

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

The Union County Sheriff's Office, the Anna Police Department and the Anna Fire Department reported that the New Year's holiday weekend was fairly quiet.

The Union County Board of Commissioners plans to have a special meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 9, at the courthouse in Jonesboro. The commissioners are considering a proposal to change their regular meeting date and time, which now is at 8:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Friday of each month.

Shawnee Community College's spring semester is scheduled to begin on Jan. 11.

Anna School District 37 officials are considering plans to add classrooms at Lincoln Elementary School.

Cheerleading, basketball and volleyball tryouts are on the calendar in Anna School District 37.

Homecoming festivities are planned Jan. 21 at Shawnee High School at Wolf Lake.

A Dongola High School homecoming dance and coronation are planned Jan. 28.

The 2017 St. Louis Cardinals Caravan has scheduled a Jan. 15 stop at the SIU Arena in Carbondale.



Water on the road

A pickup truck made its way through water which covered part of Illinois Route 146 near Ware during heavy rain which fell in mid-August. File photo.

Top 10 weather stories of 2016 in region

Major flooding, heavy rainfall events noted

Record flooding on the Mississippi River in early January was the top weather story in the region for 2016.

The National Weather Service office at Paducah posted the top 10 weather events of last year on its website.

The top 10 weather events for 2016 in Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri, Western Kentucky and southwestern Indiana included, in order:

Record flooding on the Mississippi River, Jan. 1-3.

A Jan. 22 winter storm in Western Kentucky.

Severe weather on April 26, mainly in Illinois and Indiana.

Severe weather on April 27, mainly in Kentucky.

An EF-3 tornado in Mayfield, Ky., on May 10.

Severe weather on May 11, mainly in Illinois and Indiana.

Severe weather on July 6, mainly in Missouri and Kentucky.

Flash flooding on July 6-7 in Western Kentucky.

August flooding in Illinois and Missouri which led to one fatality.

Fall warmth and drought throughout the region.

The weather service noted that 2016 "was noteworthy for the large number of heavy rainfall events that occurred."

Major Flooding

The year kicked off with major flooding along the Mississippi River. The flooding brought record high river levels to the Cape Girardeau area.

People in the river bottomland communities in western Union County again had to deal with flooding concerns in January of 2016.

Early in the month, some people moved out of the bottomlands. Farm equipment was moved to higher ground.

Wet Summer

The summer of 2016 was unusually wet. The weather service reported that a number of cities in the region recorded more than

20 inches of rain, making it the wettest summer on record for about a dozen cities.

Fifty weather observing sites picked up at least 20 inches of rain during the summer. A couple of locations recorded more than 30 inches of rain.

To put the totals into perspective, normal precipitation for a whole summer is around 10 inches to 12 inches.

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Road closed

The Old Cape Road near Reynoldsville in southwestern Union County was closed due to flooding along Clear Creek in early January 2016. File photo.

Johnson County plane crash claims four lives

By Lonnie Hinton
The Vienna Times

The last hours of 2016 had Johnson County officials, EMS personnel and many volunteers extremely busy responding to a plane crash which killed four persons from Iowa.

At approximately 5:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, Johnson County 911 received a report about a possible plane crash near East Crossroads Road in the southeastern part of the county.

The sheriff's department, ambulance service, emergency management system, Vienna police and fire departments, Illinois State Police and several volunteers quickly responded to the area where the plane was believed to have crashed.

Johnson County resident David Oliver said he was outside on his deck when he saw an aircraft flying overhead at tree-top level and heard a crash soon afterwards.

When deputies arrived, Oliver led them to the general area where he believed the plane had gone down.

It took a little more than an hour to locate the plane, which was found in a densely wooded area approximately 6 miles southeast of Vienna.

Authorities said that the single engine Piper PA28 had four occupants in it: two men and two women. Johnson County Coroner David Rockwell pronounced all four dead at the scene Saturday night.

The victims, all from Iowa, were identified late Monday evening as Curt R. Terpstra, 34; Jordan Linder, 35; Jasmine Linder, 26; and Krista Green, 37.

The plane was registered in Terpstra's name. He is believed to have been the pilot.

Officials reported that the plane was traveling to Nashville, Tenn., when it crashed.

Federal Aviation Administration and Nation-

al Transportation Safety Board officials arrived at the scene Sunday afternoon to begin their investigation into the cause of the crash. Officials said it could take weeks or months before a cause could be determined. The plane remained at the site until late Monday afternoon.

Once officials completed

an on-site investigation, the remains of the aircraft were removed and transported to Nashville, Tenn., for further inspection.

Dense fog and rain Monday slowed the removal process.

The sheriff's office used its two Hummers and four-wheelers to transport federal officials to the site.

Johnson County Sheriff Charles Harner said the plane crash was the worst fatal aircraft crash in the county that he was aware of.

Harner commended everyone who was involved in the search and recovery efforts. "I must say one thing: Everyone worked well together, trying to find the plane," the sheriff said.



Fatal plane crash in Johnson County

Four persons died in a plane crash which occurred late last Saturday night in Johnson County. The accompanying photograph shows fuselage of the air craft, which crashed in a pasture in the southeastern part of the county. Photo by Lonnie Hinton/The Vienna Times.



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Rainy end to 2016

Raindrops dotted the windshield on the photographer's car last Saturday morning, which was the final day of 2016. The picture was taken in downtown Alto Pass and shows a veterans memorial in the Union County village.

Innovative soil, water conservation practices focus of three seminars

Illinois farmers are invited to one of three seminars planned throughout the state which will focus on innovative soil and water conservation practices.

One of the seminars is planned at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The one-day seminars will feature local agricultural producers and resource experts who will share information and personal experiences about soil health improvement options, cover crop success and nutrient management techniques.

In December, USDANASS released the results of the 2015 Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, NLRs, Producer Survey.

The results show an increase in the adoption of cover crops since 2011.

With almost half a million acres of cover crops on tile-drained ground, farmers have more than doubled their use of cover crops in the five year period in the survey.

Cover crops are plants, typically grasses or legumes, which are seeded into farm fields, either within or outside of the regular growing season.

These crops can play an important role in erosion control, nutrient management, weed control, soil conservation and soil health.

Research suggests they have a significant competitive advantage compared to the more traditional man-

agement practices, and they also may offer production benefits.

The seminars are scheduled Jan. 24 in Rockford, Jan. 25 in Jacksonville and Jan. 26 at SIUC.

The Jan. 26 seminar is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the SIUC Student Center.

The agenda for the seminar in Carbondale includes: Presentation of Illinois farmers on water quality and nutrient management issues.

Invasive species control. Moving the herd to cover crops. Soil health.

Scouting cover crops, "What to look for." Riparian buffers and cover crops: Tools to address water quality. Local farmer panel discussion.

The cost to attend each seminar is \$20 per person, \$10 per student, and lunch will be provided.

The deadline to register is Jan. 10. Online registration is available at <http://www.ccswd.com/>. Payment can be made by check or credit card.

Seminar coordinators include the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the American Farmland Trust, the Illinois Stewardship Alliance, the Illinois Corn Growers Association, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and local soil and water conservation districts.

Top weather events of 2016

(continued from page 1)

Local weather observer Dana Cross recorded nearly 20 inches of rain in Jonesboro during the summer months of June, July and August.

Precipitation measured 2.93 inches in June, 7.71 inches in July and 9.33 inches in August, for a total of 19.97 inches during the three-month period.

August Downpours

Heavy rain fell in Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri during the period of Aug. 12-18. Many areas saw 8 to 12 inches of rain. Isolated locations in Carter and Wayne counties in Southeast Missouri had 15 to 17 inches of rain.

Unofficial totals showed 9 inches of rain in Wolf Lake and 8.25 inches in Cobden. Rainfall in Jonesboro totalled 6.13 inches.

The weather service

reported that many areas picked up between three and five times their normal August rainfall in under a week. Normal rainfall amounts for the locations is about 3 inches.

Numerous roads in Illinois were covered by water for at least short periods of time. Some roads were closed or impassable at times, and a few small bridges were washed out. A small bridge near Alto Pass was washed out.

Persistent Warmth

Last year also was noted for its persistent warmth. Every month except May averaged warmer than normal at Paducah.

Temperatures during the summer in the region generally were around 2 degrees above normal, which was good enough to rank in the top 10 warmest summers on record in Paducah and Cape

Girardeau, the weather service noted.

On July 21, the high temperature in Jonesboro reached 97 degrees. When the heat was combined with high humidity, the heat index reached 121.3 degrees.

Fall: Warm, Dry

Fall was "abnormally warm and dry" in the four-state region.

Temperatures generally were 4 to 6 degrees above normal during the fall, which included the months of September, October and November.

Paducah and Cape Girardeau both had their warmest fall season on record.

2016 local weather High of 100 degrees, low of 7; 57.65 inches of precipitation

Temperatures in Union County during 2016 ranged from a high of 100 degrees to a low of 7.

Local weather observer Dana Cross recorded high and low temperatures for the year, along with precipitation, including rain and snow.

Precipitation for the year totalled 57.65 inches. Normal precipitation for a year in Union County is in the range of 40 to 45 inches.

Snowfall during 2016 totalled 7 inches.

Here's a month-by-month look at weather highlights for 2016:

January: High of 65 degrees on Jan. 31, low of 7 on Jan. 18. 1.80 inches of total precipitation. 1 inch of snow.

February: High 75 on Feb. 20. Low 14 on Feb. 13. 2.74 inches of precipitation. 6 inches of snow.

March: High of 79 on

Very warm, even hot, high temperatures were recorded during September, October and November in Jonesboro.

September's high temperature was 95 degrees. The high for October was 89. The high peaked at 82 in November.

After a very wet summer, much of the region saw below normal precipitation during the fall. Paducah had its second driest fall on record.

Rainfall amounts in Jonesboro for the period included 3.33 inches in September, 1.40 inches in October and 4.16 inches in November.

Weather

Dense fog early; highs in 40s, 50s

The new year started in Union County with several days of dense fog.

High temperatures during the final days of 2016 and the first several days of 2017 were in the 40s and 50s.

Precipitation during the period included .06 of an inch of rain on Dec. 28, .10 of an inch of rain on Dec. 31 and .30 of an inch of rain on Jan. 2.

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

	H	L
Tuesday, Dec. 27	48	28
Wednesday, Dec. 28	50	26
Thursday, Dec. 29	49	35
Friday, Dec. 30	48	31



End-of-the-year reflection

An end-of-the-year reflection was captured during a visit to the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area near Ware. The picture was taken during a bright and sunny afternoon on the last Thursday of 2016.

Bargaining agreement reported

The governor's office reported on Dec. 30 that a collective bargaining agreement had been reached with the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council representing Illinois Conservation Police Officers.

