Jefferson with seven, Carroll with six and Randolph with six.

Four bobcats were harvested in Union County: two by hunting and two by trapping.

The recent season for hunting bobcats with bow or gun was from Nov. 10, 2016, through Jan. 31, 2017. Hunting was closed during firearm deer season.

Permitted trappers were able to take bobcats from Nov. 5, 2016, through Jan. 20, 2017, in the northern zone and from Nov. 10, 2016, through Jan. 25, 2017, in the southern zone.

Saluki Sports Update

By Fred Huff

You could call it a weekend to remember...forever. With, of course, one exception. The game itself. Final score, as true Saluki fans will remember: Evansville 75, SIU 70.

The good side of the story was Walt Frazier and his teammates, at least some of them, being back in town for their 50th reunion of the storybook NIT championship season.

First, the game. It belonged to the visiting Aces who led from start to finish.

The Salukis did put together a bit of a run at the end of the game, but, even drawing within three points with a few seconds remaining, it seemed Evansville was in control all of the way.

And, that was disappointing to 98 percent of the near 5,500 fans in the stands. The largest crowd of the season.

SIU had defeated the Aces on their floor a few weeks ago and were certainly expected to do so again with its supportive fans around.

And, too, the Salukis were in the midst of a mild streak and moving up in MVC standings in the last couple of weeks.

Now it appears to be a battle to hang on to fourth place in final standings with just four games remaining, two of which are against the best teams in the league: Wichita State and Illinois State.

The Salukis simply were not at their best Saturday. Coach Barry Hinson perhaps said it best, although it's not the thing you want to hear with the season winding down.

He was quoted as saying in his post-game media ses-

sion: "If you want to finish in third place, you gotta win three (of the remaining four games). If you want to be in fourth place, you have to win two games. If you don't win two games, you could finish anywhere. My gut is right now...it's probably time for us to shake a few things up."

That's a difficult possibility for us to understand. "Shake things up." With two weeks remaining in the season. I don't understand that one. Especially due to the fact that his basic coaching tactic is to replace a player, any player on the floor, when he makes a mental or physical error. Bad pass, sit down. Lose your man, sit down. Miss a close-in shot, sit down.

Tell Sean O'Brien that he's out there for 36 minutes and "do your best." Six or seven other players, Hinson's choice, should/could receive just about the same instructions.

We couldn't help but notice the season stats for SIU's championship team, despite knowing how stupid it is to make such comparisons in this day and age. The game has changed in the last 50 years.

Nevertheless, only eight players managed to play in every game during SIU's 24-2 season. Just eight.

A couple of others were also back last weekend and that was OK. They managed to be in the team picture, taken, of course, prior to the start of the season.

However, in a "team picture" taken prior to the NIT tournament, Hartman instructed me and the photographer, Rip Stokes, that he wanted "just eight" in the "group picture." That's the way it was.

Hartman knew who his eight best players were and went with them. SIU's 1967 team, the NIT championship club, was good, but it wasn't what you would call a dominating team. It simply knew how to win. Particularly Frazier.

Just eight players had scored more than 30 points all season. Points were tough to come by then and the Salukis, as good as they were, did *not* blow teams away often.

Of SIU's 24 wins (they lost just twice all season), only nine were by 10 points or more.

It was a season to remember and SIU's staff, from top to bottom, did a marvelous job in planning and promoting the reunion. Even Frazier said to us while standing on the floor at half-time: "This is great."

Arts council welcomes entries for exhibit which combines art, poetry

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council wants to pair various artists' visual works with the works of poets.

By combining the two, the arts center believes it will lead to "an exciting exhibit for visitors to enjoy."

The exhibit, "POAINTRY: The Collision of 2 Worlds," is set to open May 22 and end on June 17, with a closing reception planned from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The arts council would like to start with the artists' visual works, asking poets to create companion pieces to the visual arts.

After choosing 30 pieces of art, the arts council will put out a call to invite local poets to participate. Each poet will select one visual art as the inspiration to create a poem.

In addition to the artistic works, a book will be pub-

lished featuring each artist/poet and a picture of their work or their poem to sell during the exhibit.

The exhibit is a fundraiser; proceeds will go to the Shawnee Hills Arts Council's programs and maintenance of the buildings.

The arts council asks artists to share a piece of their visual art for the exhibit, which will be auctioned off at the closing reception. The artist will set a minimum bid; the arts council asks that the artists donate 20 percent of the proceeds to the Anna Arts Center.

The arts council asks that all visual art be delivered to

the arts center no later than March 15. Artists also are asked to provide a biography and a picture.

For poets, the arts council asks that they pick a submitted piece of the visual art and write a poem, which will be auctioned off with the matching visual art at the closing reception.

Poets are asked to deliver their poems by April 25, along with their biography and picture of themselves.

For more information email Nancy Young at fan.cynsy2@hotmail.com or call 618-614-4080 or Lee Hackney at vabchlee@gmail.com or call her cell 904-625-1109.

Reynoldsville News

by Sue Eudy

We extend sympathy to the family of Laverne Miller of Ullin, who passed away Friday, Feb. 10. Her funeral was Wednesday, Feb. 15, at First Baptist Church in Ullin.

Visiting with Sue and Steve Eudy during the weekend was David Gibbs of Mass Point, Miss., who was here for the funeral of our sister, Dolores Yates of Herrin, who died Thursday, Feb. 9, at Herrin Hospital. Her funeral was held Monday in Herrin.

Public access project grant funds awarded

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, recently announced that more than \$3.6 million in federal grant funding has been approved for local governments to purchase land to be used for public access and recreation.

Funding for the program is made available through the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund, LWCF.

The LWCF grant program, which is administered in Illinois by the IDNR, provides up to 50 percent of the cost of projects to help purchase land to be used for public access, with the local governments matching the value of the grants awarded.

The LWCF grant program has been in existence since 1965.

Prior to this year, more than \$123 million has been awarded for 727 park projects in Illinois.

School Lunch

Jonesboro School Menu

Monday, Feb. 20: No school.

Tuesday, Feb. 21: Breakfast: Apple frudel, fresh fruit, apple juice, choice of lowfat milk. Lunch: Elementary: Pancakes with syrup and pork sausage or ham and cheese sandwich, hash brown patty, fresh broccoli and carrots, marinated cucumber coin, fresh or chilled fruit. Middle: Pancakes with syrup and pork sausage or ham and cheese sandwich; home fried potatoes; Italian chicken pasta salad with dinner roll; taco pizza; cheese pizza; spicy sandwich chicken; spinach cranberry salad, broccoli and carrots, marinated cucumber coins, fresh whole fruit, assorted chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Feb. 22: Breakfast: Sausage biscuit, fresh fruit, apple juice, choice of lowfat milk. Lunch: Elementary: Herbed beef Italiano with breadstick or pretzel, Sunbutter and cheese fun lunch, home fried potatoes, spinach cranberry salad, baby carrots, fresh or chilled fruit. Middle: Corn dog or three cheese pretzel sandwich; baked oven fries; ham and turkey chef salad with croustons and roll; Italian sausage pizza; cheese pizza; corn dog; spinach cranberry salad, cowboy caviar, fresh cherry tomato, fresh whole fruit, assorted chilled fruit.

Thursday, Feb. 23: Breakfast: Waffle dippers

with maple syrup, fresh fruit, grape juice, choice of lowfat milk. Lunch: Elementary: Pancakes with syrup and pork sausage or ham and cheese sandwich, hash brown patty, fresh broccoli and carrots, marinated cucumber coin, fresh or chilled fruit. Middle: Pancakes with syrup and pork sausage or ham and cheese sandwich; home fried potatoes; Italian chicken pasta salad with dinner roll; taco pizza; cheese pizza; spicy sandwich chicken; spinach cranberry salad, broccoli and carrots, marinated cucumber coins, fresh whole fruit, assorted chilled fruit.

Friday, Feb. 24: Breakfast: Sausage biscuit, fresh fruit, apple juice, choice of lowfat milk. Lunch: Elementary: Herbed beef Italiano with breadstick or pretzel, Sunbutter and cheese fun lunch; hash brown patty; ham and turkey chef salad with croustons and roll; pepperoni pizza; cheese pizza; crispy chicken patty sandwich; spinach cranberry salad, black bean salad, baby carrots, fresh whole fruit, assorted chilled fruit.

Daily breakfast alternative: Choice of cereal, graham crackers, muffins, yogurt and string cheese.

Low fat milk choices include: one percent white or skim chocolate.

Extension educators honored

A team of nine University of Illinois Extension horticulture educators has received an interdisciplinary state team excellence award.

The award was presented at University of Illinois Extension's recent annual conference.

The interdisciplinary state team excellence award is presented for excellence in collaborative work to address a priority issue.

University of Illinois Extension horticulture educators from west central Illinois formed a team to address garden biodiversity with a free webinar series called "The Good, the Bad, and the Lovely Plants."

The webinar series is available on YouTube at <http://go.illinois.edu/4seasonswebinar>.

Cobden hosting regional

Cobden is scheduled to host a Class 1A regional high school boys' basketball tournament Feb. 20-25.

The regional tournament schedule follows:

Monday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Cobden vs. Egyptian.

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 6 p.m., Goreville vs. Dongola; 7:30 p.m., Century vs. Shawnee.

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 6 p.m., Cobden-Egyptian winner vs. Meridian; 7:30 p.m., Goreville-Dongola winner vs. Century-Shawnee winner.

Friday, Feb. 24, championship.

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Merchandise Monday
Any merchandise purchase will receive free reg. drink



Give Back Fridays - 5:30 to 8:30
Book a fundraising event and get 20% of the sales to support your organization or club.
Call Robbie at 833-3000 for more information.



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FIBERGLASS FOR SALE: Corrugated, 26" wide, 8/10/12 ft. long, 8 ft. equals \$6.50. 12 ft. equals \$10.00. Large supply, all colors. Call (618)-827-4737.

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FOR SALE: Antique dining table with 4 chairs, \$200.00; antique hutch cabinet with secretary, \$350.00. Call (618)-697-1540.

FOR SALE: 2001 Tracker 4WD. Automatic, 1 owner, bad engine. Make offer. Call (618)-697-4292, ask for Carl.

FOR SALE: Kenmore Elite front loading high efficiency washer & dryer, 3 years old, excellent condition. \$950.00. ALSO, free gas hot water heater. Call (618)-614-8590.

FOR SALE: 2003 Ford E350. \$4,000 obo. Call (618)-833-2150.

FOR SALE: New 24x24 suspended ceiling kit. Lights, panels. All new in package. My windows are too high. Call (618)-833-8023.

FOR SALE: Kirby vacuum cleaner, like new. Paid \$600.00, asking \$400.00. Call (618)-833-7343. If no answer, leave number for call back.

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FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

16-078574

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

PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION PLAINTIFF,

-vs-

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF JOSEPH V. LILES A/K/A

JOE LILES, DECEASED; JULIE E. FOX, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ESTATE OF JOSEPH V. LILES A/K/A JOE LILES, DECEASED;

PATRICK J. PATTERSON; CITY OF ANNA, AN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS DEFENDANTS

16 CH 9

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above entitled matter on January 4, 2017;

Scott Harvel, Sheriff, 307 W. Market, Jonesboro, IL 62952, will on March 1, 2017 at 9:00 AM, at Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market Street, Room 101, Jonesboro, IL 62952, sell to the highest bidder for cash (ten percent (10%)

at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Union County, Illinois.

Said sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and any prior liens or 1st Mortgages. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title or recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition.

Upon the sale being held and the purchaser tendering said bid in cash or certified funds, a receipt of Sale will be issued and/or a Certificate of Sale as required, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed upon confirmation of said sale by the Court.

Said property is legally described as follows:

Commonly known as 208 East Vienna Street, Anna, IL 62906

Permanent Index No.: 05-20-03-587

Improvements: SINGLE FAMILY Residential

The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.

The judgment amount was \$45,476.59. Prospective purchasers are admonished to check the court file and title records to verify this information. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Bid Amount contact: Sale Clerk Shapiro Kreisman & Associates, LLC 2121 Waukegan Road, Suite 301 Bannockburn, IL 60015 ILNOTICES@logs.com (847) 291-1717

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF YOUR PERSONAL LIABILITY FOR THIS DEBT HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY OR BY AN ORDER GRANTING IN REM RELIEF FROM STAY, THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED SOLELY TO FORECLOSE THE MORTGAGE REMAINING ON YOUR PROPERTY AND IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE DISCHARGED PERSONAL OBLIGATION.

1713508 7-9g

FOR SALE: Commercial building lots in new commercial development in Anna city limits. One plus acre in size. All utilities available. Zoned for business. High traffic count. Call (618)-697-1793.

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FOR RENT COBDEN: 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with garage. \$650.00 per month plus deposit. Call (618)-697-4192.

FOR RENT DONGOLA: 2 bedroom mobile home, \$400.00. ALSO, 3 bedroom, \$425.00. Available now. Call (618)-827-4705.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom duplex/ W/D hook-up. Nice neighborhood. Call (618)-833-6495.

FOR RENT: Homes, A-Frames and Mobile Homes For Rent in East Cape. Call (618)-661-1118.