A news release from the governor's office stated that the agreement includes a four-year wage freeze and ensures no conservation police officers will be laid off, while we work to expand staffing levels.

"Through fair and good faith negotiations, we were able to reach a compromise that continues to protect our state parks and other natural resources," Gov. Bruce Rauner's general counsel, Dennis Murashko, said.



Architectural Wonder
St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Anna has been recognized as an Architectural Wonder by a Southern Illinois firm. File photo.

Top Ten Architectural Wonders of Southern Illinois recognized

A Union County landmark has been included in the fourth annual list of the Top Ten Architectural Wonders of Southern Illinois. The list was announced Dec. 27 by Baysinger Architects in Marion.

The list includes a fairgrounds grandstand, a tippie, one of the only octagon-shaped one-room schools in the United States and a church building in Union County.

Baysinger Architects compiles the list as a way to generate public awareness of architectural gems in Southern Illinois.

Criteria for selection include unique and historical facets of structures which help to bring attention to the history of Southern Illinois.

This year's list of the Top Ten Architectural Wonders of Southern Illinois include:

Wall Manor in Mound City, which was completed in 1913.

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in DuBois, completed in 1908.

Charter Oak School in Schuline, completed in 1873.

Silkwood Inn in Mulkeytown, completed in 1827.

The Du Quoin State Fair grandstand on the fairgrounds in Du Quoin, completed in 1947.

The Muddy Coal Mine tippie in Muddy, completed in 1923.

St. Anne's Episcopal

Church, located along South Main Street in Anna, completed in 1886 and now preserved and maintained by the PAST organization of Union County.

The Williamson County Jail in Marion, completed

in 1913.

The Lafayette Inn compound in Harrisburg, completed in 1921.

Shryock Auditorium on the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, completed in 1918.

News from

Walnut Grove Church

Both the Walnut Grove and the Jonesboro United Methodist Churches worshiped together at the Jonesboro church on Sunday, New Year's Day.

Barb Norton thanked everyone for the cards and prayers for her family upon the passing of her grandson, Jeff Mauer.

Prayers were requested for Mike Blakely, Steve's father; Dee Blakely; Amelia Blakely for traveling mercies; Karen Lamer; and Barb Norton's family.

The Rev. Robert Fear titled his scripture lesson,

"Exchanging Our Gifts." He shared that "we can exchange our Christmas gifts but we should never exchange or give away the gifts of faith, love, hope and salvation that God has given us. We must use these gifts at all times during our lives to spread the word of God."

A ladies lunch for both churches is planned at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 6 at Pizza Hut in Anna.

Sunday services start at 9:30 a.m. at 3195 Mountain Glen Rd. near Cobden, and near Route 127.

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.

3-10G

Vacancy open on Anna school board

The Anna Community Consolidated School District No. 37 Board of Education plans to have a special meeting at 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9.

The purpose of the meeting will be to fill a vacancy on the board. The meeting will be at Anna Junior High/Davie School.

Dale Foster has resigned as a member of the District 37 Board of Education.

Foster's resignation was accepted by the board at its regular meeting on Dec. 19.

Foster was elected in November to a post on the Union County Board of

Commissioners. He began service as a county commissioner in December.

Information posted on the school district's website explained that the person who is selected to fill the vacancy will serve on the board of education from the date of appointment to the spring, when the newly elected board is reorganized following the 2017 election.

Potential candidates must meet the following guidelines:

Be a United States citizen. Be at least 18 years of age. Be a resident of Illinois and the district for at least one year immediately preceding the appointment. Be a registered voter. Not be a child sex offender. Not hold another incom-

patible public office. Not have a prohibited interest in any contract with the district. Not hold certain types of prohibited state or federal employment.

Letters of application are being accepted by the district superintendent. Anyone who is interested in serving was asked to respond in writing.

Letters were being accepted starting on Tuesday, Jan. 3, and continuing through Thursday, today, at the following address: Anna CCSD No. 37, Chuck Goforth, 301 South Green St., Anna, Ill. 62906.

After reviewing the applications, the board will determine whether or not it will be necessary to conduct interviews.

New from

First Christian Church, Anna

On Sunday, Jan. 1, elder Rollie Hawk preached a sermon titled "Beyond Resolutions," which was based on scripture from James.

The message shared that "we are called to confess and what we think of confession. We think of it as tattling on ourselves and we need to be punished. But God took that punishment for us. We confess so that we can pray for one another and be healed. When we confess we are cleansed, obtain mercy and can prosper, are forgiven."

Birthdays: Bob Hartley Jan. 1; Zach Hale, Jan. 2; Jennifer Linson Jan. 3; Nathan Kaufman, Jan. 5; Dean Boaz, Jan. 7.

Sunday School for all ages is at 9:30 a.m., with a worship service beginning at 10:30 a.m. The evening program begins at 6 p.m. with the junior and high school youth group at the church. An adult Bible study meets at 6:45 p.m.

Awana Clubs for youth age 3 through 6th grade meet Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. A Wednesday evening Bible study meets from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Open house winners noted

From the Heart Flowers & Gifts in Jonesboro has announced winners of its Christmas open house drawing.

The winners were Beth Perry of Jonesboro and Judy Miller of Anna.

324,310,011 Americans on first day of new year

As the nation prepared to ring in a new year, the U.S. Census Bureau on Dec. 28 projected the U.S. population would be 324,310,011 on Jan. 1, 2017.

This represented an increase of 2,245,347, or 0.70 of a percent, from New Year's Day 2016.

(The Census Bureau estimated Union County's population, as of July 1, 2015, was 17,408. The county's population, as shown in the 2010 census, was 17,808. The statistics were posted on the Census Bureau's website.)

Since Census Day on April 1, 2010, the population had grown by 15,564,473, or 5.04 percent.

In January 2017, the United States is expected to experience one birth every 8 seconds and one death

every 11 seconds.

Meanwhile, net international migration is expected to add one person to the U.S. population every 33 seconds.

The combination of births, deaths and net international migration will increase the U.S. population by one person every 17 seconds.

The projected world population on Jan. 1, 2017, was 7,362,350,168, an increase of 77,849,375, or 1.07 percent, from New Year's Day 2016.

During January 2017, 4.3 births and 1.8 deaths are expected worldwide every second.

The Census Bureau's U.S. and World Population Clock simulates real-time growth of the United States and world populations at www.census.gov/popclock.

Look who turned 18 on January 3rd.

Garrett Lynn Barringer!

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SPORTS

Harrisburg edges past A-J in OT at Eldorado tournament

With a 62-60 overtime loss to Harrisburg, the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School boys' basketball team was eliminated from the Eldorado Holiday Tournament Wednesday, Dec. 28.

The Wildcats, who finished the tourney with a 1-2 record, trailed 14-6 after one quarter and closed to 28-25 at the half. A-J trailed 43-42 going into the final period and tied the game 54-54 in regulation play.

"We kind of dug ourselves a hole," A-J coach Mike Chamness said. "We fought back and did some pretty good things. We just could never get a stop. We

had a chance in regulation play, but missed a couple free throws. We have to realize as a team in a big game that we have to make our free throws."

Jacob Zimmerman, who was 5 of 7 from 3-point range, led the Wildcats with 15 points.

Jake Parr had 13 points and 11 rebounds for A-J. Sheldon McGrath had 9 points and 3 rebounds.

Logan Sawyer added 6 points and 2 rebounds. Blake Pena had 6 points and a rebound.

Carson Reynolds had 5 points and a rebound. Ross Pinnon added 4 points. Izzy Markovic had 2 points and

6 rebounds.

The Wildcats were 10 of 31 in shot attempts from the floor, 10 of 16 from 3-point range and 10 of 14 from the free throw line.

The Bulldogs were 14 of 34 in shot attempts from the floor, 7 of 18 from 3-point range and 13 of 16 from the charity stripe.

Herrin 68, A- J 46: The top-seeded Tigers pulled ahead early in the tourney win Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Herrin led 15-8 after one quarter and 29-17 at the half. The Wildcats trailed 41-30 headed into the final period.

Parr, who had five 3-pointers, led the way for A-J with 23 points and 6 rebounds.

McGrath added 10 points and a rebound. Sawyer had 6 points and Reynolds added 3.

Markovic had 2 points and 6 rebounds. Zimmerman had 2 points and a rebound.

The Wildcats were 8 of 26 in shot attempts from the floor, 7 of 15 from 3-point range and 9 of 14 from the free throw line.

A-J, 5-8, is scheduled to play again Friday, Jan. 6, at Du Quoin.

"We're excited for the new year to get going," Chamness said. "We'll take a few days off and get right back at it."

Dongola falls to Elverado

Dongola fell behind early and couldn't catch up in a 75-33 loss to Elverado in the Dongola Holiday high school boys' basketball tournament Thursday, Dec. 29.

The Falcons were ahead 20-6 at the end of one quarter and 37-10 at the half.

Daylon Treat scored 7 points to lead the Demons in the loss.

Jordan Hatton, Jordan Thompson, Nathan Williams and Clayton Smith had 4 points apiece and Jacob Brown, Charlie Duty, Andrew Tarpley and Colin Hall 2 each.

Dongola is scheduled to play Thursday, today, at home against Hardin County.

Candidates filed for 2017

Cobden election

Candidates have filed nominating petitions for the 2017 municipal election in Cobden. Petitions were filed in December.

The election is slated to take place on April 4.

Candidates who filed included, by office:

Village president (or mayor): incumbent Paul Z. Tomazzoli.

Village clerk: incumbent Karen Winzenburger.

Village trustee: three positions are open. Incumbents Jean A. Britt and David Stewart filed, as did challengers Austin James Dean Sellars and Jesse Spencer.

Promotions recognized

Coffman's Martial Arts Academy in Anna announces recent white/yellow belt and yellow belt promotions. Photos provided.



White/yellow belts: In the first row are, from left, Jackson Carter, Levi Hill, Hank Goss, Sophie Hill and Tyler Shoemate. In the second row are Madison Moore, Gavin Moore, Jeffery Lence, Cody Williams, Andrew Bunch, Isaiah Martin and Memphis Morse.



Yellow belts: Ethan DeVore, Cheyenne Greer, Lily Greer, Joshua Williams, Janie Ozment and Issacc Stevens.

Anna city council allowing for use of golf carts on streets

Permit stickers are available for Anna residents who want to use golf carts for transportation in the Union County community.

The Anna City Council recently approved an ordinance allowing for the use of golf carts on municipal streets.

Jonesboro has allowed the use of golf carts on city streets for several years. Cobden also is planning to allow the use of golf carts.

In each of the Union County communities, golf cart owners are (or will be) required to obtain a permit which will allow them to use their vehicles on municipal streets.