FOR RENT: 1 bedroom house, \$325.00 per month. Water & trash furnished. ALSO, upstairs efficiency apartment. Anna. Call (618)-697-2534.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Immediate openings for full & part-time RNs/LPNs and CNAs. Apply in person at Cobden Rehab & Nursing, 430 S. Front Street, Cobden.

HELP WANTED: Wonder Wash Laundry Center is seeking a part-time/full-time laundry attendant based out of our Anna location. This position will be a Monday-Saturday position with the flexibility to work an occasional Sunday and be able to work in other locations if needed.

- Job responsibilities will include, but not limited to, washing, folding, ironing, cleaning, and general customer service.

- Work schedule may vary, will typically be a day shift schedule.

- Pay will vary with experience.

Please pick up application at the Anna Wonder Wash Laundry Center. Applications are available by the back office now.

HELP WANTED: The Union County Highway Department is accepting job applications for a full-time highway maintainer position. Duties include general road maintenance. Applicants should have experience operating and maintaining various construction related trucks and equipment. Applications can be obtained from the Union County Highway Department at 306 Mississippi Street, Jonesboro, IL between the hours of 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, and will be accepted through February 28, 2017.

MOBILE WORK CREW SUPERVISOR: Full-time position supervising and coordinating activities of janitorial workers responsible for maintaining grounds of the Trail of Tears Rest Area in Anna. Must have high school diploma/GED, valid driver's license and reliable transportation. DSP certification preferred. Please submit letter of interest to START Administrative Office, Attn: Kaitlyn, 20 N. 13th Street, P.O. Box 938, Murphysboro, IL 62966 or to humanresources@startinc.org by February 24, 2017. *START is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

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NOTICE OF COURT SALE OF REAL ESTATE (735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1))

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the court in the above entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

1. The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Mike Williams, Grand Rivers Community Bank, P.O. Box 545, Shawneetown, IL 62984, (618) 269-6220.

2. The common addresses and other common descriptions, if any, of the real estate are: 102 North Garden St., City of property and 307 Oak St., Cobden, IL 62920.

3. A description of the improvements on the real estates are: Restaurants.

4. The real estate may be inspected prior to sale at the following times: Contact the above named individual and arrangements will be made to accommodate you.

5. The time and place of the sale are: March 8, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, IL.

6. The terms of the sale are: Ten percent (10%) down on the date of sale and the balance upon closing.

7. Title will be conveyed subject to all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, but have not yet become due and payable, and special assessments, if any, and easements and restrictions of record.

8. The case title, case number, and the Court in which the foreclosure were filed are as follows: Grand Rivers Community Bank v. Zachary T. Short, et al, 2016-CH-19, in Union County Circuit Court, Jonesboro, IL.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. THE LAW OFFICE OF OSHEL LAW, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR.

CD 8-10G

FOR RENT

Union County Housing Authority is taking applications for all size units. Efficiency, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments. Union County Housing Authority has developments in Cobden, Jonesboro, Dongola, Anna and Wolf Lake. Rent is based on income. For information, call (618) 833-5129, or stop by the office at 131 Hillside Terrace in Anna. Union County Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



CD 9-11GP

CAMPBELL'S POWER WASH & PAINT:

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME ACT

State of Illinois SS County of Union

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

Maintenance Mechanic

Union County Housing Authority is seeking applicants for the position of Maintenance Mechanic.

This full time position performs a variety of skilled tasks in maintenance and repairs, painting, preventative maintenance work on the buildings, grounds, streets, equipment and machinery. This position is on a rotating schedule for emergency maintenance calls.

Minimum Qualifications:

High School diploma or equivalent or a minimum of four years of experience in a skilled maintenance field. Possession of a valid State of Illinois driver's license. Ability to be covered under the Housing Authority's vehicle insurance policy.

The starting wage for this position is \$12.75 an hour plus benefits that include health insurance and a 13% employer funded retirement plan.

Applications may be obtained at the Union County Housing office at 131 Hillside Terrace, Anna, IL 62906. The submission deadline is 2:00 P.M. March 1, 2017.

Section 3 residents of the Housing Authority are encouraged to apply.

Union County Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 8P&10GP

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 or 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 27th day of January, 2017, under the Assumed Name of King Neptunes Cajun House with the place of business located at 138 E. Davie Street, Anna, Illinois 62906 and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of said Business is:

Lynn Stoner
138 E. Davie Street
Anna, IL 62906

Terry Bartruff
Union County Clerk
7-9gc

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 or 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 30th day of January, 2017, under the Assumed Name of The Here & Now Shop with the place of business located at 319 S. Main Street, Anna, Illinois 62906 and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of said Business is:

Norma Lee Hackney
Susan A. Whitemountain
455 Dogwalk Road
Anna, IL 62906

Terry Bartruff
Union County Clerk
7-9gc

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF ELLIE MARIE RAE HILEMAN, A Minor., NO. 2017-MR-10

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that at 1 P.M.

on March 22, 2017, I will present a Petition in the said Court praying for the change of my minor child's name from Ellie Marie Rae Hileman to Ellie Marie Rae Brown pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.

Dated: January 23, 2107.

AMELIA R. BROWN

CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC NATALIE HATFIELD ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

205 B. N. MAIN ST. ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906

PHONE: 618-833-2220

BAR NO. 6244394 7-9g

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

STATE BANK OF LINCOLN, an Illinois banking corporation, as assignee of First National Bank of Jonesboro, Plaintiff, v. LLOYD W. EDWARDS, JILL E. EDWARDS, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. No.: 2016-CH-25

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

Notice is given to defendants, JILL E. EDWARDS, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, of the following described real estate, that the above entitled mortgage foreclosure action is now pending, and the day on or after which a default may be entered against said defendants is March 4, 2017.

The Plaintiff has certified that the above entitled mortgage foreclosure action was filed on October 4, 2016, and is now pending.

(i) The names of all plaintiffs and the case number are identified above.

(ii) The court in which said action was brought is identified above.

(iii) The name of the title holder of record is: Lloyd W. Edwards and Jill E. Edwards

(iv) A legal description

of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:

Lot Number Nine (9) in Lewis' Fourth (4th) Addition to the City of Anna, Illinois.

Situated in Union County, Illinois.

Tax Identification Number: 06-1-091-02 (14-00-09-478)

(v) Common address or location of mortgaged premises:

114 West Lewis Avenue, Anna, Illinois 62906

(vi) An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:

(A) Nature of instrument: Mortgage.

(B) Date of mortgage: November 9, 1996.

(C) Name of mortgagors: Lloyd W. Edwards and Jill E. Edwards.

(D) Name of mortgagee: First National Bank of Jonesboro.

(E) Date and place of recording: November 12, 1996 in the Recorder's Office of Union County, Union County, Illinois.

(F) Identification of recording: Document No. 6443, Book 137, page 552.

YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME. DO NOT IGNORE THIS NOTICE. By order of the First Judicial Circuit, this case is set for Mandatory Mediation on March 20, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Union County Courthouse, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, Illinois 62952. A mediation evaluator will be present to discuss options that you may have and to pre-screen you for a potential mortgage modification. YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE MEDIATION DATE ABOVE OR YOUR RIGHT TO MEDIATION WILL TERMINATE.

Tiffany Busby
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Timothy J. Rigby
Kristina B. Mucinskas
Hart, Southworth & Witsman
Suite 501, One North Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-0055
trigby@hswnet.com
kmucinskas@hswnet.com
7-9g

16-078574

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

PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION PLAINTIFF,

-vs- UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF JOSEPH V. LILES A/K/A

JOE LILES, DECEASED; JULIE E. FOX, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ESTATE OF JOSEPH V. LILES A/K/A JOE LILES, DECEASED; PATRICK J. PATTERSON; CITY OF ANNA, AN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS 16 CH 9

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above entitled matter on January 4, 2017;

Scott Harvel, Sheriff, 307 W. Market, Jonesboro, IL 62952, will on March 1, 2017 at 9:00 AM, at Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market Street, Room 101, Jonesboro, IL 62952, sell to the highest bidder for cash (ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Union County, Illinois.

Said sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and any prior liens or 1st Mortgages. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of

title or recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition.

Upon the sale being held and the purchaser tendering said bid in cash or certified funds, a receipt of Sale will be issued and/or a Certificate of Sale as required, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed upon confirmation of said sale by the Court.

Said property is legally described as follows:

A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT WHERE THE NORTH AND SOUTH CENTERLINE OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST CROSSES THE NORTH LINE OF THE VIENNA ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 89-∞ WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE VIENNA ROAD 49 1/2 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE NORTH 6 1/4-∞ WEST 176 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE NORTH 89-∞ EAST 49 1/2 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE SOUTH 6 1/4-∞ EAST 176 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF UNION AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 208 East Vienna Street, Anna, IL 62906

Permanent Index No.: 05-20-03-587

Improvements: SINGLE FAMILY Residential

The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.

The judgment amount was \$45,476.59. Prospective purchasers are admonished to check the court file and title records to verify this information. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Bid Amount contact: Sale Clerk Shapiro Kreisman & Associates, LLC 2121 Waukegan Road, Suite 301 Bannockburn, IL 60015 ILNOTICES@logs.com (847) 291-1717

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF YOUR PERSONAL LIABILITY FOR THIS DEBT HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY OR BY AN ORDER GRANTING IN REM RELIEF FROM STAY, THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED SOLELY TO FORECLOSE THE MORTGAGE REMAINING ON YOUR PROPERTY AND IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE DISCHARGED PERSONAL OBLIGATION.

1713508 7-9g

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Anna, Illinois, will receive sealed bids for Demolition of 209 W. Vienna Street. Proposals shall be on a lump sum bid basis for the complete work as defined in the contract documents.

Bids will be received until 2 p.m. prevailing time on the 23rd day of February, 2017 at the office of the Mayor, City Hall, 103 Market Street, Anna, Illinois 62906 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Proposals received after the above stated time will not be accepted.

A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on the 17th day of February 2017 at 10 a.m., prevailing time at the Anna City Hall, 103 Market Street, Anna, Illinois 62906. The Pre-Bid will include

a walkthrough of 209 W. Vienna Street. Bidders are advised that this will be the only time access will be allowed in the building.

Proposals shall be submitted on the Proposal Form provided and shall be clearly marked on the exterior of the envelope with the Bidder's name and address, along with the following:

"SEALED BID" DEMOLITION OF 209 West Vienna Street CITY OF ANNA, ILLINOIS

Forms of contract documents, including plans and specifications, are available and may be obtained from the office of the Architect, Eggemeyer Associates, Inc., Carbondale, Illinois, Phone Number: (618)-988-2380, Website: www.eggemeyer-architects.com.

Copies of the documents (2 copies maximum to General Contractors and 1 copy to major subcontractors) may be obtained by submitting a \$35.00 refundable deposit payable to the Architect for each set of documents so obtained. Partial sets may be purchased at the cost of photocopying and shipping costs upon completion of a Request for Partial Plans/Specifications Form and submitting to the Architect. Documents may also be downloaded for bidding purposes only, from the Architect's website.

Bid security in the form of a certified check or bank draft, payable to The City of Anna, or a satisfactory bid bond in the amount of 5% of the bid shall be submitted with each bid.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory performance and payment bond in an amount equal to 100% of the contract sum to insure completion of the contract. Successful bidders shall be required to comply with all applicable laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances, rulings, or enactments of any governmental authority having jurisdiction.

Attention is called to the provisions for equal employment opportunity and that payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications must be paid on this project. The successful contract bidder is encouraged to utilize minority business as subcontractors for supplies, equipment, services and construction.

In accordance with City Resolution 2004 - 02, the successful contract or all subcontractors shall agree to become party to a Project Labor Agreement with the Egyptian Building and Construction Trades Council for the duration of this contract.

The City of Anna reserves the right to waive informalities in the bidding. The contract award will be made to the responsible bidder submitting the lowest acceptable bid responsive to the bid conditions.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (6) days subsequent to the opening of bids without consent of the City of Anna.

Date: January 31, 2017

City of Anna
By: Steve Hartline
Title: Mayor
8-9g

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

ESTATE OF ELLA MAXINE CARSTENS, DECEASED. NO. 2017-P-5 IN PROBATE

NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Ella Maxine Carstens of 414 W. High St. in Anna, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 3, 2017, to Barry Holcomb, of 715 Shake Rag Rd., Dongola, Illinois 62926, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original Order of admission, you may file a petition with the

Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses in open Court or other evidence, as provided by Section 5/6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21.)

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

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before August 9, 2017, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: February 3, 2017.

BARRY HOLCOMB
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8-10g

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

GRAND RIVERS COMMUNITY BANK, Plaintiff,

vs. ZACHARY T. SHORT, JASON SHORT, LARRY D. SHORT, KEVIN L. HOLDERBY, MARY M. HOLDERBY, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. No. 2016-CH-19

NOTICE OF COURT SALE OF REAL ESTATE (735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1))

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the court in the above entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

1. The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Mike Williams, %Grand Rivers Community Bank, P.O. 545, Shawneetown, IL 62984 (618) 269-6220.

2. The common addresses and other common descriptions, if any, of the real estate are: 102 North Garden St. City of property and 307 Oak St., Cobden, IL 62920.

3. The legal descriptions of the real estate are:

Count I

Lots Two (2) Three (3), and Four (4) in Meisenheimer's Addition to the Town (now Village) of Dongola, situated in the County of Union and State of Illinois, and Lots Twenty (20) and Twenty-one (21) in the Original Plat of the Village of Dongola, all situated in the County of Union and State of Illinois, EXCEPT all coal, oil, gas and other minerals;

more commonly known as: 102 North Garden St., Dongola, IL 62926.

Count II

A part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section Thirty (30), Township Eleven (11) South, Range One (1) West, Third Principal Meridian, Union County, Illinois, and

being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the West line of Centennial Street with North line of U.S. 51 (old); thence West-erly along the North right of way line of Old U.S. 51 on a curve to the right having a radius of 1011.74 feet; thence along the curve an arc distance of 287.27 feet and thence Northerly on a bearing of North 19° 38' 43" East, a distance of 113.24 feet; thence East-erly on a bearing of North 84° 40' 55" East, a distance of 239.78 feet to a point on the aforementioned West line of Centennial Street; thence Southerly along the said West line on a bearing of South 00° 39' 30" East, a distance of 193.00 feet to the point of beginning. Situated in Union County. EXCEPT all coal, oil, gas and other minerals;

more commonly known as:

307 Oak St., Cobden, IL 62920.

4. A description of the improvements on the real estates are: Restaurants.

5. The real estate may be inspected prior to sale at the following times: Contact the above-named individual and arrangements will be made to accommodate you.

6. The time and place of the sale are: March 8, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, IL.

7. The terms of the sale are: Ten percent (10%) down on the date of sale and the balance upon closing.

8. Title will be conveyed subject to all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, but have not yet become due and payable, and special assessments, if any, and easements and restrictions of record.

GRAND RIVERS COMMUNITY BANK

BY: Michael Williams
Interim President

Oshel Law, P.C.
Michael V. Oshel
ARD# #2122405
Attorney for Plaintiff
317 East Poplar Street, Suite C
Harrisburg, IL 62946
Telephone: (618) 252-8100

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. THE LAW OFFICE OF OSHEL LAW, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR.

8-10g

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

ESTATE OF TAMARAS K. ADAMS, DECEASED. NO. 2017-P-4 IN PROBATE

NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Tamaras K. Adams, of 237 Ashlar St., Jonesboro, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 3, 2017, to Merrilee Young, 602 Dewey St., Anna, Illinois 62906, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

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

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

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

delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of this Court.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 311 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before August 9, 2017, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: February 3, 2017.

MERRILEE YOUNG,
IND. ADMIN.
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT Administrator
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8-10g

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 or 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 10th day of February, 2017, under the Assumed Name of Cawthon Construction with the place of business located at P.O. Box 82, Jonesboro, Illinois 62952 and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of said Business is:

Kevin Cawthon
P.O. Box 82
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Terry Bartruff
Union County Clerk
9-11gc

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 or 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 7th day of February, 2017, under the Assumed Name of Bounce Blast with the place of business located at 201 Oak Street, P.O. Box 305, Cobden, IL 62920 and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of said Business is:

David A. Stewart
Cheryl A. Stewart
P.O. Box 305
Cobden, IL 62920

Terry Bartruff
Union County Clerk
9-11gc

BID NOTICE

The City of Anna is requesting proposals for Property/General Liability Insurance for the period of May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018. Information can be obtained during normal business hours at the Anna City Hall, 103 Market, Anna, Illinois 62906. Bid proposals must be received by April 3, 2017 to be considered.

9-12g

SHOP LOCAL and check out the savings!

Obituaries

Donovan C. Smith

Donovan C. Smith, 68, of Cobden, died on Feb. 3, 2017, at 3:10 a.m. at his home, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Anna on Nov. 5, 1948. He was raised by his grandparents, Eppie and Helen Smith of Jonesboro, and considered them his parents. He graduated in the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School class of 1966.

He married Maribeth Inman on Oct. 5, 1979, in Tucson, Ariz. In 1981, they returned to Cobden, where they made their lifelong home on "the Hill."

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Maribeth Smith; two sons, Garrett (Lori) Smith (and two grand dogs Eddie and Harvey) of Charlotte, N.C., and Cale (Sarah Brown) Smith; three grandchildren, Kadence, Camden and Xander of Cobden; brothers-in-law Pat (Sharon) Inman of Blanco, Texas, and Jan (Janice) Inman of Cobden; sister-in-law Melba Inman of Cobden; many nephews, nieces, and friends; siblings Terry (Paula) Hale of Staunton, Greg Perry of Lick Creek and Kim Pribble of Jonesboro; and a cousin Carl (Dana) Bode of Mound City.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Eppie and Helen Smith; his parents, Donovan Smith and Peggy Perry; a sister, Lida Sowers; an uncle, Byron Smith, and aunt, Barbara Bode; in-laws Bud and Gerry Inman and Mike and Steve Inman.

His family said he was a devoted husband and father, a proud and caring man who served his family, God, and community in many ways.

He was a life member of Anna VFW Post No. 3455, where he served on the local, district and state levels. One of his proudest moments was taking a group of local World War II veterans on a bus trip to Washington, D.C.

In his early years, he worked at the Vienna Correctional Facility, for the Union County Sheriff's Department, was Jonesboro chief of police, owner of DC Smith Small Engine Repair in Anna, and retired from the Illinois Brotherhood of Carpenters Local No. 638. His last project was building the I-57 overpass in Marion.

He had many interests, including bird watching, golf, wood working, leather work, painting, gardening and raising chickens. But his favorite pastime was hanging out on the hill with the neighbor and many friends, young and old. He loved to drive his little red Miata (the "Red Baron") and his golfing trips to Alabama with Roger Stroehlein. He loved his family and friends deeply and also his dogs, especially the two black poodles that were his constant companions over the past three years.

He was a member of the VFW, DAV, Cobden Masonic Lodge No. 466, the NRA, and Oddfellows Grand Lodge No. 100F.

He will be cremated and a celebration of life service will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna, with military rites and Masonic services.

Donations can be made to Anna VFW or to Masonic Lodge No. 466.

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

RENDELMAN & HILEMAN Funeral Homes
Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden is in charge of arrangements.

Eleanor B. Ketchie

Eleanor B. Ketchie, 96, of North Charleston, S.C., and formerly of Anna, died Friday, Feb. 10, 2017.

She was born on Feb. 13, 1921, in Anna, the daughter of Dee Brimm and Vica Young Brimm. She married Irvin Ketchie.

She loved the outdoors, and could be found working in her yard surrounded by flowers. She was adored by family and friends and loved being with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by two daughters, Janis (David) Dewitt of North Charleston, S.C., and Bobbye (Dave) Heerboth of Webster Groves, Mo.; a sister, Virginia Miles of Collinsville; grandchildren Sarah and Eliza Heerboth, Dave Dewitt and Dana Heyward; great-grandchildren Keaton and Colin Heyward; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Dee Brimm; her mother, Vica Young Brimm; her husband, Irvin Ketchie; sisters Mary Whitney and Adonis Watson; and a brother, Charles D. Brimm.

Graveside services for Mrs. Ketchie will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at Friendship Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro.

Memorials can be made to Intrepid Hospice.

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

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

Farris Lee Johnson

Farris Lee Johnson, 82, died on Friday, Jan. 27, 2017, in Houston, Texas.

She was born on Aug. 9, 1934, in Anna.

She was a graduate of the class of 1952 at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School. She was a member of Tallowood Baptist Church and served as a past president of the Brookwood Community volunteer organization. She also volunteered for MAM.

She was the daughter of Ruby and Homer Bishop of Anna.

She was preceded by her first husband, Charles A. Newberry.

Survivors include her husband, Gerald Johnson; sons Jeff (Sandy) and Stephen (Kim) Newberry; grandchildren Chase, Alex and Dylan Newberry and Alexandra Minnick; and stepchildren, John, Joe and Jay Johnson.

Memorials can be made to Brookwood Community, 1752 FM 1489 Road, Brookshire, Texas 77423.

Funeral arrangements were by Memorial Oaks Funeral Home in Houston.



Charles W. Hook

Charles W. Hook, 87, of Anna, died at 8:03 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017, at Saint Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau.

He was born on Aug. 14, 1929, in East St. Louis, the son of Charles Wesley and Marguerite Root Hook.

He married Jeanette Liggett on Aug. 29, 1985.

He was a manager with the Kroger Co. for 37 years. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was an avid fisherman, card player, joke teller and cook. He love spending time with his family and friends. He was a St. Louis Cardinals loyal fan, which led to some heated but humorous discussions with his stepsons who are Chicago Cubs fans. He played for the St. Louis Browns baseball organization. He was of the Christian faith.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanette Hook of Anna; a son, Charles "Chuck" (Debbie) Hook of Marissa; stepsons Wesley (Mary) Schulz of Palatine, and L. Andrew Needling of Chicago; daughter-in-law Karen Schlenker Boyd of Jonesboro; sister Edna Mae (Jerry) Boswell of Salem; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Evelyn Hyden, Viola Kipping and Barbara Chappius; two brothers, Robert and Donald Hook; and one son, Kevin Hook.

Funeral services for Mr. Hook were at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, at Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro, with the Rev. Glen Patterson officiating. Military rites were accorded by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 and the Illinois honor guard.

Inurnment will be at a later date at Pleasant Grove Memorial Park Mausoleum.

Memorials can be made to Union County Hospital Auxiliary scholarship fund.

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

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

Crain Funeral Home

John Harold Rodgers

John Harold Rodgers, 81, of Cape Girardeau, and formerly of Cobden, died at 12:05 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, at his home.

He was born on June 25, 1935, in Chicago, the son of Francis and Loyola Powers Rodgers.

He married Doris Bigler on Dec. 28, 1957, in Cobden.

He is survived by his wife, Doris Rodgers of Cape Girardeau; two daughters,

Kathy (Bill) Miller of Cape Girardeau and Claire (Charles) Boone of St. Charles, Mo., grandchildren Beth (Logan) Johnson, Mary McCollough and Eric McCollough; step-grandchildren Jason, Kedron, Stephanie, Chad and Michael; other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Paul Rodgers; a sister, Joan Rodgers; and a brother, Norman Rodgers.

He was a retired lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Air Force. He served his country from 1958-1981.

Graveside funeral services for Mr. Rodgers were at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Cobden, with Bill Littrell officiating. Interment was in the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery.

Graveside military rites were conducted by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna and the Scott Air Force Base honor guard.

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

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

RENDELMAN & HILEMAN Funeral Homes
Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden was in charge of arrangements.

Lois Brooks

Lois Brooks, 57, of Jonesboro, died at 12:38 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, at Jonesboro Healthcare.

Arrangements were pending at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna.

Debra L. 'Lonnie' Prater

Debra L. "Lonnie" Prater, 60, of Anna, died Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, at her home.

She was born on July 14, 1956, in Kansas City, Kan., the daughter of Victor and Ruby White Petty.

She is survived by her two daughters, Jamie (Glen) Prater of Cobden and Jennifer (Michael) Garrett of Alto Pass; one son, Bobby Ferguson of Edinburgh, Ind.; a stepdaughter, Rachael (Floyd) Smith of Alto Pass; eight grandchildren, Myles Raines, Christopher Raines, Jarred Raines, Daisy Prater, Tobin Prater, Caydence Ferguson, Cayleigh Ferguson and Paige Ferguson; one brother, Bud Linton of Colorado Springs, Colo.; three sisters, Sherry Linton of Jonesboro, Cynthia Wallace of Anna and Ruby Mathis of Pinckneyville; a special friend, Edward Prater of Carbondale; other relatives and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother and a granddaughter, Kaitlyn Prater.

Funeral services for Mrs. Prater were at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna. Interment was in the Anna City Cemetery.

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

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



Dean Golliher

Dean Golliher, 73, of Anna, died at 5 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10, 2017, at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

He was born on Aug. 4, 1943, in Murphysboro, the son of Willard Otis and Mary Jane Tindall Golliher.

He married Janet Rowley on Oct. 4, 1965, in Murphysboro.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Janet Golliher of Anna; his mother, Mary Jane (Jim) Rees of Murphysboro; a twin brother, William Golliher of Grand Tower; two sisters, Pam (Steve) Allen of Lexington, Ky., and Patty Bateman of Murphysboro; nieces Megan (Brent) Teeters of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Kirsten Allen of Denver, Colo., and Gloria Golliher of Wisconsin; a nephew, Bill Golliher of Grand Tower; great-nieces and great-nephews; a brother-in-law, James (Susan) Rowley of Herrin and their family, Josh Davis, Adam Rowley, Danny Rowley, Sean Daily and Shannon Daily; sisters-in-law, Margie Brock of Creal Springs, Joanne (Jerry) Dillow of Anna and their family, Jerry (Tiffany) Dillow of Anna, Ashilay, Amanda, Katrina, Austin Dillow and Dorothy Rowley of Jackson, Mo., and her family, Kenny Rowley of Cape Girardeau, Julie (Dave) Dryer, Michaela, Jake and Daniel Dryer, all of Jackson, Mo.; other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father; grandparents Harry D. Tindall and Edna White Tindall; an uncle, James Tindall; and two brothers-in-law, Randy Bateman and Kenneth Rowley.