Golf carts cannot be used on state highways. State highways, however, can be crossed to get from one municipal street to another.

Anna Police Chief Michael Hunter said he already has issued one permit for the use of a golf cart in the Union County community.

The cost of a permit

in Anna is \$35 for a year. (Those who obtain a permit after July 1 will pay \$17.50.)

Those who would like to obtain a permit can come to the Anna Police Department from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to request an application. An inspection of the golf cart will be part of the application process.

A local business, B&D Signs, created Anna's permits.

The City of Jonesboro has allowed the use of golf carts on municipal streets for about three to four years.

The city issues about two dozen permits a year for the use of golf carts on municipal streets. Permits cost \$35 a year.

Saluki Sports Update

By Fred Huff

It's a busy visit this week. The Salukis were both bad and good...actually real bad and good last week.

The Missouri Valley Conference is headed toward one of its most interesting seasons in years. And, older SIU sports fans still enjoy recalling the past.

First, and most important, this year's Salukis. They're tough to figure out. We rarely are close enough to notice if Coach Hinson has any gray hairs, but, if not, he'll probably develop a few this season.

SIU could not have been more disappointing than last week when losing to a so-so Bradley team. The Salukis simply failed to show up while losing 60-51.

Then, just a few days later, and at home, while going against an unpredictable Drake team which isn't supposed to disturb any one in the league, but was coming off back-to-back 100-point victories, Hinson's outfit played the last 25 minutes of the game as impressively as its been all season. Result: SIU 83, Drake 69.

Four players scoring in double figures. A fifth just one point short. Solid defense, rebounding and shooting. Only downside was that it took 15 minutes for the Salukis to get started and they had their sparse crowd of fans somewhat restless until they changed gears and decided to play the game.

We're not necessarily in favor of a coach getting a technical foul for being too outspoken on the sidelines, but Hinson did and we positively believe it helped ignite the Salukis who were anything but impressive at the time midway in the first half. Good win. However, remember how it's done when visiting Des Moines in just two weeks. We believe the Bulldogs will be tough to sweep.

The Valley. It still belongs to Wichita State, but the Shockers may be in for a serious challenge for the first time after years of dominance.

Both Illinois State and Missouri State are presently tied with Wichita at 2-0. That in itself doesn't mean much except that both have already scored impressive wins and seemingly are for real.

The main reason we believe the Valley is going to be a dogfight this year, however, is that several other teams, Northern Iowa, Loyola and Indiana State, all 0-2 now, are going to

win more than their share of games.

The other four teams, SIU, Evansville, Bradley and Drake, are all dangerous and have the capabilities of upsetting any team in the league. As a matter of fact, the Saluki wins will hardly be classified as "upsets" as SIU is still competent, simply not consistent.

Which brings up the past and it was mentioned by an older fan during a visit prior to the start of Sunday's game.

As mentioned here before, congratulations are due SIU's athletics administrators for planning to honor the 1967 NIT champions later this season, but what happened to making note of the school's first national title winners...the 1946 team? Perhaps it was due to the fact that it wasn't even known as the "Salukis" then. No, that's not it although until March of 1951 SIU's teams were the "Maroons." Hardly an exciting nickname.

Nevertheless, SIU took the NAIA national championship that season on its way to a 20-6 season while winning the final five decisions at Kansas City, Mo.

One reason we believe it's worth noting is that every member of the team was from Southern Illinois. Yes, there were two "outsiders" from as far away as Flora and Granite City, but all others were from within 40 miles of Carbondale.

Perhaps they'll at least get a mention at the '67 festivities. Whether they do or not, we'll go into far more detail later this year.

Medication management program starts

The Illinois Department on Aging, IDoA, has launched a medication management program.

The program is designed to help older adults with multiple chronic illnesses simplify their medication regimens and reduce the risk of admission or readmission into a hospital or other long-term care facility.

The program was scheduled to launch on Dec. 1 and will run for one year.

IDoA is partnering with Bolingbrook-based company, APC, to work collaboratively with select Care Coordination Units to provide pharmacist-led in-home visits and conduct comprehensive medication reconciliation and review.



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"The Preaching Pen"

Three Important Resolutions

What resolutions have you made - or plan to make - in 2017?


Some of the most popular ones are to lose weight, save more money, stop cursing, spend more time with family, criticize others less and read the Bible more.

While all of these are worthy goals (especially reading the Bible more), I want to suggest a few things that go beyond weight loss and saving money.


- 1. Resolve to set spiritual goals.** "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth" (Col. 3:1-2). Some examples: Study your Bible more (II Tim. 2:15; II Pet. 3:18). Strengthen your prayer life (Jas. 5:16; I Thess. 5:17). One thing is certain: if you aim at nothing, you'll hit nothing.
- 2. Resolve to be right with God.** Are you sure of your salvation? If Jesus were to return in the next few seconds, would you have confidence of your eternal security? Have you obeyed the Gospel? Endless doom awaits those who haven't (II Thess. 1:6-9). What profit is there if you gain the whole world but lose your soul? What would you give in exchange for your soul (Mt. 16:26)? Repent and be baptized if you've never done so (Acts 2:38). If you're a wayward Christian, repent and pray God's forgiveness (Acts 8:22). "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:26-31).
- 3. Resolve to do more for others.** Be more of a peacemaker (Mt. 5:9). Focus more heavily on a stronger commitment to Christ (Mt. 6:33; Gal. 2:20). Encourage others and build them up (Rom. 14:19). Be an encourager, not a complainer.

As we begin this new year, let's not limit our resolutions to losing weight and saving more money, let's establish goals that are *really* important! Let's grow "in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18). Let us at the Anna church of Christ help you.

We invite you to any of our services and wish you a great day!



R.W. McAlister, Minister
Anna church of Christ



Farmers urged to watch trends in climate change

Farmers who keep an eye on the sky and an ear tuned to the local weather report should pay attention to long-term climate change trends which may sway decisions down the road.

"Farmers ask me more questions about climate change than any other group," said Illinois state climatologist Jim Angel with the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

"Climate change affects their bottom line, so they need to know about temperature and precipitation changes that will influence their operation," Angel said in a news release.

Climate is defined as the long-term average weather, and changes in climate are

important to watch.

In Illinois, too much rain and a damp climate, especially in the spring, can lead to delayed planting, soil erosion and saturated soils.

With a 10 to 15 percent higher precipitation average annually, this trend, which started in the 1960s, has become more pronounced in the past 10 years across the Midwest.

This year Illinois experienced the third wettest July on record, and last year was the wettest June and second wettest December on record.

Temperature changes have not been as dramatic as those of precipitation, but summers have more frequent humid weather, which is uncomfortable for livestock.

High dew point tempera-

tures, a measure of humid conditions, used to be rare, Angel said.

In the past few years, these conditions are more likely to occur. With high humidity, temperatures don't cool down as much in the nighttime hours.

The milder winters experienced in the past two years in Illinois allow more pests, weeds and pathogens

to overwinter in Illinois.

Such effects of climate change may lower crop yields and quality, requiring changes in management practices.

Mild winters also coax spring plants to emerge too early, increasing their risk for a spring frost. These conditions occurred in 2007 and 2012, when apple and peach trees failed

to deliver a bountiful crop.

Angel encourages farmers to use climate change tools on the Useful to Useable (U2U) website (AgClimate4U.org).

The site features an ag climate viewer, climate patterns viewer, corn nitrogen rate calculator, probable fieldwork days and more.

U2U is an integrated research and extension project

that helps farmers adapt to climate change and make better long-term plans.

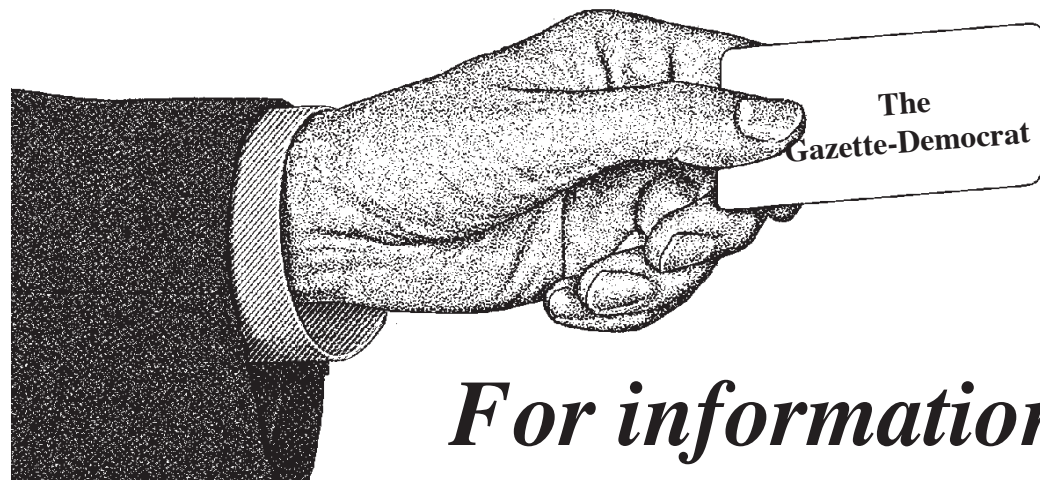
"People often compare this year with previous years, thinking this year is like it was in 2012 or 2014," Angel said.

"They try to predict future weather based on conditions from a previous year. But no two years are ever alike."



Wading in the water

A heron was spotted recently as it was wading in the water of a small pond in Union County. The image was captured early one morning along old U.S. Route 51 between Cobden and Anna. The heron waded around nearly half of the pond in a search for food.



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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

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

This full-time position supervises all maintenance staff in the rehab and updating of Housing Authority apartments, buildings and infrastructure along with the development of rehabilitation and construction projects.

Minimum Qualifications:
High School Diploma or equivalent or a minimum of four years of experience in maintenance staff supervision is preferred.

Possession of a valid State of Illinois driver's license required.

Ability to be covered under the Housing Authority's vehicle insurance policy required.

The starting wage rate for this position will be determined based upon education and experience.

Applications may be obtained at the Union County Housing Authority Office at: 131 Hillside Terrace, Anna, IL 62906 or by emailing the Executive Director at kcarter@unioncountyha.org. A valid return email address is required.

The submission deadline is 2 p.m., January 11, 2017.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
ORAN JACK LAMER,
IN PROBATE
DECEASED.
NO. 2016-P-

NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Oran Jack Lamer, of Anna, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 15, 2016, to Kathy Ginther, 8113 Hwy 38, Caledonia, WI 62249, 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 June 22, 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: December 15, 2016.