He was a former member of the First Presbyterian Church in Murphysboro. He served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam.

He was a radio personality for 50 years at various radio stations throughout Illinois. He was known best as Dean Cramer on air. He retired from broadcasting in 2009.

He was a member of the American Legion, and was very active in the Forty and Eight Veterans Organization. He was serving as the first Aumonier of the Forty and Eight Great Lakes Chapter. He was an avid lover of music and movies, and throughout the years has acquired quite an extensive collection. He devoted his life to his family, his friends and his hobbies.

Funeral services for Mr. Golliher were at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 13, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with the Rev. Paul Sadler officiating. Interment was in the Murdale Gardens of Memory in Murphysboro.

Graveside military rites were conducted by the American Legion Post No. 127 honor guard and the Illinois Army National Guard honors team of Marion.

Memorials can be made to the Forty and Eight Child Welfare Fund.

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

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

Gerald Miltenberger

Gerald "Jerry" Edwin Miltenberger, 82, of Carbondale, died at 2:06 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017, at his home in Carbondale with his family by his side.

He was born on Sept. 5, 1934, in Anna, the son of Virgil E. and Nellie Boyd Miltenberger.

He was a 1952 graduate of Dongola High School. Following high school, he attended Southern Illinois University, where he received a bachelor's degree in speech correction. He served in the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Intrepid CV-11 during 1957 and 1958.

Following his service in the Navy, he received a masters degree in audiology from Colorado State University. He worked for 49 years as a clinical audiologist and a speech pathologist. In his later career in Southern Illinois, he worked at Choate Mental Health & Developmental Center in Anna and with Dr. Mike Delaney and Dr. David Mann.

He met the love of his life, Damaris, and together they blended their families when they married on May 14, 1983, in New Orleans, La.

He is survived by his wife, Damaris; sons W. Jud Miltenberger (Colleen) of Huntington, W. Va., Cliff Scott of Long Meadow, Mass., and John (EunMi) Shipley of Sacramento, Calif.; daughter Laura (Matt) Bishop of Carbondale; 10 grandchildren, Alex, Julia and Dru Miltenberger, Camille and Kathleen Scott, Hana and TK Shipley and Lily, Olivia and Molly Bishop. He also liked connecting with his extended family, which included many Miltenberger and Boyd cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and by an infant brother, Joseph.

He was an avid golfer and loved being outside in the sun at Hickory Ridge Golf Course. In fact, the week before his 75th birthday, he made a "hole in one" on the 6th hole at Hickory Ridge. He looked forward to attending Saluki ball games but also enjoyed his grandchildren's ball games. He was a big fan of coffee and sweets and took joy in sharing donuts with his grandchildren, friends and coworkers.

He was also very grateful to have been a friend of Bill W's for 36 years and truly appreciated the friends he made over the years.

A celebration of life event will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Hickory Ridge Golf Course Club House.

Memorials can be made to St. Francis Care Animal Shelter in Murphysboro, the Women's Center in Carbondale and the Hickory Ridge Golf Course "Hook a Kid on Golf" program in Carbondale.

Meredith Funeral Home in Carbondale is in charge of arrangements.





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Southbound groundhog?

A groundhog was seen scampering along railroad tracks in Anna one day recently. The critter stopped at one point to take a look around, and then wandered away into a nearby grassy area.

Free income tax preparation help available from group of student volunteers at SIU

Free income tax preparation help is available at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, thanks to a group of student volunteers.

Beta Alpha Psi, an SIU College of Business honors accounting organization, is again sponsoring the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, VITA, program to assist fellow students and low- and moderate-income people from the community.

The program was scheduled to begin on Saturday, Feb. 4, and is slated to continue each Saturday through April 8.

Free tax preparation assistance is available from 8 a.m. until noon in the computer labs on the lower level of Rehn Hall, which is located at 1025 Lincoln Dr. on the SIU campus.

There won't be sessions on March 11 and 18 due to the university's spring break.

A team of nearly 40 accounting students will prepare the tax returns.

The group has acquired

the Taxslayer Pro Online software to use this year in helping prepare the returns.

Each of the IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers completed mandatory ethics and basic tax exams.

Drinking water, wastewater operations topic of course

Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Center for Environmental Health and Safety plans to host a one-day continuing education course on drinking water and wastewater operations.

The course is scheduled March 15. The cost is \$150. The morning session, from 9 a.m. to noon, is on drinking water operations and covers topics including chlorination, disinfection byproducts, taste and odors and filtration.

The afternoon session, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., focuses on wastewater operations involving process control, troubleshooting and nutrient remover.

The course is offered by SIU Edwardsville's Environmental Resources Training Center and will be

Returns are typically completed in an hour or less and on average, the waiting time is no more than 15-30 minutes. Appointments are not necessary.

The service has been taught by Jim Winslade, an adjunct instructor. The course will be held at SIU Carbondale's Center for Environmental Health and Safety, 1325 Radio Dr., room 112.

To register and pay online, go to <https://commerce.cashnet.com/cashnet/selfserve/BrowseCatalog.aspx>. Click on "Environmental Resources Training Center," and then "Wastewater Daytime Courses Workshop." Then click on the "Water and WW Continuing Education-Carbondale" link.

For additional information, contact the SIU Edwardsville Environmental Resources Training Center at 618-650-2030 or SIU Carbondale Extended Campus at 618-453-5684.

provided annually at SIU for more than 25 years. Last year, the VITA program student volunteers completed nearly 200 tax returns. The service includes free electronic filing as well.

Any United States citizen, whether single or married, can utilize the tax return assistance if they have an income of no more than \$53,000 and take the

Soil, water district plans annual meeting

The Pulaski-Alexander Soil and Water Conservation District's 69th annual meeting is planned Feb. 23.

The meeting will be in the cafeteria at Shawnee Community College near Ullin.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m., followed by a business meeting at 7 p.m.

For more information, call the soil and water conservation district office at 618-747-2305, extension 104.

standard federal deduction.

Although a few specific tax situations may be beyond the scope covered by VITA, the volunteers can assist with a number of common tax situations involving wages and earnings from self-employment income, interest and unemployment income, Social

Security benefits, and dividends as well as returns that involve child tax, education or earned income credits.

For more information, email Chen "Cindy" Li at cindyli@siu.edu or Sam Humphrey at shumphrey300@siu.edu. Li and Humphrey are the program's coordinators.

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News from

Immanuel Praise, Worship Center

Immanuel Praise & Worship Center near Cobden plans to serve a chicken and dumpling dinner Saturday, Feb. 18. Serving is planned from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit a mission fund.

Sunday morning's sermon was titled "A Healthy Church." The message was about the church's role in the community.

Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. A praise and worship service is at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Wednesday Bible study is at 6 p.m.

A Monday study group with Sharon Lilly meets at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

An "Uninvited" study group led by Kay Outlan and Suzanne Dillow is scheduled to begin on March 2.

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Section B

Arts center, PAST to host Civil War Weekend events

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council/Anna Arts Center is planning to host a wide range of special activities during a Civil War Weekend this week.

Activities were scheduled to begin Wednesday night, Feb. 15, and continue through Sunday, Feb. 19.

Highlights for the Civil War Weekend include presentation of a play, "Soldier Come Home"; a variety of exhibits; reenactors and storytelling; and Civil War era food and music.

"Soldier, Come Home"

At 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, the Anna Arts Center plans to present the play "Soldier, Come Home," written by Frank W. Wicks.

Tickets are \$15. To make a reservation, or for more information, call Lee Hackney at 904-625-1109 or email vabchlee@gmail.com.

The arts council invited area students to attend a dress rehearsal of the play, which was staged Wednesday night, Feb. 15.

"Soldier, Come Home"

is based on the letters of Frank W. Wicks' great-grandparents, Philip and Mary Pringle, and family members which were written from 1859 to 1865 from western Pennsylvania and from major Civil War battle sites, including Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, the Siege of Petersburg and Appomattox.



Bringing history to life

Reenactors will help to bring history to life during a Civil War Weekend, which will be hosted this week by the Shawnee Hills Arts Council/Anna Arts Center in Anna. File photo.

Blue and Gray Dinner

On Friday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m., a Blue and Gray Dinner is scheduled.

Guest speaker at the dinner is scheduled to be Christian McWhirter, a research historian at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield.

McWhirter plans to discuss "Battle Hymns: The Power and Popularity of Music in the Civil War."

Reservations for the dinner, at a cost of \$20 each, were being taken through Monday, Feb. 13, by calling 904-625-1109 or emailing vabchlee@gmail.com.

Saturday Activities

Saturday, Feb. 18, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., the Anna Arts Center is scheduled to be open for people to visit exhibits, listen to guest speakers, to take part in children's activities and to hear Civil

War era music.

The schedule for speakers and other activities includes: 9 a.m., Dr. Frank Nickell will discuss the impact of the Civil War on today's culture.

10:10 a.m., Marlene Rivero will portray Ann Stokes, who served as a nurse aboard the first U.S. hospital ship, the U.S.S. Red Rover.

11:15 a.m., Christian McWhirter will discuss "Root & Cady." During the 1840s and 1850s, the American music industry was primarily located in cities on the East Coast. That changed with the outbreak of the Civil War and the rise of Chicago's Root & Cady, who became the most powerful music publishers in the nation.

12:15 p.m., lunch, barbecue sandwich, chips and soda, \$5.

1 p.m., Laura Poole will

talk about the impact of the war on the home front, specifically the many Americans who found themselves displaced because of the war, either by choice or by force.

2 p.m., Glen Bishop will discuss "Grierson's Raid: Sixteen Days Deep in the Heart of Mississippi," which decided the fate of Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Vicksburg campaign.

3 p.m., two videos from the General John A. Logan Museum in Murphysboro will be shown: "Caught in the Sweep of History 1861-1865, Egypt in the Civil War" and "Caught in the Sweep of History 1861-1865, Egypt in the Civil War, The Second Year."

At 7 p.m. on Saturday, the Anna Arts Center plans to again present the play "Soldier, Come Home." For

reservations at \$15 each, call 904-625-1109 or email vabchlee@gmail.com.

Sunday's Schedule

On Sunday, Feb. 19, at 1 p.m., a bus tour of Civil War historic sites is planned.

At 2:50 p.m., exhibit contest winners will be recognized.

At 3 p.m., the Anna Arts Center plans to present the play "Soldier, Come Home."

The PAST organization of Union County, where Anna is located, plans to host an open house on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Heritage House for \$5 each. Heritage House is located at 102 S. Main St. in Jonesboro, Ill.

The Anna Arts Center is located at 125 W. Davie St. in Anna.

For more information about the weekend, or to learn how to participate in the program or exhibits, contact Lee Hackney at 904-625-1109 or email vabchlee@gmail.com.

Heritage House Museum

Quits, Civil War era items, clothing, pictures and other items will be on display at the PAST Heritage House in conjunction with an upcoming annual Civil War Weekend at the Anna Arts Center in Anna.

The Heritage House Museum is located at 102 S. Main St. in Jonesboro. The museum is scheduled to be open from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 19. Admission is \$5, but students are free.

An annual "Lincoln and the Civil War in Union County" bus tour also is planned on Feb. 19.

The cost for the tour, which begins at 1 p.m., will be \$10. To reserve a seat on the bus, call Duane Hileman at 833-8745. The bus will leave from the Anna Arts Center on West Davie Street.

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Heritage House Museum plans to host open house



Emily Meyer at the Heritage House Museum. Photo provided.

The PAST organization of Union County plans to host an open house Sunday afternoon, Feb. 19, at its Heritage House Museum in Jonesboro.

The open house is scheduled from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. A \$5 donation is suggested for admission; students are free.

The event is planned in conjunction with the Civil War Weekend commemoration activities sponsored by the Shawnee Hills Art Council/Anna Arts Center in Anna.

The Heritage House Museum in Jonesboro will feature the Lincoln Room collections that profile the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

The 1858 debates, including one held in Jonesboro, focused on important issues of the time. Included were concerns about slavery, freedom, state's rights and preservation of the Union in support of the constitution.

The Heritage House Lincoln collection includes documents, letters, pictures, a video and other displays which tell the story of the times.

Children are invited to don a Lincoln hat and pose for a photo amongst the Lincoln memorabilia.

Harris benefit set in Alto Pass

A benefit for David Harris is planned Feb. 19 at the Alto Pass Community Center.

The community center is located in downtown Alto Pass.

The benefit is planned from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. A spaghetti dinner, auction and live music are planned. Proceeds will help with David Harris's recovery costs.



Reenactor Jay Rossberg. Photo provided.

Quilts made by local crafters are displayed in the Lincoln-Douglas room. The quilts celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth and the 150th commemoration of the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

Other quilt displays in the house recall the Civil War era. They replicate colors and fabrics of the time and mark their place in history.

President Abraham Lincoln established the Sanitary Commission that was the health department of the time.

Among the many duties of the department was the responsibility to organize women on the "home front" to make quilts for the soldier's cots. Only a couple of the original quilts are preserved in a California museum.

Women today use similar patterns and replica fabrics to recreate the Civil War cot quilts.

Two such replica quilts are displayed at Heritage House, each with a different story to tell.

Other vintage and period quilts on display at Heritage House include artistic arrangements of the legendary Underground Railroad secret quilt code. The viability of this legend is still debated today.

IDPH announces updated consumption advisory for sport fish

The Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, has announced an updated consumption advisory for sport fish caught in Illinois waters.

The changes are the result of continued sampling by the fish contaminant monitoring program and do not suggest that Illinois fish are becoming more or less contaminated.

The updated advisory and detailed information can be found on the IDPH website: <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/toxicology/fish-advisories/map>.

"The advisories are not meant to discourage people from eating fish, but should be used as a guideline to help anglers and their families decide the types of fish to eat, how frequently, and how to prepare fish for cooking to reduce possible

contaminants," IDPH director Dr. Nirav D. Shah said in a news release.

IDPH noted that there is no known immediate health hazard from eating contaminated fish from any body of water in Illinois.

The main concern for regularly eating fish listed on the advisories is the effect of long-term exposure to low levels of pesticides and chemicals, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins, chlordane, and methylmercury.

The program is a joint effort of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, IEPA, and the state departments of Natural Resources and Public Health.

The fish are collected by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, and tested by IEPA.

IDPH issues fish consumption advisories based on the IEPA test results.

Endangered dragonfly focus of program in Anna

The Illinois Native Plant Society's Southern Chapter plans to present a free program about an endangered dragonfly on Tuesday, Feb. 21, in Anna.

The program is set for 6 p.m. at Stinson Memorial Library at 409 S. Main St.

Guest speaker Bruce Henry is scheduled to present a program titled "Fen Communities of Missouri and the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly." A fen is low land which is covered wholly or partially with water.

Henry is a regional natural history biologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Recovery Lead for the federally endangered

Hine's emerald dragonfly.

The Hine's emerald dragonfly has very restrictive habitat requirements, and in Missouri they are limited to quality calcareous Ozark fen communities.

Henry spends the summer surveying Ozark fen communities across the Missouri Ozarks looking for unknown populations of the Hine's emerald dragonfly, as well as inventorying the unique and sometimes rare flora found in these neat wetland communities.

He will discuss efforts to restore populations of the endangered invertebrate. Those who attend also will have an opportunity learn more about the flora that characterizes Ozark fens.

College's extension center in Anna home for new CNA lab, classroom additions

Local high school students enrolled in CNA dual credit courses will benefit from new lab and classroom additions at Shawnee Community College's Anna Extension Center.

The CNA dual credit course, provided through the Five County Regional Vocational System, found a new home inside the college's extension center this spring semester.

The addition will benefit dual credit students completing the CNA program while still attending high school.

Program coordinator and CNA instructor at the Five County Regional Vocational System Jamie Hickam said the new location "allows the students to (gain) hands-on learning and experience within the lab setting to better prepare each student for the clinical setting."

"By having access to

multimedia I can show different videos related to the content we are covering, then move to the lab for the hands-on experience before ever reaching the clinical site," Hickam said.

The program has 12 students enrolled from Anna-Jonesboro, Cobden and Shawnee high schools in Union County.

The maximum number of students is 15 for the program, which complements the five students to one bed ratio.

The project was made possible through a collaboration involving Shawnee Community College and Five County Regional Vocational System.

Appreciation also was voiced to Union County Hospital in Anna. Shawnee Community College used Perkins Grant funds to support the CNA lab and classroom project.

Illinois attorney general files brief in executive order case

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan filed an amicus brief on Feb. 8 in the U.S. Circuit Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in support of a motion for preliminary injunction filed by the Commonwealth of Virginia challenging the federal executive order on immigration as unconstitutional and illegal.

As a result of the executive action limiting travel from seven Muslim-majority countries, as many as 100,000 visas were canceled, Madigan said in a news release.

"Choosing who is allowed to come to our country based on their religious beliefs is unconstitutional and discriminatory," Ma-

digan said.

"As the chief legal officer for one of the most diverse states in the nation, I am committed to protecting all of the residents of Illinois and our educational institutions and employers from the harm caused by this executive action."

In the brief filed together with attorneys general from 15 other states and the District of Columbia in *Aziz v. Trump et al*, Madigan detailed why the executive order violates the Constitution and urged the court to block the executive action nationwide, pointing to the damage caused to individual states and their residents.

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Village of Mill Creek

The Village of Mill Creek is accepting bids for 2017 community mowing. For information and to set up appointment to view mowing area, please call Valerie Byrd at 618-697-9708. Bids due by March 15, 2017.

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News from

Anna Nazarene Church

The church congratulates Pastor Jamie and Tiffany McBride on the birth of their son, Ezra James McBride, who was born on Feb. 13, 2017, at 4:24

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On Sunday, Feb. 12, the Rev. Tony Auxier, Clear Creek Baptist Association's director of missions, was guest speaker.

Music was directed by associate pastor of worship Paul Lemon. The praise team provided special music.

Birthdays: Cindy Pender and Cole Whitaker, Feb. 15; Alex McRaven, Feb. 16; Paula Bierstedt and Betty Tutt, Feb. 18; and Jackie Dillow, Feb. 19.

Anniversary: Bruce and Cindy Mosby, married 28 years on Feb. 17.

The schedule for worship at Jonesboro First Baptist includes three services on Sunday at 8:15 a.m., 10:35 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Youth meet on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Men meet for Bible study also on Mondays at 7 p.m.

Awana for children ages 4 through 6th grade is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. Adult bible study/prayer meeting is on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

News from

Mt. Moriah, Salem Lutheran Churches

On Sunday, Feb. 12, Pastor Mark spoke about "the difficulty of hearing God's law as presented by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount."

The message shared that "even if we don't actually do bad things, we want to, and this, too, is sin that separates us from God. We make it to heaven only by the miracle of grace, not by our own actions."

Bible study is scheduled at Mt. Moriah at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, except for the third Tuesday of the month.

Junior and senior high youth plan to travel to Carl-inville this weekend for a Lutheran Youth Organization event.

Feb. 19 is Food Sunday at Mt. Moriah. Parishioners are asked to bring nonperishable food and personal care items for local food pantries.

Worship at Mt. Moriah in Anna is at 9 a.m. on Sunday, followed by Sunday School.

At Salem in Jonesboro, Bible history is at 9 a.m., followed by worship at 10:30 a.m.

News from

Walnut Grove Church

Members of Walnut Grove United Methodist Church were glad to see the Rev. Robert Fear and Jeanette Fear back at church. Prayers were requested for their continuing good health.

Rev. Fear presided over the Eucharist service and the congregation took communion. He referred to scripture from 1 Peter and told the congregation not to be "a lion's lunch." He warned that "the devil stalks those who can't keep up with their faith in God. He places enticements in the way to tempt them to stray from Jesus but they must be vigilant."

Valentine chocolate hearts were scattered throughout the pews for the church members.

The next ladies' lunch is planned Friday, March 3, at a location to be determined. Sunday services start at 9:30 a.m. at 3195 Mountain

Glen Rd. near Cobden and near Route 127.

News from

Camp Ground Church and Community

On Sunday, Feb. 12, the sermon was titled "The Blessings of a Lifted Life," with scripture from Psalm 40. This Psalm is a testimony of David thanking God for lifting him from the mire of sin.

The message shared that "all of us have been stuck in the mire of sin, times in our lives that we're not proud of. The benefits of a 'lifted life' include being healed, being helped and given

hope. Hope is what anchors the soul of a Christian. God loves us and wants to give us hope and restore us to a right relationship with Him. Faith is being certain of the eternal life we hope for."

Receiving the offering Sunday were Landon and Tanner Roach and Rodney Miller.

The elder for February is Karen Vaughn.

Camp Ground Church observed Heritage Sunday and received a love offering for the Historical Foundation.

Following morning worship, most remained and enjoyed a February potluck and time of fellowship. Some came in clothing which recalled frontier days, and many foods were from recipes of an earlier era.

Regular services at Camp Ground are Sunday School at 10 a.m., followed by a worship service at 11 a.m.

News from

Trinity Lutheran Church, Anna

The pastor's sermon on Sunday, Feb. 12, was titled "Be Changed to be Growing," with scripture from 1st Corinthians.

The message shared that Paul discovered "what mothers have known for centuries: sometimes children need some extra time and extra help to grow up," and that it is "only God who gives the growth."

Services are planned at 5:30 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of the month. On Sunday, Bible study is at 9:15 a.m. Divine Service is at 10:30 a.m.

On March 1, before an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m., a chili supper will be served at 5:30 p.m.

Sign language, other classes scheduled at Anna Arts Center

A sign language class taught by Beth Schumacher is planned at the Anna Arts Center in Anna.

Schumacher graduated from MacMurray College with a deaf education degree. She then went straight to the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind and taught there for 13 years.

Classes are six weeks starting Thursday, Feb. 23, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and cost is \$40. The arts center is located at 125 W. Davie St.

For more information about the class, call 904-625-1109 or email vabchlee@gmail.com.

For those who may miss the starting date, they can still start the class the following week.

Other classes also are scheduled at the arts center. Here's a look at the schedule:

Art Classes for Kids, For Artistic Beginnings, ages 3-7, and Artistic Journeys, ages 8-16.

The instructors are Lee Hackney (artist), Jane Nimmo (artist and art teacher) and guest artist Josh Shearer.

Classes are six weeks starting Thursday, Feb. 23, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The cost is \$40 for six weeks and \$10 for supplies; three kids for \$100 or come

for the classes that you can make for \$9 a class.

Open Studio: Come Paint on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free to all arts center members and \$9 per session for non-members. Bring your art supplies and paint to your heart's content.

Artist in residence Nancy Young will be available for guidance and suggestions. Open studio will start March 6. For more information, call Nancy Young at 618-614-4080.

Crochet and Knitting

Bring a crochet hook size G or H or I and some yarn to the Arts Center Quilting Bees sessions on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Edna Goddard at 833-6256. The class is free.

Quilting, age 12 to adults.

Sue Ann Zimmerman, Jane Nimmo and Connie Arnold will teach how to cut, piece and quilt, and will give simple quilting techniques on a sewing machine.

At the end of the six-week class, students will complete a 44 inch by 50 inch quilt or a table runner.

Thursday classes start Feb. 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and go for six weeks. Cost \$40 and supplies.

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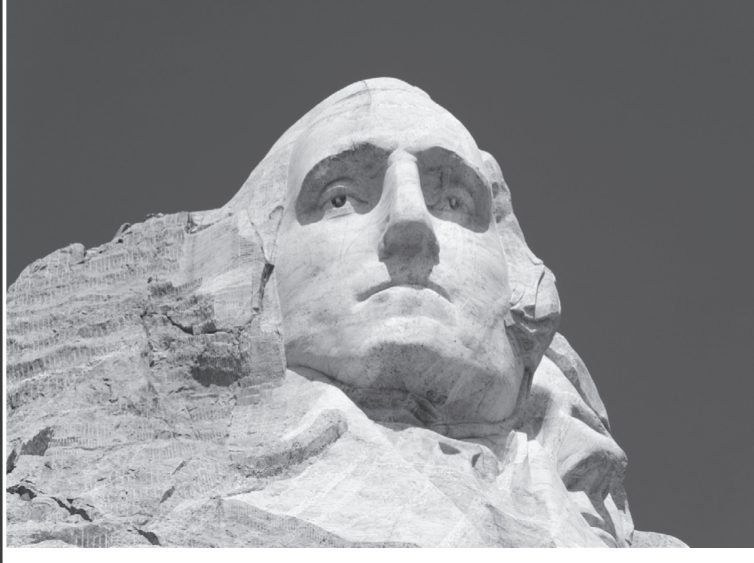
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Daily Devotional Reading						
John 6:25-59	John 6:60-7:9	John 7:10-31	John 7:32-52	John 8:1-20	John 8:21-47	John 8:48-59

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Anna News

By Martha Ann Webb

Please have news to me by Sunday night. Email me at marthanews@frontier.com, mail to me at 118 W. Monroe St., leave news in the back of the green box at the right of my front door or call me at 833-5717.

South America Trip

Martha Angell Schwegman and her husband John recently returned from a three-week cruise around southern South America that included a visit to Antarctica.

Though it was mid-summer down there, Antarctica was covered in deep glacial ice, with bare rock being found only at a few spots near the shore.

The exposed rock areas were favored nesting sites for penguins and the sea around their ship was home to many whales.

The sun set for only three hours each night and the temperature never climbed above the 30s.

One of their goals was to photograph birds and other wildlife. They got photos of five different species of penguins and many sea birds, including albatrosses and the Cape petrel.

Three species of whales were spotted, as well as three kinds of seals.

Antarctica was the last of Earth's continents that they had not visited, and they said they were in awe of its wild beauty.

16th Birthday

Grace Rendleman celebrated her 16th birthday Sunday, Feb. 12. She celebrated with family for a meal grilled by her dad after church. They had cake and ice cream with more family and friends. A great time was had by all.

Outing

Fred and Linda Clutts drove to Mt. Vernon to the Midwestern Herb and Garden Show at the Times Square Mall last Friday and enjoyed seeing fresh plants. They had lunch at Ryans.

They went to Ullin and Linda played the banjo at the jam session. Sunday they went to Chester to drive by the Mississippi River in hopes to see an eagle, but no luck.