KATHY GINTHER
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR
INDEPENDENT
EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
1-3g



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

IN RE THE MATTER
OF:
Keyera Jane Morse
TO BE CHANGED TO:
Keyera Jane Keck,
A Minor.
NO. 2016-MR-167

NOTICE OF FILING
OF PETITION FOR
CHANGE OF NAME:

Notice is given to you, the public, that on Wednesday, December 21, 2016, Keyera Jane Morse, a minor, by Jennifer Jones, her mother and next friend, will request that this Court change her present name of Keyera Jane Morse to the name of Keyera Jane Keck.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at 1 p.m. at the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, Illinois.

Keyera Morse,
a minor,
by, Jennifer Jones,
her mother.
December 21, 2016
2-4gc

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 December, 2016, under the Assumed Name of M C Fabrications with the place of business located at 940 Moscow Road, Dongola, Illinois 62926 and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of said Business is:

Mary C. Cotham
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Terry Bartuff
Union County Clerk
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Furrows in a field

Furrows in a field near Ware stretch toward Illinois Route 3, a tree line and the horizon. The image was captured on a recent sunny winter afternoon.

Obituaries

Diana Kunas-Bittle

Diana Kunas-Bittle, 43, of Murphysboro, died at 3:40 a.m. Monday, Dec. 26, 2016, at St. Joseph Memorial Hospital in Murphysboro from what was determined to be strep sepsis.

She was born on Jan. 4, 1973, in Chicago, the daughter of Louie Kunas.

She combined families with Anthony “Tony” Sean Bittle on July 23, 2005, in Carbondale. The ceremony was held on their property in Carbondale, on a very hot and sweltering day. With the help of family and friends it was truly a fun day that many will remember.

She is survived by her husband, Anthony (Tony) Bittle of Carbondale; her children, Isis Kunas of Hampshire, and Louie Donald Bittle and Rudy George Bittle, both of Carbondale; one stepson, Riley Morgan Bittle of Carbondale; her father, Louie Kunas of Hampshire; two sisters, Amie (Chuck) Leucht, Myra Kunas (Ira Brooker); and one brother, Lyle Kunas.

She was preceded in death by an infant brother, George Michael Kunas.

She studied psychology at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and had hoped to complete the few hours left for her degree. She was employed most recently by Aisin Manufacturing in Marion and previously by the Southern Illinoisan. She was one of the very few who enjoyed the monotony of work in a factory. She reveled in being able to do quality work while being lost in her thoughts without interruptions for hours on end. As a voracious reader she would use her time behind the machine to consider all that she had read.

She was a member of the St. Andrew’s Catholic Church in Murphysboro, where she attended with Tony and her boys. Her family said that Dee’s kiddos were her greatest joy and accomplishment; all the way from her grown daughter, Isis, to little Rudy. The kids brought light to her life and she touched so many lives in ways she could have never imagined, from family to friends including those in the local music scene, caring community and hot rod and cafe racing lifestyle.

Funeral services for Diana Kunas-Bittle were at 11 a.m. at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home of Cobden on Saturday, Dec. 31, with Father Gary Gummersheimer officiating. Interment was in the Cobden Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to the Autism Center of SIU or to the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder at Southern Illinois University.

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

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

Robert Wayne ‘Bob’ Clark

Robert Wayne “Bob” Clark, 65, of Cobden, died at 5:16 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016, at his daughter’s home.

He was born on March 24, 1951, in Cobden, the son of Hubert Richard and Evelene Clutts Clark.

He married Martha “Marty” Richard on May 28, 1974, in Portsmouth, N.H.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Marty Clark of Cobden; three daughters, Amy (Kenny) Penrod of Dongola, Stacy (Stevie) Turner of Cobden, and Robin Clark (Ralph Carmack) of Cobden; nine grandchildren, Jessica Goodwin (Andrew Kennedy), Samantha (Ethan) Miller, Rebecca Penrod (Josh Basler), Jamie (Chris) Raines, Brandon Turner (Kelli Pearson), Matthew and Dylan Turner, Logan and Ayden Hallett; 12 great-grandchildren, Emily, Brayden and Chelsea Goodwin, Jaxson Kennedy, Savannah and Alaina Miller, Dixie Basler, Laylah Raines, Jayden Pearson, Kelsi, Kadin and Keaton Carmack; two sisters-in-law, Linda and Lucy Clark; one brother-in-law, Charles Jackson; many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Donald Wayne Clark; a grandson, Austin Wayne Clark-Towle; three brothers, John, Charley and Mart Clark; and one sister, Estella Jackson.

Mr. Clark served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1972 to 1976 as a prison guard. He worked many years for the Village of Cobden in the maintenance department. He enjoyed working on cars, fishing and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Funeral services for Mr. Clark will be at noon Thursday, today, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden, with Mike Miller officiating. Interment will be in the Ebenezer Hall Cemetery in Lick Creek. Graveside military rites will be conducted by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna and the Marine Corps funeral honor detail.

Friends can call after 10 a.m. and until the service hour at noon at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden.

Memorials can be made to Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home.

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

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

Obituaries

Online at

annanews.com

Father Peter Hsu

Father Peter Hsu, 85, of Zeigler, died at 8:08 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016, at Herrin Hospital.

He was born Dec. 15, 1931, in Jianyun, China, the son of John and Mary Mei Hsu.

He studied for seven years at St. Meinrad Seminary to become a priest. Father Peter Hsu was ordained on June 9, 1957, in Techny, for the diocese of Nanking, China.

His connection with the Diocese of Belleville began when he lived at the former St. Martin of Tours Parish in Washington Park while attending St. Louis University in St. Louis. He graduated from St. Louis University with a master’s degree in theology.

In 1978, unable to return to his own country, he was officially incardinated into the Diocese of Belleville.

Father Hsu’s ministry in the Diocese of Belleville included associate pastorates at Holy Rosary Parish in Fairmont City and St. Andrew’s in Murphysboro; hospital chaplaincies at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Murphysboro and the former St. Clement’s in Red Bud; parish administrator at the Sesser and Tamaroa parishes; and pastorates at St. Mary’s in Anna, St. Joseph’s in Prairie du Rocher, St. Aloysius in Royalton, and Sacred Heart in Zeigler.

He retired from active ministry in 1999. He was the pastor of the Royalton/Zeigler parish for 17 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and three sisters.

Surviving relatives include his niece, Han Dong-Yu of China, and his great-niece, Han Liu of China.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, today, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Royalton, with Bishop Edward Braxton, Monsignor Ken Schaefer and Monsignor Thomas Flach officiating.

Union Funeral Home in West Frankfort is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials can be made to St. John’s Catholic School in West Frankfort and/or to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church building fund.

Online condolences of sympathy can be made at www.unionfh.com.



LouElla Pender

LouElla Pender, 75, of Anna, died at 3:11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 2, 2017, at her home, surrounded by her family.

She was born on Sept. 28, 1941, in Cobden, the daughter of Edward and Cecile Earnhart Casper.

She married Gilbert Pender on March 21, 1959, in Cobden. He preceded her in death on Feb. 4, 2007.

She was a member of the Jonesboro First Baptist Church. For the past several years, she had been attending the First Baptist Church of Cobden. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends. She played dominos each Friday with a special group of ladies.

She is survived by her sons, Jeffrey Earl Pender of Anna, Brian Lee (Shelly) Pender and Dale Alan (Sandy) Pender, all of Jonesboro; grandchildren Lisa Marie Pender, Kristan Marie (Aaron) Kitterman, Daniel James (Kelly) Pender, Beth Anne Pender, Krista Lee Pender, Trey Edward Pender and Jaycee Nikole Pender; great-granddaughters Kylee Marie and Annabelle Marie Kitterman; several brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Gilbert L. “Gib” Pender; brothers Charles Casper, Frank Casper and James Casper; a daughter-in-law, Deborah Marie Pender; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Funeral services for Mrs. Pender will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with Pastor Ed Falgout officiating. Interment will be in the Ebenezer Hall Cemetery in Lick Creek.

Friends can call after 9 a.m. and until the service hour at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna.

Memorials can be made to the First Baptist Church in Cobden B-Men or the American Cancer Society.

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

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



Earl Leggans

Earl Leggans, 90, of Murphysboro, and formerly of Union County, died Sunday, Dec. 25, 2016, at 3:15 p.m. at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

He was born on May 14, 1926, in Union County, the son of Henry Crawford and Minnie Elizabeth Pruitt Leggans.

He married Evelyn Jefferson on April 30, 1948. They shared 66 years of marriage. She preceded him in death on April 25, 2015.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He was a farmer and had worked for Prairie Farms. He then was a rural mail carrier from 1964 until his retirement. He loved gardening.

He attended the First Baptist Church in Ava. He was very active in the church, serving and teaching Sunday School. He was also a minister spreading the love of God. His church family played a very important role in his life.

He is survived by his children, Joy E. Leggans of Murphysboro, Stephen (Marsha) Leggans of Columbus, Ohio, David (Lisa) Leggans of Mt. Vernon, Donald (Beverly) Leggans of Cedar Hill, Mo., and Thomas (Elizabeth) Leggans of Benton; 13 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; a sister, Betty Frick of Murphysboro; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Ruth Etta Leggans; five brothers and a sister.

Funeral services for Mr. Leggans were Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 1 p.m. at Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home, with the Rev. William Stoklosa officiating. Interment was in the Jonesboro Cemetery. Military rites were accorded.

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

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



Dolores ‘Lory’ Walker

Dolores “Lory” Walker, 87, of Vienna, died Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016, at 3:40 a.m. at her home.

She was born on June 24, 1929, in Addieville, the daughter of William and Gladys Wilke Lehde.

On Sept. 11, 1948, she married Everett “Lee” Walker in Paragould, Ark. He preceded her in death on Jan. 21, 2007.

She is survived by her daughter, Barb (her husband, Bill) Warmack of Vienna; her granddaughter, Lorylee (her husband, DeWayne) Hensley of Vienna; a great-grandson, Isaiah Hensley; and a brother, Don (his wife, Shirley) Dintelman.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Lehde and Gladys Lehde Dintelman; her husband, Lee Walker; a son, Donald Walker; and three brothers.

She was a 1947 graduate of Nashville High School. She was employed as a secretary at Southern Illinois Stone Company at Buncombe until 1980. She was a member of the former Cypress Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, Anna Moose Lodge No. 1346 and the Beggs-Gurley VFW Post No. 5222 Ladies Auxiliary. She was a member of the Zion Evangelical Church of Addieville.

She enjoyed dancing and spending time with friends. She was devoted to her family; her beloved daughter and granddaughter, Barb and Lorylee, their husbands, Bill and DeWayne, and her great-grandson, Isaiah, was her heart.

A service honoring the life of Mrs. Walker was held Sunday, Jan. 1, at 2 p.m. at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Burial was in the Cypress Masonic Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to the Disabled American Veterans, 3725 Alexander Pike, Cold Spring, Ky. 41076 (www.dav.org).

To share a memory or to leave a message of condolence for the family, visit www.baileyfh.com.

Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna was in charge of arrangements.



Eve-Anna Hazel Kay Clover

Eve-Anna Hazel Kay Clover, infant daughter of Micheal and Kaelyn (Thomas) Clover of Vienna, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016, at the St. Louis Children’s Hospital in St. Louis.

Eve-Anna was born Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. At birth, she weighed 1 pound and 1 ounce and was 11.7 inches long.

She is survived by her parents of Vienna; one sister, Emery Ada-Lynn Rose Clover of Vienna; maternal grandparents Melissa Reynolds of Marion, and Robert Thomas Jr. of Carbondale, paternal grandparents Adrian Clover of Marion and Lennet Gibbs of Springfield, Mo.; great-grandparents Sherry and Robert Thomas of Jonesboro, Sherry Reynolds of Cobden, Anna Heape of Dowell, Russel Clover of O’Fallon and Susan Taylor of West Frankfort.

She was preceded in death by her great-grandparents, Jeff Reynolds and Donald Heape.

A memorial service will be held at Searby Funeral Home in Du Quoin on Sunday, Jan. 8, at noon. There will be a visitation from 11 a.m. until the time of service. Pastor Bon Reynolds of the First Church of God in Anna, will be officiating.

Friends can make memorials to the family to help with expenses and will be accepted at the funeral home.



Sheilah Ann Whittington

Sheilah A. Whittington, 60, of Anna, died at 12:25 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016, at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

She was born on Feb. 15, 1956, in Anna, the daughter of Lawrence and Louise Wall Lazenby.

She married James Whittington on May 6, 1989, in Anna.

She is survived by her husband, James Whittington of Anna; one son, Benjamin Whittington of Anna; two stepdaughters, Tawana Whittington of Dix and Tara (Bernie) Smith of McLeansboro; one step-grandson; a brother, Dewayne (Jean) Lazenby of Burlington, Wis.; a half-brother, Elbert (Shirley) Claridy of Anna; two sisters-in-law, Elenor Claridy of Anna and Dorothy Claridy of West Frankfort; nieces and nephews; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

She worked many years for Blue Cross Blue Shield, as a CNA at the Illinois Veterans Home in Anna and also was a volunteer for Hospice of Southern Illinois.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 6, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with the Rev. Scott Harner officiating. Interment will be in the Anna City Cemetery.

Friends can call from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, today, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna.

Memorials can be made to Hospice of Southern Illinois.

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

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



Jonesboro band, choir perform

Band and choir students in 5th through 8th grade at Jonesboro Grade School performed for the Alexander-Pulaski-Union Retired Teachers Association, APURTA, on Dec. 6. Their performance was at the Great Boars of Fire between Anna and Cobden. Photos provided.



2017 Girl Scout Cookie Program to begin Jan. 6

The 2017 Girl Scout Cookie Program is here. This year marks the celebration of 100 years of Girl Scouts selling cookies.

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois, GSSI, plans to kick off the iconic cookie program Jan. 6-8 during the first Cookie Booth Weekend of the season.

At the cookie booths, customers can purchase cookies directly from troops who plan to set up at local establishments throughout Southern Illinois.

From Jan. 7 to Jan. 28, Girl Scouts will take orders for cookies, which are scheduled to be delivered in late February. To get connected to a Girl Scout in the area, call 800-345-6858 or visit <http://bit.ly/CookieFinder>.

Customer demand for Girl Scout Cookies following delivery has been high historically, so additional Cookie Booth Weekends are being planned from late February through March.

In addition to cookie booths and traditional orders, girls will also be able to sell Girl Scout cookies online through a safe, interactive platform called Digital Cookie.

Digital Cookie combines traditional sales activities with today's technology to help girls learn more about online marketing and e-commerce.

Girls are able to customize their personal sales website and then use e-mail to invite friends and family to order cookies from the comfort of their home.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led business in the country and generates immeasurable benefits for girls and their communities.

Girls develop five valuable skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics.

They also earn money to support activities, to fund community service and leadership projects, to attend summer camp and to travel to destinations near and far.

In addition, proceeds from the program help GSSI recruit and train adult volunteers, provide financial assistance so Girl Scouting is available to all girls, maintain camp properties and develop and deliver

quality program activities for girls.

The first known sale of cookies by Girl Scouts occurred in 1917, when a troop from Muskogee, Okla., baked cookies and sold them in the high school cafeteria to fund a service project.

Starting from its momentous, first known sale, Girl Scout cookies have gone on to become an indelible part of American pop culture and history.

Today, nearly 1 million Girl Scouts participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program.

The Girl Scout Mission is: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

Today's Girl Scouts not only experience camping and crafts, but they also explore math and science and learn about diversity, good citizenship, leadership and teamwork.

Girl Scouts helps transform girls into GIRLs (Go-getters, Innovators, Risk-takers, Leaders) as they learn essential life skills that will stay with them forever.

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois serves 13,000 girls and 4,800 adult volunteers in more than 40 counties in Southern Illinois.

Girl Scouting has involved more than 50 million girls and women since its founding in 1912.

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois is a not-for-profit organization supported by various United Ways throughout the region.

Rural Health welcomes dentist to health care staff



Dr. Brittany Scanlon

Dr. Brittany Scanlon has joined the staff of Rural Health Inc. as a dentist at the agency's Anna clinic.

She is originally from Brighton, which is near St. Louis.

She earned her undergraduate degree at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She continued her education at the SIU School of Dental Medicine in Alton.

Scanlon discovered she wanted to become a dentist in high school, where she was asked to write an essay about what she wanted to be when she grew up.

At the time, she wasn't sure, but decided to write about becoming a dentist. Ever since then, she pursued and obtained that goal.

Moving to Southern Illinois was easy for her after school.

"I fell in love with the area," Scanlon said.

She is currently taking new patients. She is available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information or to make an appointment, call Rural Health in Anna at 833-4471.

Candidates file for election in Jonesboro

Five incumbents have filed for reelection in the April election in Jonesboro.

Candidates filed their nominating petitions in December.

The candidates who filed for election (or reelection) include, by office:

Mayor: incumbent Ken Blandford.

City clerk: incumbent Barbara Casper.

City treasurer: incumbent Shelly Pender.

Ward 1 alderman: incumbent Bart Hileman.

Ward 2 alderman: incumbent Lance Meisenheimer.

Ward 3 alderman: Ken Carlson.

In Memory

*A thousand times we needed you,
A thousand times we cried.
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.
A heart of gold stopped beating,
Two twinkling eyes closed to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove he only took the best.
Never a day goes by that you are not in my heart and my soul.*

Bobby Brimm Family

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Reynoldsville News

By Sue Eudy

Our sympathy to Avery and Bonnie Mouser and family on the death of Avery's brother, Stanley Mouser of McClure, on Christmas Day.

David and Kristy Miller of St. Charles, Mo., and Shirley Miller of McClure visited last Tuesday with Steve Eudy of Anna.

Julie Burtin of West Royal Palm Beach, Fla., spent last week visiting with her parents, Penny and Kerry Hill of McClure, and other family.

Dolores and Jack Reynolds of Reynoldsville and Barb and Edwin Livesay of Anna enjoyed eating at El Acapulco in Cape Girardeau on New Year's Eve.

Those having New Year's dinner at the home of Dolores and Jack Reynolds were, Greg, Amy and Valley Reynolds and Jackie and Jay Jennings, all of Reynoldsville, and Jessie and Andrew Livesay of Wolf Lake.

Ryan Wachter of Jonesboro visited with Sue and Steve Eudy on New Year's

Day.

Debbie Mays of Anna, Sandy Partridge of Cobden and Diane Eulinger of California, Mo., visited with their dad, Wilburn Gibbs, at River to River.

Penny Hill and Shirley Miller of McClure, Kristy Miller of St. Charles, Mo., Kacie Gollhofer of Carbondale and Julie Burtin of West Royal Palm Beach, Fla., enjoyed shopping in Cape Girardeau last Monday.

Monday evening Kerry and Penny Hill, David and Kristy Miller, Eric and Julie Burtin, Derek and Kacie Gollhofer and Shirley Miller enjoyed eating at Cracker Barrel in Marion.

Those eating at Pizza Hut in Anna on Tuesday were Ermadell Elkins and friend Amanda and daughter, Aubree, Tammy Davis, Jady Samuels, Tyler and Alexa Hinkle, all of Anna, Deanie and Jerry Hinkle of Jonesboro, David and Kristy Miller and Shirley Miller.

Visiting Wednesday with

Shirley Miller were Annette Werner of Jackson, Mo., and her sisters, Linda of St. Louis and Sheila of Perryville, Mo., and niece Heather of Kansas City.

Recent visitors of Maxine and Fred Pender were Tony, Krista, Richard, Conner and Bailey Pender of Metropolis and Gary Gibbs of Jonesboro.

Maxine Pender, Lori Pender of Jonesboro and Kristin Pender from the University of Indiana shopped in Cape Girardeau one day last week.

Our sympathy to the family of Louella Pender of Anna, who died Monday, Jan. 2. She was the sister-in-law of Fred and Maxine Pender.

You are invited to attend services at Reynoldsville Missionary Baptist Church. Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. Morning worship at 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening worship service at 6 p.m. Rev. Jamie Bridgeman is the pastor.

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Salesman of the Year
STEVE HAYNES

Steve Haynes of Marion, Illinois, formerly of Anna, Illinois, has received the 2016 Salesman of the Year Award at Weeks Chevrolet-Buick-GMC in West Frankfort. Steve has been at Weeks for 22 years and has received the Salesman of the Year Award 21 times. Steve would like to extend this warm thanks to all of his friends, family and loyal customers for helping him accomplish his high sales volume. Steve and Weeks Chevrolet-Buick-GMC would like to invite you to our dealership and to make us your choice for a new Chevrolet-Buick-GMC or pre-owned vehicle in 2017.

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Toy donation

Phillip McGrath's Edward Jones' office in downtown Anna donated toys to the Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center on Tuesday, Dec. 27. The toys were part of a drive the Edward Jones office held during a holiday season open house. From left are executive director of Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center Shalynn Malone, child advocacy coordinator Tracie Griffith and Edward Jones financial advisor Phillip McGrath. Photo by Lindsey Rae Vaughn.

Union County Hospital offering assistance in health insurance signup

Union County Hospital in Anna notes that for those who are uninsured, there's still time to sign up for health insurance and avoid the penalty.

"With many people lacking access to a computer or just need help maneuvering through the Marketplace website, our application counselor can help," Union County Hospital CEO Jim Farris said in a news release.