Cruise

Randy and Christine Bridges went to New Orleans and stayed with cousins. Then also enjoyed a seven-day cruise.

Birthday, Anniversary Celebration

Mary and Carlyn Light and Mary Jo and Wayne Butler spent last weekend in Kentucky and Tennessee. They enjoyed going to the Opry Theater Friday and Saturday.

They were celebrating Mary's birthday that was Sunday, Feb. 5, and Mary Jo and Wayne's anniversary that was Jan. 31.

They enjoyed going to

Fort Donelson National Battlefield and drove between the lakes. They saw buffalo. Sunday they went to Cowboy Church.

Valentine's Dinner

Brandy and Christopher Girtman enjoyed eating at Outback in Paducah for an early Valentine's present.

Bootheel Bluegrass Festival

Fred and Linda Clutts attended the Bootheel Bluegrass Festival at the Bavarian Halle in Fruitland, Mo., Jan. 28.

91st Birthday

Clarence "Bub" Tweedy celebrated his 91st birthday Feb. 9.

2nd Birthday

Gigi Guined celebrated her 2nd birthday with a party at the Hub in Marion Feb. 11.

Valentine's Dinner

Earl Miller and Martha Ann Webb enjoyed eating at El Jalapeño for an early Valentine's dinner.

United Methodist Church, Anna

Debbie Johnston was guest speaker at the United Methodist Women's meeting last Tuesday. She told about how to pray. Rev. Carl Johnston was at seminary.

On Sunday morning, Debbie Johnston's sermon was "Come and Pray," with scripture from Luke.

Special music was by Rick Barger, who sang "Make My Life A Prayer to You." Barbara House led the singing.

Time with children was by Maggie Johnston on "Love Letters," with scripture from I Corinthians. Guest was Barbara Treece, who recently moved here with her husband Bob from Los Angeles.

Marilyn Belcher, who is formerly from Anna and now lives in Sparta, and her sons and families, were also visiting to attend a family reunion. It was good to see them.

Anna Eastern Star

On Feb. 25, there will be a scholarship fundraiser chili and soup dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge in the Anna Park across from the swimming pool. There will also be desserts.

Adults are asked to give a donation of \$7.50 and corn dogs are \$1 more. The scholarships go to high school students. Come out and support them.

Surgery

Please keep Darryl Turner in your prayers. He was scheduled for heart surgery.

Civil War Weekend

This weekend, Feb. 16-

19, will be Civil War days at the Anna Arts Center, 125 W. Davie St.

Thursday, today, at 7 p.m. will feature "Soldier, Come Home."

Friday will be the Blue and Gray Dinner at 6 p.m. with guest speaker Christian McWhirter, the research historian at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, who will discuss battle hymns.

Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. there are lots of things happening.

The Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club will be hosting.

Sunday at 1 p.m. there will be a historical bus tour which will leave from the Anna Arts Center.

Also on Sunday will be an open house at the PAST Heritage House from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A-J Women's Club Meeting

The Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club met Monday, Feb. 6, at Union County Hospital in Anna. Mary Nash Swink, director of marketing, was in charge of the program.

The guest speaker was Jim Farris, CEO of Union County Hospital. He told about the new doctors who would be coming to the hospital and the remodeling that will be done at the hospital, nursing home and some of the programs there.

President of District 25 of the Illinois Women's Clubs Jackie Hancock from Marion was also a guest. Jackie spoke about the awards that would be given at the district meeting. Judy Smith gave the devotion on St. Valentine.

Jane Bauer told about current events and said that it was Heart Month and the club was emphasizing a healthy heart, eating good foods, exercise and that is why they met at the hospital.

Deb Rossberg gave the treasurer's report. Suzie Kessler gave the secretary's report. They enjoyed a meal of broccoli soup, sandwiches, vegetables and an apple.

Special Thanks

Thanks to Donna Sitter for sending me several pictures and a newspaper



Grace Rendleman celebrated her 16th birthday Sunday, Feb. 12.

article about the Illinois Central passenger station in Anna.

It has been good to hear from people and refresh our memories about how people use to catch the train in Anna.

Florida Trip

Judy and Chuck Neal have returned from visiting their son Nathan in North Ft. Myers. They helped him get settled in his apartment and just enjoyed the sunny weather.

Their two dogs, Coffey and Coco, were very good travelers and enjoyed the Florida weather also. They enjoyed visiting with Kathy and Rod Schimpf who are there for a few weeks.

Mardi Gras Mask Making

All Little Egypt Art Association members and guests are invited to a Mardi Gras mask making workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 10 a.m. Mask maker Marie Samuel will coordinate.

The workshop is free to all members and guests may join in for a fee of \$5. Some supplies will be furnished. They have some blank half masks and a very limited number of blank full masks. Bring bright pieces of material, glitter, sequins, lace, feathers, paints, glue or glue guns, old Halloween masks to repurpose, anything your imagination can work into a mask.

Stop by LEAA for more information or call 618-889-4145 to reserve a spot. LEAA is located at 601 Tower Square Plaza in downtown Marion on the square near the Marion Civic Center.

Red Hat Meeting

The Little Egypt Red Hat Ladies will meet for their March meeting at Triple E in Ullin. Fern Thompson, Marybelle Morgan, and Agnes Thomas will be the hostesses.

The ladies meet the third Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. March meet-



Anna Madura's friend Kate Richards surprised her when she came to see Anna in the Mary Poppins musical.

ing will be on the 15th. Mark your calendars. Bring an exchange gift if you would like to be in the gift exchange. The ladies are always looking for new people to come join them so bring a friend.

Spark Ministries

Rev. Aaron Boyd is the senior pastor and Rev. Kenny Swink is the youth pastor at the non-denominational church that meets at the old McClure grade school. Church starts at 11 a.m. Sunday mornings. Aaron Palmer takes pictures for the church.

AFSCME Retirees

Sub-Chapter 90 will meet Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 1 p.m. at Anna Heights Baptist Church. The retirees meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. They encourage other state retirees to join them.

Friends of Stinson

Thanks to everyone who attended the book sale at Stinson Memorial Library last weekend. A special thanks to all the volunteers who worked in the book sale. The town is blessed to have the beautiful library.

Open House

Teresa Goddard and Sharon Laster had an open house to promote their busi-

ness First Class Cookies Monday at Goddard's Barn & Grill.

VFW

Tuesday is Taco Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for a \$2 donation.

On Friday, Feb. 17, Wild Willie Karaoke will be from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 18, the 15th District meeting will be held in Marion. Joint meetings are planned at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and separate meetings at 1 p.m.

Beginning in March the Auxiliary to the VFW meeting will be moved from the first Tuesday of each month to the second Thursday starting at 6 p.m.

Birthday Celebrations

Feb. 12 Andrea Dahmer, 13 Aden Hopkins, Roy Younger, Gayle Fox, Edith Hartsock, Mary Archey, Feb. 14 Ginny Cates Stephenson, Rachel Ozec, Lisa James, Paula Hale, Bob Chamness, 15 Liz Wilkins, Trudy Bowman, Sandy Gowan, Deanna Cruse, LaDonna Rainbolt, Becky Johnson, 16 Janice Lewellyn, Judy Halter, Amy Hopkins, Julie Ames, 17 Rick Barra, 18 Jennifer Kristoff, Jenni-

(continued on next page)



Jason Swink was baptized at Spark Ministries in McClure on Feb. 5 by his father David Swink and uncle Kenny Swink, who is the children's pastor.



Union County Hospital director of marketing Mary Nash Swink and CEO Jim Farris hosted the Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club meeting Monday, Feb. 5, at the hospital.



Lynn Steveson's Sunday School class at the United Methodist Church is studying the Bible in the Book of James. Before Sunday School, they had a Valentine's party and a party in honor of Barbara House's 71st birthday that is Friday, Feb. 17.



Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club met at the Union County Hospital. From left are Nancy Skoglund, Martha Ann Webb, Debbie Rossberg, Jackie Hancock, Jane Bauer, Suzie Kessler, Judy Smith and Barbara House.



Martha Angell Schwegman and her husband John took a three-week cruise around southern South America that included a visit to Antarctica.



The Anna-Jonesboro Wildcat pep band played at the A-J basketball game Saturday night.

Anna News

(Continued from previous page)

fer Browning, Steve Norton, Carrie Alsip, Barbara House.

If you would like me to put your birthday in the paper, give me a call.

Anna Eastern Star Meetings are the first and third Thursday of each month. Refreshments are at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge at the Anna Park.

Free Community Dinners Leaves and Fishes free community meal is on the third Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the United Methodist Church Anna fellowship hall.

Serving free hot delicious meals every Thursday to the community at Harvest Church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The free community meal at Salem Lutheran Church in Jonesboro is on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Cobden Church Immanuel Praise and

Worship Center in Cobden has a chicken and dumpling dinner the third Saturday of each month from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Donations for the meal.

Connect Point Church The church delivers food to homes Saturday mornings at 10 a.m.

Congratulations to the church family on their new building. They will be moving soon across from the Anna Post Office in the former First Christian Church building.

Military Prayer List Garrett Goins, David Jordan Glasco, Ryan Hampton, Brittany Michelle Lence, Killian Jesse, Molly Noyes, CJ Youngerman, Freddy Morse, Reagan Morrison, Josh Stevenson, Josh Williams, Lukas W. Davis, Faith Odom, Tommy Goff and family Janette, Jamison and Kaylynn, Creighton Laster, Brandon Eaker, Jim Bonner, Jacob Schaefer, Jerod Schaefer, Jennifer Ann Bishop, Robert Jr. McMeely, James McWhorter, Arin Whitemountain.

Indigenous Plant Symposium plans to discuss plant, animal relationships

Registration is open for the 2017 Illinois Indigenous Plant Symposium.

The symposium is scheduled March 31 through April 2 at the John A. Logan College Center for Business and Industry. The center is located at 700 Logan College Dr. in Carterville.

This year's theme is Plant & Animal Relationships: It's Complicated!

Speakers from the area will discuss the relationships plants and animals share.

Topics are scheduled to include plant interactions with insects, birds, and mammals, including humans.

The symposium is set to kick off with a guided hike at Cove Hollow Trail at Cedar Lake on March 31 and end on Sunday, April 2, with an additional guided hike along Snake Road at La Rue-Pine Hill. Both locations are in the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois.

Both hikes will be led by Chris Benda and Chris Evans, who co-authored the Illinois Native Plant Society Southern Chapter's "Spring Wildflower Hike" and "Summer Wildflower Hike."

The symposium's keynote speaker is set to be Jim

Wiker, an Illinois native and resident of Menard County.

Wiker has studied insects since the age of 4, and exhibited his first collection at the county fair by 1st grade.

He has been a research affiliate of the Illinois State Museum and the Illinois Natural History Survey.

His keynote address will be "a little early history of some Illinois' landscape" and "to be a good entomologist you need to be an even better botanist."

The address is set to be a discussion about an early record of the Illinois landscape and how knowing plants can save time in the field.

Later in the day, Wiker plans to talk about "two decades of searching in the wrong plant," which will be an "account of the recent discovery of the life history of the undescribed moth Papaipema new species number 5."

Two tracks with different speakers will be occurring concurrently.

A Critters Track will offer updates about the status of the emerald ash borer, presented by Chris Evans; the commercial aspect of agriculture, presented by Scott Martin; and the status of bees in the wild, presented

by Sedonia Sipes.

An ecology track will look at the influence of invasive plants presented by Kevin Rohling; seed dispersal and propagation, presented by Sonja Lallemand; the effect of masting, presented by Eric Schaubert; and what it takes to manage quality grassland for native fauna, presented by Bob Gillespie.

The symposium plans to end with a taxonomy presentation about native plants presented by John Manion.

An annual native plant sale is planned by Green Earth and the Illinois Native Plant Society.

Other area organizations are scheduled to be on hand to share information about native plants, research and natural habitats.

The symposium is designed to promote awareness of the use of plant choices, horticultural practices and gardens that work with nature and have a positive environmental impact.

The symposium is made possible by the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society in collaboration with John A. Logan College, the Southern Illinois University Department of Plant Biology, Green

Earth and University of Illinois Extension.

The cost to attend is \$25 per person, if paid by March 17; \$30 afterwards. The cost includes an Italian, turkey or vegetarian sub served with chips, apple, al arge cookie, and a beverage.

For more information or to register, visit http://www.ill-inps.org/2017symposium/; or email Indigenousplants@hotmail.com.

Music, film to be featured

Hedman Vineyards and Winery in Alto Pass plans to host an evening of music and film on Saturday, Feb. 18. The evening begins at 7 p.m. and will have a \$5 cover.

The evening will feature music by master percussionist and marimba player Kevin Lucas and films by local filmmaker Dan Johnson.

Johnson plans to present three travel films about Iceland, Turkey and underwater Cozumel.

Lucas wrote and performed some of the music included in the film about Iceland.

Auditions scheduled for play at arts center

Open auditions for "Scenes From Alice" are scheduled Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 20-21, with call-backs on Wednesday Feb. 22, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at the Anna Arts Center in Anna.

"Scenes from Alice," is an adaptation combining materials from "Alice in Wonderland," and "Alice Through the Looking Glass."