"We can assist individuals and their families evaluate the available health plans and determine if they're eligible for Medicaid or other insurance options. But you have to call for an appoint-

ment; open enrollment ends January 31."

The penalty fee for not having insurance has increased this year.

Those who can afford health insurance coverage, but don't sign up, may have to pay a penalty. For more information about this year's penalty fees, visit healthcare.gov/fees.

The good news is that based on household income and dependents, some individuals may qualify for financial assistance from the government, or subsidies, towards the cost of the premium and other financial obligations like co-pays or deductibles.

Some of the mandatory benefits included in all Marketplace plans include doctor visits, prescription drugs, hospital and emergency department care, lab services, pediatric care, and free preventive and wellness services.

Coverage cannot be denied for individuals with a pre-existing health condition.

"Let us help take the frustration out of the enrollment process. Call 833-1032 for an appointment before January 31 and let us help you get a healthy start to the New Year," Farris said.

Band uniform purchase, coaching assignments on A-J Board agenda

The purchase of new band uniforms, coaching assignments and student activities were among the highlights on the agenda at December's regular meeting of the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School District No. 81 Board of Education.

Band teacher Renee McLain brought information to the board regarding the purchase of new band uniforms.

Two students accompanied McLain at the meeting. The students were wearing both the old uniform and a sample of the new, proposed uniform.

The board subsequently approved the allocation of up to \$21,000 for the purchase of new band uniforms.

Additional highlights from the minutes of the December meeting included:

Trenton Newberry and Hunter Miller represented the A-JCHS Student Council.

They reported that an American Red Cross blood drive is planned from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 19.

Plans are underway for a Soup-er Bowl event at the end of January and continuing into the first week of February. Items will be collected for a local food pantry.

Amy Fitzgerald-Wilson represented A-JCHS teachers at the meeting.

She reported that on Dec. 17, A-JCHS students organized a Super Smash Bros. tournament. To enter the tournament, students brought an item for Toys for Tots.

Twenty people entered the tournament, with many bringing more than one toy. Organizers noted that events like the tournament help to reach students who may not be involved in other clubs or teams, which gives them ties to the school.

Junior high students also entered the tournament, which helped to give them ties to the school.

Teacher Alysha Bottje was asked to go on the show the Spiel on Fox 23 and talk about the salad bar and nutrition posters at A-JCHS. She took Makenzie Boget and Kortnie Bonner with her and they helped to make some healthy dishes on the show. The episode is slated to air sometime during January.

The faculty donated more than \$100 for a Walmart gift card to give to an A-JCHS student for the holidays.

In November, the Art Club collected money and donated more than \$300 to the WIBH radio New Coats New Hope campaign.

Students also collected items for Toys for Tots for Christmas. Two dozen toys were donated for children in the Southern Illinois area.

Auditions were held for the spring production of the musical "The Sound of Music." Thirty-seven students auditioned for the production. Auditions are planned during January for grade school and middle school students. The stage crew has been working and set construction is well underway.

The board approved Grover Mays as assistant wrestling coach.

Chase Hargrave and Andrew Adams were approved as volunteer wrestling coaches, pending certification and background checks.

Morgan Musiou was approved as assistant soccer coach.

David Galvin was approved as volunteer soccer coach, pending certification and background checks.

Eric Osman was approved as volunteer softball coach, pending certification and background check.

Jason Sadler was approved as assistant softball coach.

Thomas Corbit was approved as assistant baseball coach.



Coats donated

The Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center, the Children's Medical and Mental Health Resource Network and Southern Seven Head Start all received 414 coats from the WIBH New Coats, New Hope campaign that took place in December. The coat sizes ranged from 3T to adult large. Those who may be in need of a coat can contact any of the participating agencies for more information. There will be no questions asked and no paperwork needs to be filled out.

In the first row are, from left, Natasha Miller, Spencer Crotser and Gwynevere Deaton. In the second row are Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center executive director Shalynn Malone, Children's Medical and Mental Health Resource Network LCSW Ginger Meyer, Children's Medical and Mental Health Resource Network medical assistant Natalie Linton, preventionist specialist Linda Poindexter, WIBH sales and promotion manager Shawna Rhine and child advocacy coordinator Tracie Griffith. Photo by Lindsey Rae Vaughn.

Farm Bureau foundation scholarships support agriculture, families

Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau, IFB, members and their children are eligible to apply for 71 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm.

The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500 per year, will be awarded in total of \$143,400 for the 2017-2018 school year.

Students can apply for a variety of scholarships, including three IAA Foundation Top Scholarships, where winners will each receive \$5,000 awards.

Another \$7,500 award goes to the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership scholarship winner.

In addition to family scholarships often established to honor the memory of a loved one, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of organizations, such as Prairie Farms Dairy and the Illinois Soybean Association.

The foundation notes that all applicants must be high school seniors accepted for enrollment, or students already enrolled at an accredited college, university or community college.

Scholarships are awarded for exceptional academic ability, leadership and financial need.

Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again.

A full listing of available scholarships, eligibility guidelines and application documents are available on the foundation's website, www.iaafoundation.org.

Applications are to be submitted online by the deadline of Feb. 1.

For more information, contact the Union County Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2230 or e-mail Susan Moore, director of the IAA Foundation, at smoore@ilfb.org.

The mission of the IAA Foundation is to fund education, research and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.

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Remembering those who passed away during 2016

Following is a listing of the names of those who passed away and whose obituaries appeared in The Gazette-Democrat during 2016:

January

Jan. 7. Dr. Jack English Bizzel. Juanita Mays Dume. Lucille Willis Miller. Irene Patricia Morris Phillips.

Jan. 14. Virginia L. Casper. Roger D. Cavness. Evelyn Anita Eckestein. Norman Douglas Harvell. Dorris Ann Olney. Jarrell Alex Petersheim. Cecile Schlenker. Marian Watkins. Harvey M. Weaver. Ralph "RJ" Williams.

Jan. 21. Charles W. "Chuck" Harvel.

Jan. 28. Tammy H. Bachtel-Curtis. Joyce Ann Barnhart. Rebecca R. Lutz Brimm. Scott Brothers. Carl R. Childers. Dorothy Ellen Dexter. Ricky Wayne Garrett. Curtis Mayberry Jr. Sadie B. Randolph. Craig H. (Ziggy) Siegfried. Kenneth E. Smith. Herman L. Stokes. Ruby J. Youngblood Tweedy. Harold Bernard Vaughn.

February

Feb. 4. Mabel C. Adams. Howard R. "Bud" Davie. William "Bill" Davis. Della Bernice Dillow. Louise Gee. Helen M. Hilton. Edith Ann "Edie" Ice. James B. Morrison.

Feb. 11. Ada Ann Clemens. Dale Hunt. Violet A. Lence. Shirley Ann Ralls. Betty Mae Rhymer. Sonya Diane Sukowski. Leslie W. "Bill" Wright.

Feb. 18. Matthew Layne Henderson. Alice Joy Berrier Keller. Janice E. Paris. Merle L. Poole. Ruth Eileen Schluter Trampe.

Feb. 25. Lynn Evans. Mary Lou Frick. Jay "JB" Hooker. Louise V. "Mamaw" Shelton. Jim Tadlock.

March

March 3. Rick J. Dailey. Donald L. Smith.

March 10. Linda Kay Darling. Christy Parks. Patricia "Pat" Shuler.

March 17. Tim "Razor" Ballance. Audrey Aline Bracken. Debbie Dangbar. Deborah Jordan Ablett-Miner. William O. Sanders. March 24. David Webb Jordan. Mary L. Livesay. Hubert Morgan. Nancy Murray. Delores Ann Woodard.

March 31. Betty Jean Odle Hutton. Colby Lee Miller. William "Bill" Noble Sr.

April

April 7. Gary L. Buckner. John W. Carter. Lanita Jean Cross. William Lawrence (Billy) Grisham. Donald E. "Don" Qualls.

April 14. Tracy Alan Alsip. James L. Carr. Kathleen Dunkin. Luise Lautewasser Earnhart. Richard

W. Wright.

April 21. Danny M. Corzine. William R. "Bill" Farris. Clay Coleman Ramsey. George "Bud" Stout. Liberty M. Throgmorton. Robert G. Wickman. Raymon "Jim" Wilson. James D. Willyerd Sr.

April 28. Laura Brimm Black. Elizabeth Keith. Martha Sue Parker Macy. Georgia Wilson. Herbert A. Womick Jr.

May

May 5. Jason Michael Jauch. Peggy Lou Will Kerley. Harold D. Myers. Scott Matthew Pewo. Berry Sharp. Willamae North Weller.

May 12. Fred E. Cavaness. Stevan Knavel. Brenda Sue Roach.

May 19. Thomas N. "Tom" Greenwood. Carol Bernice Hickam. Danny Honey. Randall Scott Houston. Mary "Ruth" Lessar. Billy Gene Osman. Joan Ann Vicory.

May 26. Ethel Mae Blunt. Sue Lockard Brimm. Johnny Ray "Bam Bam" New. Mable Margaret Smith. Doris Elizabeth Andrews West.

June

June 2. Paul Morgan. Katherine A. Swink. Tina Warden.

June 9. Eric Graham "Bubba" Baker. Norma Lea Plott Batson. James A. Basse. Scott Cook. Aline Dollman. Kathleen M. Donna. Estella M. Jackson. Lydia M. Wells Kern. Rebecca Jo Ferguson Sweeney.

June 16. Reuben T. Hawkins. Donald Wayne Lamb Sr. Cathie Maginel.

June 23. Michael Larry Kerr. Steven V. Mainer. Norma Vaughn.

June 30. Bobby Joe Murray. Mary V. Reames. Lonnie Smith. Roger Turner. Steven M. Wright.

July

July 7. Ruth Aldridge. Mary Belle Brown. Sharon M. Casey. Dannie H. Chapman Jr. Raymond Faire. Esther Grimm. Jeraldine E. Langham. Lorene V. Musgrave Jones. John Lloyd McGaha. Patricia L. Musgraves. Gary Gene Phillips.

July 14. Arthur Jay Bigler. Ruth Hankla. Nancee M. Morrison. Kasi Sue Townley. Bobby Dean "Bob" Williams.

July 21. Judith Marie DuBois. Nancy O'Daniel. Billy Dean Tutt. Lloyd Leonard Vines Jr.

July 28. Phillip T. Egelston. Sidney Lee Myers. Julia Artheene Van Demark Rowe. Kathy Wood.

August

Aug. 4. Joshua Everett Estes. Shawn Holbrook.

August 4. Joshua Everett Estes. Shawn Holbrook. Charlene Kozora. Howard H. Lambert. Ruby C. McCann. Dorothy E. Wood. Ruby Mae Yarber.

Aug. 11. Mildred Geraldine Allen. Houston Casper. Bill Farris. Carol Lee Hunter. William "Bill" Mallams. Lou Etta Rion. Cindy Qualls.

Aug. 18. Roger Wayne Coleman. Ethel "Dolly" Colson. John Peter Grimm. Beverly J. McKinney. Bob Shepard. Joann Spiller.

Aug. 25. Kay Coleman. Joan M. Kennedy. Deloris Miller. Hazel Morgan Proveaux. Carrie Joy VanAmburg Teller. John Harley Wilkins II.

September

Sept. 1. Irma L. Black. Kevin Edward Brown. August Paul Layman. Joyce Ann Russo.

Sept. 8. Gerald Eugene "Eagle" Cain. Alfred C. Craft. Virginia Imogene Glasco. Jackie Hale. Barbara Sue Hubbs. Lizzie Iona LaCroix. Thomas O. "Tommy" Norton III. Johnnie L. Pleasant. Betty Goins Schultz. Jimmie Dale Smith.

Sept. 15. Maria Del Refugio Amesquita. Doris J. Bennett. Arthur E. Burke. William Dean Elsner. Edwin A. Flamm. Raymond Furlow. Roy Glenn Lamer. Margaret G. Prewitt Lavender. Mamie Lou Turner McMillion. Mildred Marcinkowski. Geraldine Smith. Maxine Williamson.

Sept. 22. James H. "Blackie" Mueller. Tim Huckleberry. Anita G. Hurst. Shane Lee Laminack. Iris Mae Sheridan. Josephine Louise Sheridan. Don C. Swink.

Sept. 29. Mathis Hoyle "Hat" Ayers. Raymond (Cub) Samuel Boner. William R. "Bill" Brown. Dr. Sandra Karraker Cassity. Clara Cavitt. Laura A. Eichhorst. Rae Evelyn King. Ruth Kohler Howerton. William Thomas "Tom" Robinson III. Clifford Harold Wright.

October

Oct. 6. George A. "G.A." Clymore. Linda M. Houston. Melvin E. "Tunney" Isom. Kenneth H. Kohler. Steven Lewis Johnson. Donna Mount. Judith Ann Ferguson-Parks. C. Eugene Phillips.

Oct. 13. Daniel E. "Bud" Emery. Tyler John Glidewell. Kathryn June Hileman Harris. Donald "Butch" Kesler. Jo Rion. Marcella Teller.

Oct. 20. Doris Faye Bass. Peggy Sue Bourland. Dr. Ben Cauble. Jeffrey Wade Davis. Betty Fisher. William Pollitt "Bill" Hensch. Clifford Jones. Mildred D.

"Ducky" Kohler. Stanley Frank Kozak. Joe Lyerla.

Oct. 27. Maudie Lou Hart. Shelby Sims.

November

Nov. 3. Brenda Sims Bennett. Steven Dale Ebert. Earl Farnum. James "Jamie" Fischer. Curtis E. "Corky" Hartline. Carroll Mowery. Evelyn Jeanne Pruehsner. Jeffrey Richard Rivers.

Nov. 10. Larry L. "Macho" Anderson. Chad M. Buchanan. Linda Kay Kreyling. Marilyn K. Moreland.

Nov. 17. Fran White-Boes. Elizabeth Abernathy Lawrence. Anita Joyce

Shafer. John B. Shelton Jr. Wilma Swadener.

Nov. 24. Darold Dee Billings. Robert Eugene Davis. Roy Wallace Frick. Charles Larry Lasley. Mike Pind. Mable Aline Russell. Dorothy Spurlock. Jerry W. Tripp.

December

Dec. 1. Barbara Kathleen Aldridge. Iretha "Rease" Carmack Bible. Gerald Halterman. George Gerald "Jerry" Lacy. Marilyn Rushing Owens. William Vancil "Van" Penrod. Charlie D. Sisk. Bell Warren.

Dec. 8. Donna Parmly Donaldson. Evan Vernell Eastman. Eugene H. Kohler.

Oran "Jack" Lamer.

Dec. 15. Nellie Mae Wright Dillow. Martin D. "Marty" Filter. John E. Gearing. Lucille Osman. Betty Severs. Patti Wagner.

Dec. 22. Marie Clayton. Paul Edward Simpkins.

Dec. 29. Mart M. Clark Sr. Janet Sue Easton. Norma Jean Graham. Doris Ann Isom. Clyde William "Bill" Reed. Janis Kay Smith. William J. "Bill" Wade.

(Editor's note: every effort was made to include a complete listing of all of the obituaries which appeared in the newspaper during 2016.)

Arts council/center plan variety of events in coming months

A wide variety of special events are on the Shawnee Hills Arts Council/Anna Arts Center calendar in coming months.

The arts council is located at 125 W. Davie St. in Anna.

Blend Concert

The schedule of events is scheduled to begin with an a capella doo wop concert featuring Blend at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12. Tickets are \$10 each and will be available at the door.

Exhibit Reception

A table runner quilts and quilts exhibit reception is planned from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Jan. 29. Admission is free. The exhibit is scheduled from Jan. 29 through Feb. 21.

Adopt a Flamingo

An opportunity will be available to adopt a "naked flamingo" to dress and enter in an exhibit. The adoption fee is \$5.

Prizes will be awarded for the best dressed, most original and funniest flamingos.

Flamingos can be adopted between Jan. 23 and Feb. 17; hours at the arts center are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dressed flamingos are to be returned to the arts center Feb. 20-23, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

An exhibit featuring the flamingos is scheduled to open Feb. 24. The flamingos will be on display through March 4.

An awards reception and auction are planned March 4; the auction begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission to the reception is free.

Proceeds generated by the event will go to the arts center's capital develop-

ment fund (specifically toward replacing restrooms in the performing arts building.)

Civil War Weekend

The arts council/arts center again plan to host a Civil War Weekend, with activities planned Feb. 16-19.

The weekend is scheduled to feature a play, a dinner with a guest speaker, other guest speakers, exhibits, reenactors, a tour and more. Some of the events will have an admission fee, while some will be free.

Reader's Theatre

A reader's theatre performance of Steve Falcone's "Bible Studies: A Newer Look at the Old Testament" is set for 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26. Admission will be \$5 at the door.

Spring Art Exhibit

A spring art exhibit is planned from April 3 through May 7. A reception is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on May 7. Works for the exhibit are due at the arts center by March 31.

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The arts council/arts center's Paint the Town event is planned from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 8.

Those who attend will have a chance to paint a picture on a parking lot.

Children's Production

"Scenes from Alice," written by Dr. Lynn Stevenson, is scheduled to be presented as an annual children's production.

Performances are set for 7 p.m. April 28-29 and 2 p.m. April 30.

Adult Prom

A Moonlight Magic adult prom is set for 7 p.m. May 5. Tickets are \$10 per person.

For More Information

For more information about the events, visit www.facebook.com/AnnaArtsCenter, call 904-625-1109 or email vabchlee@gmail.com.

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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.



Mr. and Mrs. Tanner and Halie Starling were married Dec. 3.



Mia Denice Lou Comte's 10th birthday was Dec. 29.



Grandchildren Keira and Kellan from Austin, Texas, visited John and Tracee Foley for Christmas.

Back Home for the New Year

Linda and Dennis Kall are so happy to report they found their cat Sly. They really appreciated all the help everyone gave them while he was lost.

United Methodist Church, Anna

Happy birthday to Rev. Carl Johnston.

Sunday morning Holy Communion was taken. Barbara House led the singing.

Rev. Carl Johnston's sermon was titled "A Time For Everything," with scripture from Ecclesiastes.

Sunday, Jan. 8, the church youth group will meet from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Anyone 4th grade and up is welcome to join.

January mission focus will be collecting soup for Bethany Village.

Birthdays

Jan. 1 Connie Boyd, Pete Housman, Linda Lyerla, Sue Brumleve, Jan. 11 Matthew Meller.

44th Anniversary

Ken and Lisa Stone celebrated their anniversary Dec. 31.

60th Anniversary

Happy wedding anniversary today, Jan. 5, to Jerry and Mary Ellen Meyer.

New Year's Guests

Barbara and Norm Bauer enjoyed 19 guests New Year's Eve and New Year's Day for a Christmas/New Year family get together.

Christmas Guest

Guest of Sandy and Kay Johnston was their daughter Kim of Vienna.

Sympathy

Sympathy to the family of Sheila Whittington. Sheila was a wonderful person always helping others. She was as asset to our community and will be missed by her family, fur family and many friends.

Christmas Guests

Guests of John and Tracee Foley were their family from Austin, Texas: Matthew, Emily, Keira and Kellan.

Boyd Cousins Annual Christmas Get-Together

Frank and Linda LaFoon hosted the Boyd family cousins on the evening of Dec. 26.

Their children Boyd and Heather LaFoon of Champaign were there with children Kami, Max and Maggie. Amy and James Wilde from Chicago were in attendance with their children Austin, Campbell, Naomi and Adeline.

Bill and Jane Boyd of Carbondale were there to enjoy the party. Bill's children were also all able to be there for the family gathering, including Beth Boyd and Kate from Grand Ledge, Mich., and Kate's friend, Bryce Wright. Zac Boyd of Kalamazoo, Mich., Bridget Greene and Casey of Kernersville, N.C., Jennifer Covington Hershberger of Raleigh, N.C., and her husband, Troy. Thomas Covington of Asheville, N.C., and his friend Tiffany Sheets. Abby Woodward of High Point, N.C., and her daughter Megan Woodward of Charlotte, N.C., and son, Josh of Washington, D.C. Steve Woodward left early to return to North Carolina to work the next day.

It was a fun gathering with lots of good food and games. The Boyd cousins always look forward to their annual get-together.

VFW

Peggy will be at the VFW Friday, Jan. 6, with her Star Karaoke from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be a fish fry from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Christmas Dinner

Family members gathered at the home of Louie and Tina Bryant for a Christmas dinner on the Monday after Christmas.

Those attending were Pam and Will Bracken, Mary Dew, Jon and Elizabeth, Robert and Amber Mayberry and daughters.

Christmas Day

Christmas Day guests of Betty Eagle were Valerie Murray, Josh, Layne, and Matthew Murray and Jade Williams of Jonesboro and Robert, Emily, Ryan, Erin and Ethan Gaddis of Cartersville.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner guests of Mary and Carlson Light were Darla, Jason, Cheyenne and Shaylee Lingle and Barbara Hash and husband Juan from Texas.

Christmas Guests

Guests of Brenda Kelley were her son, Joey Smith and his wife Stacy and her grandchildren Carmin and Tytan visited on Friday.