The original author, Lewis Carroll, wrote these two books four years apart.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 28-30.

Performance times will be determined after casting is complete.

Performers from age 10 years through adult may audition on either evening. Materials will be provided at auditions.

Criteria for selection will include voice, bodily movement and ability to characterize the various human and animal roles.

Three roles have been pre-cast to give the costumer a head start on a complex costume production.

Roles available include Alice, The King, Queen, Knave of Hearts, The White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the March Hare, the Door-

mouse and several playing cards. These are all from the "Wonderland" book.

From "Looking Glass" are The Red King, The White King, the Jabberwok, many live flowers, Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum and Humpty Dumpty.

The production script has been adapted from the original books and will be directed by Dr. Lynn Steveson of the Shawnee Hills Arts Council board. This will be her fourth production for the Anna Arts Center.

Rehearsals will begin shortly after casting and will be Monday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Rehearsals will be by scene, and all performers will not have to be at all rehearsals until closer to production time.

For more information about auditions or other aspects of the production, contact Dr. Lynn Steveson at 697-2334 between 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Inclement weather at this time of year may affect these audition dates.

Reader's theatre set

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council/Anna Arts Center plans to present a reader's theatre performance of Steve Falcone's "Bible Studies: A Newer Look at the Old Testament."

The performance is set for 2 p.m. Feb. 26 at the arts center, which is located at 125 W. Davie St.

The play is a short selection of several familiar Old Testament stories.

The performance has six readers and is directed by Dr. Christian Moe. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Local artist's works featured

A collection of paintings by artist Loren Herold of Alto Pass is on exhibit, and on sale, at the Carbondale Public Library.

The collection, "Passing Impressions," is scheduled to be on display through the end of March.

A reception for the artist is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 23.

THURSDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, ESPN, TBS, USA, DISN, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing various programs.

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

FRIDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, ESPN, TBS, USA, DISN, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing various programs.

FEBRUARY 17, 2017

SATURDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, ESPN, TBS, USA, DISN, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing various programs.

FEBRUARY 18, 2017

SUNDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, ESPN, TBS, USA, DISN, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing various programs.

FEBRUARY 19, 2017

MONDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, ESPN, TBS, USA, DISN, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing various programs.

FEBRUARY 20, 2017

TUESDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, ESPN, TBS, USA, DISN, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing various programs.

FEBRUARY 21, 2017

WEDNESDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and channels (ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, ESPN, TBS, USA, DISN, HBO, MAX, SHOW) listing various programs.

FEBRUARY 22, 2017

Valentine's Day VALUES! advertisement for Reppert's Office Supplies & Furniture, featuring products like Kensington Duo Gel Wave Mouse Pad, Lorell Serenity Series Executive High Back Chair, and 3M Post-it Pop-up Notes.

Proposed legislation would lower concealed carry cost

A Southern Illinois legislator has introduced a bill to lower the cost of concealed carry licenses.

"I am a huge supporter of Illinoisans' constitutional right to bear arms, and it is important to me to make concealed carry licenses more easily obtainable to qualified applicants," State Rep. Brandon Phelps, D-Harrisburg, said in a news release.

"As the sponsor of the bill that brought concealed carry to Illinois, it is my priority to ensure that excessive governmental fees don't prevent someone that is qualified from obtaining a license."

Phelps' measure, House

Bill 796, will amend the Firearms Concealed Carry Act, lowering the fee for new and renewed concealed carry licenses to \$100.

The fee will go to the State Police Firearm Services Fund, the Mental Health Reporting Fund and the State Crime Laboratory Fund.

Phelps said that any resident interested in obtaining a FOID card or a concealed carry permit can contact his constituent service office or get assistance at 607 S. Commercial Street, Suite B, in Harrisburg.

For more information, contact Phelps' constituent service office by phone at 618-253-4189 or by email at bphelps118@gmail.com.

Darwin Week presentation scheduled in Carbondale

An evolutionary ecologist is scheduled to present a public lecture on the founder of the theory of evolution during the upcoming 12th annual Darwin Week observance at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The annual SIU event, honoring the life and work of "On the Origin of Spe-

Friends group plans meeting

The Friends of Giant City plan to meet Tuesday, Feb. 21.

The meeting is set from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the visitors center at Giant City State Park near Makanda.

Bob Baer, who is with the physics department at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is set to discuss the role Giant City will play in a 2017 solar eclipse.

Fish orders still accepted

Orders for fish for pond stocking can still be placed with the Pulaski-Alexander Soil and Water Conservation District.

Fish are to be delivered at 8 a.m. on March 13 at the USDA Building in Tamms.

The district noted that grass carp must be ordered by Feb. 22. All other fish can be ordered until March 8.

For more information, contact the district office at 618-747-2305, extension 3.

Dongola music department trivia night set

The Dongola School music department plans to host a trivia night event.

The event is set for Saturday, Feb. 18. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and trivia will begin at 7 p.m. The cost to enter is \$80 a table.

Proceeds will benefit the music department.

For more information, email Rebecca Gray at rgray@dongolaschool.com.



Dongola's superintendent honor roll

Dongola School has announced students who made the superintendent honor roll for the most recent grading period. In the first row are, from left, Cameron Halphen, Megan Theis, Charlie Aden, Brooklyn Hogue, Melanie Altamirano and Halle Short. In the second row are Liberty McGill, Gracie Kern, Alexis Woodworth, Hailey O'Dea, Dailee Cummins, Jayden Westbrooks, Mackenzie Kelley, Presley Hoffman and Julian Westbrooks. In the third row are Journee Rushing, Colin Hall, Kennan Stokes, Alyssa Flores, Jordan Thompson, Delaney Cummins, Natalee Chauvin, Michelle Wolford and Madison Delgadillo. Photo provided.



Dongola second quarter honor roll

Dongola School has announced students who made the second quarter honor roll. In the first row are, from left, Thorne Wright, Hailey Wright, Emily Halphen and Dawson Short. In the second row are Matthew Aden, Magali Zavala, Jaime Anderson, Emily Aldrich, Katlyn Smith, Shaylee Lingle and Noah Wiseman. In the third row are Hunter McCommons, Cody Teller, Kaysee Johnston, Cheyenne Lingle, Hannah Foster, Alex Ames, Annabelle Durham and Zachary O'Neal. Photo provided.

cies" author Charles Darwin, will feature student research and a film screening.

Joel Brown, distinguished professor of biology in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois Chicago, is scheduled to give the keynote public lecture, titled, "Through the Darwinian Looking Glass: Past, Present and Future."

His talk is set for 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, in the library at the SIU School of Law.

Brown specializes in studying how natural selection acts as an optimization process to determine feeding behaviors and population characteristics.

Farm Bureau offering scholarship

Union County Farm Bureau is taking applications for scholarships.

The scholarships are designed to help ease the financial burden for students whose studies are in the agriculture field.

Eligible students are high school students who plan to attend college and students already in college.

Applications are available at the Union County Farm Bureau office, which is located at 104 W. Broad St. in Jonesboro, or from local school guidance offices.

The deadline to submit a scholarship application is Friday, March 31.

For more information, call the Union County Farm Bureau office at 833-2125.

Meeting for young farmers set in Mounds

The Pulaski-Alexander Farm Bureau plans to host a young farmer interest meeting on Monday, Feb. 27.

The meeting is set to run from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Pulaski-Alexander Farm Bureau, which is located at 404 S. Blanche in Mounds.

Saylor Holderfield born on Feb. 1

Saylor Kennedy Holderfield was born at 8:08 p.m. on Feb. 1, 2017, at Saint Francis Medical Center's Family BirthPlace in Cape Girardeau.

Saylor weighed 8 pounds and was 20 inches long.

She is the daughter of Riley Ann Holderfield of Chaffee, Mo.

Maternal grandparents are Sarah Farquhar of Chaffee, Mo., and Jeremy (Carla) Holderfield of Dongola.

The young farmers/leaders program is for Farm Bureau members between 18 and 35 years of age with interests in agriculture.

The Farm Bureau wants to hear from these individuals on how they can build a successful committee.

Pizza will be served. Those who want to attend are asked to RSVP by Friday, Feb. 24, by calling 618-745-9420.

For more information, call Tammie Obermark at 618-534-3376.



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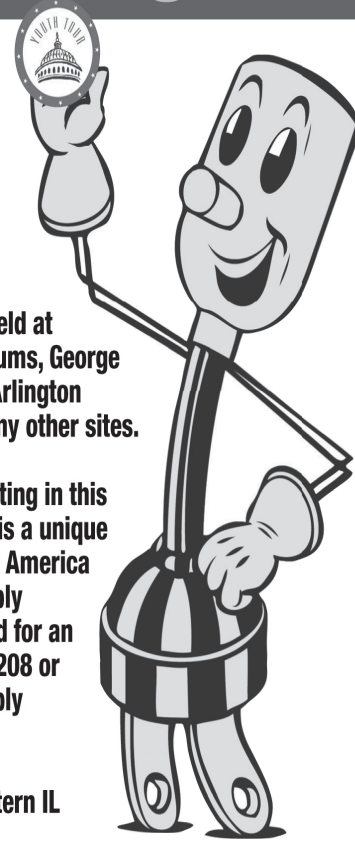
Member Topic Youth to Washington

Our Youth to Washington contest is open to all area high school juniors (members and non-members). Two winners will travel to Springfield, IL for Youth Day on March 29, then to Washington, D.C. for Youth Tour June 9 - 16 (all expenses paid), AND receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Students will create lasting memories and friendships during Youth Tour. They will visit the Civil War Battlefield at Gettysburg, the National Cathedral, Smithsonian Museums, George Washington's home, Supreme Court, Kennedy Center, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, among many other sites.

SIEC is committed to our youth and has been participating in this important program for decades. Youth to Washington is a unique experience, where over 1,500 students from all across America take part each year. We encourage local juniors to apply today for this amazing opportunity. Contact Chris Boyd for an application at cboyd@siec.org or (618) 827-3555 Ext. 208 or speak to your guidance counselor. The deadline to apply is February 28.

(Vienna and Goreville Schools will fall under SouthEastern IL Electric Co-op: seiec.coop)



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Edgar to deliver keynote speech at SIU Public Policy Institute anniversary event

Former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar is scheduled to deliver the keynote speech at a 20th anniversary commemoration for the founding of Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

The institute was founded in 1997. The 20th anniversary will be celebrated this spring.

Edgar signed the documents that created the institute at SIU Carbondale on Sept. 18, 1995, prior to Paul Simon's retirement from the U.S. Senate in 1997.

Edgar is scheduled to speak at 6 p.m. on May 4 in the SIU Student Center auditorium.

Other activities are being planned in conjunction with

the anniversary.

On March 10, the institute plans to host an Illinois School Funding Fairness Conference to examine a report issued recently by the state's funding reform commission.

Most of the institute's events are free, and officials encourage the public and students to take advantage of these opportunities. Several events require an RSVP.

More information, including registration details, is available at <http://paulsimoninstitute.siu.edu/event-information/index.php>.

For more information, contact the institute at 618-453-4009 or visit paulsimoninstitute.siu.edu.



Clouds over Union County

Clouds billowed into the sky over Union County on Tuesday evening, Feb. 7. The picture was taken at the Anna City Park in Anna. The image was created by using the "solarize" tool in Photoshop. The tool allowed for more contrast in the clouds.

IDOT welcomes input about long range plan

The Illinois Department of Transportation is asking for additional input from the public in developing its long range transportation plan.

The plan will identify policies to provide Illinois residents and businesses with innovative, sustainable and multimodal transportation solutions that support local goals and grow the economy.

Feedback and comments can be provided at AllOurIdeas.org/IDOTideas, an interactive site that allows participants to vote for ideas to improve transportation in Illinois or add their own ideas. The site is available until March 8.

"We want our long range transportation plan to drive how we operate as an agency and how we are

making investment decisions," Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn said in a news release.

"By working together with members of the public and our industry partners, we are confident we can develop a solid vision for how we are going to invest in transportation in Illinois over the next 10 to 20 years."

Last year, IDOT received more than 700 survey responses during the initial comment period.

More than a quarter of respondents indicated that safety was their top priority.

Respondents also expressed that maintaining Illinois' infrastructure is critical to improving the state's economy and that a need exists for a multimodal transportation system.

Based on feedback received to date, and to assist in prioritizing the plan's strategies and objectives, IDOT is seeking the additional round of input.

The new online survey allows participants to vote on objectives to inform IDOT's drafting of the plan.

Attorney general shares tips on internet safety

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan recognized 2017 Safer Internet Day on Feb. 7 and offered advice to parents and educators to help students practice safe online habits and to identify signs of cyberbullying.

Madigan said it is important for parents and teachers to talk to children and teens about their online followers and posts, and promote safety and respect on the internet. Families and educators can learn about safe online habits on Madigan's website.

"There are many benefits to children and teens using technology to learn and socialize, but there are also problems and dangers that parents and teachers need to know about," Madigan said in a news release.

"It is important to engage in a continuing conversation with children and teens about safe online habits, especially what to do if someone or something they see makes them uncomfortable."

Madigan offered guidance to parents and teachers to help identify signs of cyberbullying. Students might be victims of cyberbullying if:

- They receive or are the subject of mean or threatening texts, emails or social media posts.

- They become the subject of altered pictures posted online.

- They discover someone sending messages or posting on social media under the student's name.

- They experience physical and social changes, such as becoming introverted or withdrawn.

Madigan recommended advice to respond to cyberbullying:

- Tell a trusted adult, such as a parent, teacher or law enforcement;

- Ignore or block the sender because responding could escalate the situation;

- Report improper content and internet use to the website or internet service provider;

- Call 911 immediately if the child feels in danger.

- Save or print all instances of cyberbullying by taking a screenshot or storing threatening messages in a folder that can help if law enforcement involvement is necessary;

Madigan's office conducted a survey in 2014 of over 800 Illinois students in grades 3 through 8 to determine how they are using technology and social media.

The results showed that the average child creates his or her first social networking account at age 10, even

though social networking sites require users to be at least 13 to create an account.

Many students reported having negative online experiences. For instance, 45 percent of the students surveyed reported a technology-based interaction that resulted in an argument with someone.

Additionally, 24 percent of students reported having an experience using technology that ended a relationship, 18 percent felt threatened online or got into a physical or verbal altercation as the result of an online interaction and 22 percent of students reported not wanting to check their online accounts for fear of cyberbullying.

Madigan's office provides training to students, teachers, parents and law enforcement authorities across the state as part of her work leading the Illinois Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, ICAC. The task force investigates child exploitation crimes and trains local law enforcement agencies statewide to investigate these crimes.

The ICAC task force has been involved in more than 1,300 arrests of sexual predators, provided internet safety training and educa-

tion to more than 555,000 parents, teachers and students, and trained nearly 23,000 law enforcement professionals to investigate and prosecute internet crimes.

For more information or to access resources, visit Madigan's website at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/ or contact the attorney general's Internet Safety Specialists at e-info@atg.state.il.us.

Computer scam noted

Attorney General Lisa Madigan has alerted Illinois residents about phone scams in which callers pose as computer security experts in an attempt to gain access to computer networks to download software that may contain viruses.

Madigan said her office has seen a recent increase in complaints about these scam calls from Illinois residents and employees in her office.

Callers inform people that they have identified a problem on their computer and direct people to call a toll-free number for assistance.

If people call the toll-free number, they will likely be prompted to unknowingly allow remote access to their computer.

This allows scammers to access personal information and allows them to install malware, viruses or key-logging software to record personal information.

"If you receive a call claiming your computer has a problem, hang up immediately," Madigan said. "I encourage people to contact my office if they want to determine whether a call or message they received is a scam."

The attorney general's office can be contacted by visiting the website at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/.

People also can call the attorney general's Consumer Fraud Hotline office in Carbondale at 1-800-243-0607.

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Opinion and Commentary

10,000 Steps in Herrin, Illinois

By John Davis

"Sarah Herrin; born November 1791, died July 1871." Those words appear on one of the markers in the Herrin Prairie Cemetery located on 12th Street in Herrin, Illinois.

Many of the pioneers who created the town are buried here. This wrought iron enclosed burial ground, also known as Stotlar-Herrin Cemetery, is one of the interesting places I passed during my walk in Herrin last week.

Herrin is a community that remembers and honors its ancestors.

At 14th Street and Cherry I discovered a memorial plaza with a statue honoring the contributions and sacrifices made by Herrin coal miners.

On the corner of North Park Avenue and West Adam Street I found another plaza. This one has plaques honoring military veterans and a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. At the center of this plaza stands a life-size replica of a work by artist E.M. Viquesney. This "Spirit of the American Dough-boy" statue recognizes World War I service men and women.

The name of another World War I veteran is listed on a monument that stands at 1320 Stotlar St. His name is listed with the names of 16 other victims of the 1922 Herrin Massacre.

I walked past a memorial garden on the City Hall grounds located on North Park Avenue. At the center of the park is a memorial fountain, named in memory of long time Herrin businessman Sam Meyers.

On my walk I also passed the Robert N. Brewer Family Foundation building. It houses the offices of the Foundation and serves as a monument to the late businessman and philanthropist.

Herrin is also a town with great restaurants, beautiful churches, a fine library, a wonderful hospital and interesting shops. I passed many of these places while taking my 10,000 steps. I plan to return there and encourage others to do the same.

(John Davis is a retired educator and school administrator. He is walking through communities in Southern Illinois to keep a New Year's resolution to be more physically active.)

Faith-based initiative promotes heart health

The Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, is launching its new Faith-Based Million Hearts Initiative during American Heart Month in February.

Cardiovascular disease is the nation's number one cause of death. However, it can be prevented in some cases by making healthy choices and managing heart conditions.

"To help more people learn about heart healthy steps they can take and to support communities working to become healthier, IDPH is launching its Faith-Based Million Hearts Initiative 'Love to Love Your Heart,'" said IDPH director Dr. Nirav D. Shah.

"Many people look to their faith-based organizations for information, support and encouragement. By offering healthy heart education and tips on lowering the risk of heart disease, we hope to reduce the number of people who die from heart disease and stroke."

The goal of "Love to Love Your Heart" is to enlist 50-faith-based organizations statewide to support the national goal of preventing 1 million heart attacks and strokes by the end of 2017.

Each participating organization will hold four activities over the next year that focus on heart disease and stroke education and prevention.

Those activities may include starting a community garden, organizing a walking/biking/yoga/exercise group, hosting a healthy cooking demonstration, or incorporating heart healthy messages in programs, bulletins, inserts, and newsletters.

Faith-based organizations interested in learning more or signing up can call IDPH at 217-785-4311. For more information on heart disease and stroke, log onto the IDPH website at www.idph.state.il.us.

Letters to the editor

The Gazette-Democrat welcomes letters to the editor. Any letter which is submitted to the paper must be signed by the person who wrote the letter. We ask that letters be of local interest and must be as brief as possible.

Each letter must include an address and phone number for the person who wrote the letter. This information is needed so the identity of the person who wrote the letter can be verified. Letters which do not include this information will not be used.

The deadline to submit a letter to the editor is noon on Thursday. Letters which are submitted after the deadline will be held for the following week.

The newspaper reserves the right to edit all letters. Please limit the length of letters to 300 or fewer words. The newspaper reserves the right to reject letters which are deemed inappropriate for any reason. Personal attacks are not allowed.

Political campaigning is accepted as paid advertising only; letters used for campaign purposes will not be published.

Letters can be submitted in several ways. Letters can be mailed to the paper; send them to The Gazette-Democrat, P.O. Box 529, Anna, Illinois 62906. Letters can be sent by fax at 618-833-5813. Letters also can be emailed to news@annanews.com.

Please read this. . .

by Geof Skinner



Squirrel. *Sciurus carolinensis*? Rodent. Cute? Of course, in a rodent sort of way.*

Squirrel: Cute; Possum: Not so cute

Cute: Squirrel.

Not So Cute: Opossum. AKA Just Plain Ol' Possum.

This week's little adventure began when your writer went for a daily walk one evening last week.

As I stepped off our front porch, I could hear a dog barking, somewhere out in the dark. For the sake of filling space, we'll call it a dark bark. The dog continued to bark. And bark. And bark. In the dark, dark, dark. I kept on walking. And walking. And walking.

As I was getting closer to home, I spotted the source of the dark bark. The barker was at the base of a tree, which was growing on an embankment in a ravine not far from our abode. Up in the tree, maybe 10 or 15 feet off the ground, I spotted what appeared to be a gray and white fur ball, perched, unmoving, on a bare branch.

Upon further inspection, I determined that the fur ball was an opossum, or, as most of us around here would call it, a possum. Quite honestly, I don't know anybody who actually refers to a possum as an opossum. If you think about it, which I don't try to do, saying "possum" is a whole easier than trying to spit out "opossum." Don't know why that is. Just is.

Anyway, I kind of felt sorry for the poor possum in the tree. So, I convinced the barking dog to go away. (Just so you know, no animals were harmed in the creation of the this colyum.)

After the dog went away to bark at something else in the night, the possum just kind of stayed where it was. Unmoving. Seemingly not bothered by the fact that I started to take pictures of the critter.

A couple of days later, I showed some of the folks at The Paragraph Factory one of the pictures of the possum I had taken.

"Isn't it cute?" I asked.

The response to that question was pretty much a resounding no.

Possums, it seems, are not considered to be among the Creator's cute critters. As near as I could tell, as the result of a totally unscientific, random survey, possums are, well, disgusting. Kind of like ticks, leeches, slugs, snakes of all kinds, spiders and rats. One fellow traveler on the Journey Through Life even suggested that pos-



Opossum. *Didelphimorphia* (Virginia)? Marsupial. Cute? No way.*

sums are basically rats trying not to be rats.

Just for the sake of comparison, my unscientific survey included a picture of a squirrel, munching on a nut of some sort. The consensus was that the squirrel was cute.

Possums, it seems, are considered to be snarling, hissing, nasty creatures, with sharp teeth and naked tails. Squirrels, on the other paw, are cute little critters with bushy tails.

These views, at least for the sake of this colyum, made me feel a little bit sorry for possums. Sure, I've seen nasty, hissing possums. But the one I met last week seemed to be a nice little fellow. I'm thinking that this possum may have been grateful that somebody came along to chase the big ol' nasty, barking dog away.

My experience with squirrels is somewhat mixed. They do seem to enjoy emptying our bird feeders, with utter disregard for our feathered friends.

Squirrels also have sharp teeth. Very sharp teeth. This I know from personal experience. One time, many years ago, a squirrel chomped on one of my fingers. Long story. However, for a very short time, I possessed incredible squirrel powers, such as the ability to get fat by eating too much during the winter; an incredible taste for bird seed; and a bushy, but cute, tail.

I hate to think what might have happened if I'd been bitten by a possum. Except maybe I'd have a desire to drop unnecessary vowels from the beginning of words.

In closing (aren't you glad about that?), I'm going to leave it up to you, the reader: Is a possum cute? Perhaps you can talk about it around the dinner table this Sunday.

(*This colyum does not pretend to be accurate when it comes to the scientific names of squirrels and possums.)

Page from the Past

From the files of The Gazette-Democrat

50 Years Ago, February 16, 1967

Open House will be held Sunday, Feb. 19, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the new housing project, located just off Heacock St., in Jonesboro.

The new Alto Pass Water System was officially opened Wednesday morning, Feb. 15, with 209 customers currently with water meters.

Rolla Etherton, who rose from truck driver to Plant Superintendent of the Anna Flour and Feed Mills, retired effective January 1, 1967.

Lenten Services are being held in several Union County churches with the first services held last Wednesday, Feb. 9, continuing until Holy Week, which this year is Sunday, March 19 through Easter Sunday, March 26.

A high of 62 was reached on Monday, Feb. 13 with a low of 17 on Thursday, Feb. 9.

The Explorer Post No. 44 Boy Scouts of America, enjoyed a breakfast Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Whitehouse Restaurant in Anna. Mayor Dale Denny was a special guest of the Post, speaking on civic affairs and scouting.

The Jonesboro Junior Beta Club initiation was held recently with 29 new members being initiated into the club.

The Jonesboro Grade School will be host to the Parent-Teacher Associations of the Davie, Lincoln and Jonesboro Schools at a tea to be held today, Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m.

The Beatnik party, held at Anna-Jonesboro Teen Town on February 11, was attended by approximately 175 members and their guests.

Norge Laundry and Cleaning Village in Cobden is having its Grand Opening February 20 through 25.

From the A-J Scratches: On Friday, Jan. 29, the Senior Class at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School, gladly welcomed a class meeting which excused them from the last 25 minutes of first hour class.

From the Run-N-Lake news: Ground breaking ceremonies will be held Sunday morning, Feb. 19, at the Galilee Baptist church after the morning worship. Construction of the new addition will be started Monday, Feb. 20.

From the Cobden News: The F.H.A. is sponsoring a dance Saturday, Feb. 18 from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. It is open to all high school students. The Daze and Knights will provide music throughout the evening.

Letters to the editor

Some advice for students

To the editor,

Please pass this warning to students. In recent years, a large number of young people head to college like lemmings marching to the sea. After they graduate in four or five years, they have a huge student loan debt, and no high paying job. Thirty years ago most colleges could promise all students a job in their degree field. That isn't a certainty any more.

In junior high, look beyond what entertains you, have a reality check, and imagine. What services will people need during your lifetime? How many of your generation want to fill that need? What you would enjoy doing for 30 or 40 years?

Consider a variety of career choices suited to your minds satisfaction. Use these thoughts when choosing optional classes. Let your guidance counselors, teachers, and older adults know who you are and what you are interested in, by asking them questions from time to time. It is of advantage and proper etiquette to approach adults and not avoid them. Be grateful for their answers and accumulate them in your mind for validation and appropriateness.

The choices of a high school senior are a serious matter. If you aren't sure of your goals, don't take the college path just to enjoy time with your friends, or do what's expected.

Take time to figure out your best path. A lot of options exist for you. Take it slow and don't be afraid to get your feet wet in the working world first. That \$1k scholarship is a drop in your education budget, and might lead to enormous debt to be paid off when you want to start independent adult life. Freedom is not owning your soul to the company store. Wisdom isn't rare, but you must seek and test it.

Signed, Dave Karraker, Dongola