On Christmas Day Brenda went to her sister Ruth Wood and her daughter Sandi Dowdy from Ullin and had dinner with them.

Christmas Dinner

Guests of Sherry and Bob Yother were Scott, Tina and Hunter McCommons, Zach, Callie and Bella, Dinsmore, Shelby Stanley, JR and Kayla Pennell.

Christmas

C.J. and Amy Mize and their daughters Madison, Korina and Britni Horton and Ryan, along with Amy's grandchildren Azalea, Mason, Willow and Simon, enjoyed Christmas Eve visiting with Amy's parents Darlene and Barry Henard at their home in Dongola surrounded by her siblings, Danny Johnson, Melissa Teske, husband Dave and their children Dale Prater and Drue Teske.

They shared great food and laughter as the kids entertained.

Christmas Day was spent with C.J.'s family at his parents home in Jonesboro. His brother Sean Mize, wife Shonna and children Josh and Raelynn were in from Evansville, Ind.

His mother Gigi and Ralph cooked a wonderful dinner and afterwards, all enjoyed board games to finish off the evening.

Special visitors throughout the holiday were friends Shell and Jenna Duskey, Jeff Webb, Shauna and Joey Halphen, Cameron and Emele, aunt Charlene and uncle Chuck Hoover, Pete and daughter Addyson Zeschke.

Madison has taken full advantage of her time off of school, spending two days at her friend Addyson's house, another two nights with her friend Liberty McGill, then at a lock-in at Caledonia with her friend Olivia. Korina enjoyed last night at her grandma Henard's.

Get Well Wishes

So many people have had the flu and pneumonia. I am praying everyone is well and off to a great start for 2017. I took the flu shot but still got the flu so I know it is rough.

New Year's Guests

Guest of Clara and Gaylon Cates was their son Gaylon Wayne from Chicago.

Cobden Shop With a Cop

Anna and Jonesboro has been blessed with the Shop with a Cop and Fireman.

This year Cobden Police Department, who was able to start the program in 2015 for Cobden School District 17, are happy the program continues through donations from businesses and individuals, as well as any grants they are able to obtain.

They are planning for several fundraisers in the upcoming months to help support the program.

Donations can be made at the Cobden Village Hall, and are accepted throughout the year.

The first year the program was able to provide 10 children with a meal, followed by a shopping trip.

This year the program brought joy to 15 children with a meal and a shopping trip.

After the meal, the children were escorted to Walmart by a parade of emergency vehicles. Once at Walmart, the children were paired with a police officer and allowed to shop for any item they chose, from toys and games, to clothes and makeup.

Five children were also given gifts that were donated by community members and businesses.

After the children completed their shopping, Walmart employees provided each child with a large stocking stuffed full of items. The employees held fundraisers throughout the year and used the proceeds to provide these stockings.

Special thanks to Casey's in Jonesboro for the meal and to Anna Walmart for their assistance with this experience. Thanks to the volunteers who stepped up to assist with the shopping and fundraisers throughout the year, and to the businesses and individuals who gave monetary donations. Without the support of this great community, this program could not succeed.

Donations for Jonesboro can be made at Jonesboro City Hall. Donations for Anna can be given to Anna Fire Chief Gary Rider and Anna Police Chief Mike Hunter.

Caring Community

We have a wonderful community of caring and loving people.

So many places for people to have a great Christmas with all the free community meals at our churches, Plentiful Packs at the schools, food at Shawnee Development Council and Bethany Village.

Gifts were given from many churches through Union County Counseling Services, free coats sponsored by WIBH.

Food was taken to homes for people in need and shut-ins. Needs through the Alliance of Churches.

I believe if anyone in our community is in need there is someone willing to help them. This kindness is not only at Christmas but all year. May God bless everyone with a wonderful new year.

Christmas Dinner

Guests of John and Angie Bryant for Christmas dinner on Monday were Jason and Callie from Anna, Toni and Kim from Anna, Jeremy, Stephanie, Elizabeth and Ben from Tennessee and Tim, Andrea and Paige from Cobden.

On Wednesday Lacey, Jason, John, Shaq and Angie had another Christmas lunch. Lacey had to work Monday when they got together.

New Year's Trip

Brynn and Isaac Edwards, Melissa McCord, and Kay James went to Norris City and Carmi to visit Vicki James and her two grandchildren Isabella and Sebastian Wadsworth.

Then they visited cousins Kristi Tolley-Treffitz and Alena Tolley. A great surprise was getting to visit cousin Cody, his girlfriend Loretta and son Raylon. They went by the cemetery and put flowers on their Pa Pa's grave.

Birthdays

Dec. 28 Ione Rogers, Jackie Hoffman, Terry Marshall, Anthony Lincoln, Dec. 29 Pam Bracken, Bill Haney, Dec. 31 Audrey Davis, Curt Lyerla

Wedding Anniversary

Dec. 28 Mary and Jake Knight, Dec. 29 Dennis and Kenna Howell, married 49 years. Dec. 31 Sondra and Richard Bradford 44 years.

Christmas Guests

Linda Comte's guests were her niece Ruth Hurley from St. Louis, so she could see her cousin Tonya she hadn't seen since she was little girl. Ruthie left bright and early on Sunday morning for Christmas with her family.

For Christmas this year daughter Tonya Thompson and husband Perry Thompson from Brandon, Miss., came Dec. 24-27, to spend Christmas with mom Linda, and Mia Comte. They had Christmas dinner with visitors Norma and daughter Donna Adams, Cody and Jenny Bartolomucci and Shelly McDaniel.

On Monday, they all met at Dairy Queen in Anna with Norma Adams, her daughter Veronica Adams, Shelly McDaniel, Mary and daughter Elizabeth, Tina Bry-

ant, Mady Hill and Chris Stearns. The occasion was Mia's 10th birthday on Dec. 29. They had beautiful cupcakes put in the shape of a pink dress with turquoise designs on top from Anna Kroger. It was delicious.

Then on Tuesday, Tonya and Perry returned home and made it back home just fine. Happy New Year to everyone.

New Year's Guests

New Year's guests of Muriel and Tyler Zachary were Tyler's parents from Beloit, Kan., Stephen and Arlene Zachary.

New Year's Trip

Curt, Bessie Mae, and Elijah Glen Ellis enjoyed a trip to Greenville to visit family.

Sympathy

Bryon Kluesner had asked for prayers for his brother Richard Chapman. Richard went to be with our Lord last week after a brief battle with cancer.

Bryon got to visit with him at his Christmas trip to Florida. Richard went to school here and has many family members in our community. Sympathy to his family and friends.

Red Hat Meeting

Little Egypt Red Hat Ladies will meet in Carbondale for the next two months at the Golden Corral. The January meeting will be Jan. 18 at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to be in the gift exchange, please bring a gift.

Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club

Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club was scheduled to meet at Anna Pizza Hut Monday. The theme was education with the program by Lillian Milam. Devotion was by Barbara Bauer. Debbie Rossberg presented current events.

Free Community Dinners

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

First Baptist Church of Anna serves a free soup and

sandwich meal the second Monday of each month from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Serving free hot meals every Thursday to our community at Harvest Church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come eat with them.

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.

Get Well List

Joe Lawrence, Philip Dillow, Rev. Ray Long, Ashlin Tweedy, Judy Vaughn, Dakota, Wayne Skoglund, Jon Pengress, Jack Lewellyn, Roger and Lana Kay Glasco, Billy Hutcheson, George Griffin, Anna Ferneti, Jackson Boyd, Turner family, Sara Russell Mann, Terry Jackson, Betty Tutt, Connie Wills, Sondra Bradford, Carrie Gibson, Elizabeth Corbit, Robert Andrews. I have had many unspoken prayer requests. Please keep them in your prayers.

Military Prayer List

Please send me a name if you want them in the military prayer list. If you have a loved one in the service email, call or mail their name to me. Also if they are not in the service anymore please let me know.

Garrett Goins, David Jordan Glasco, Ryan Hampton, Brittany Michelle Lence, Killian Jesse, Molly Noyes, CJ Youngerman, Freddy Morse, Reagan Morrison, Josh Steveson, 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 White-mountain. Please keep them in your prayers.



Ione Rogers celebrated her birthday Dec. 28.



Brenda Allen and Barb File shared a Christmas dinner at Trails End Lodge with David and wife Gina Allen from Springfield and had a marvelous time.



Sherry and Allen Rix celebrated Christmas Eve with Allen's whole family at his sister's home in Marion. In the first row are, from left, Allen Rix, Allie, Adrienne, Shelby, Brittnie, Raelyn. In the second row are Stephanie, Amiah, Sherry, Sonny, Felix, Maria, Brandon, Keigan, Tom, Ryan, Kathy. In the third row are Padra, Austin, Adam, Aaron, Anthony, Sherry Rix.

Public Record

from the files at the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro

Realty Transactions

The following real estate transactions were recorded at the Union County clerk's office in Jonesboro:

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Dann R. Kraatz, Martha J. Kraatz. Grantee: Robert G. Kraatz. Name: Gattingers Add. of Anna., Lot 15.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Robert G. Kraatz. Grantee: Sylvia J. Needham, Sylvia J. Porter, Thomas Porter. Name: Gattingers Add. of Anna, Lot 15.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Thomas A. Porter. Grantee: Sylvia J. Needham, Sylvia J. Porter. Name: Gattingers Add. of Anna, Lot 15.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Jamie Eddleman, Jenifer Eddleman. Grantee: Jamie Eddleman, Jenifer Eddleman. Tract Section 23 Township 12S Range 1W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Christopher Bradley. Grantee: Christopher Bradley, Judith Sims. Tract Section 25 Township 13S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Onida Davis. Grantee: Sawbrooke Holdings Inc. Tract Section 7 Township 12S Range 1E.

Warranty Deed. Grantor:

Short Liquors Inc, Short Liquors Inc. Grantee: Beverly Tweedy. Name: Winstead Davies 1st Add. of Anna, Portion 11.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Lorie D. Childers. Grantee: George F. Bostian. Tract Section 17 Township 11S Range 1W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Norma Lee Hackney, Susan A. Whitemountain. Grantee: Downtown Venture LLC. Name: Original Plat of Anna, Lot 80.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Loy Neil Casper. Grantee: Anna-Jonesboro National Bank. Tract Section 24 Township 12S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Judith A. Goodman, Peggy G. Woodard. Grantee: Bonnie M. Wright. Name: Anna Heights Subdivision, Lot 8.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Rex Riepe. Grantee: Helen Aldridge Bottje, J. Gerrit Bottje. Tract Section 9 Township 12S Range 2W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Buddie D. Reynolds, Nancy Reynolds. Grantee: Buddie D. Reynolds, Mitchell Dean Reynolds, Nancy Reynolds, Terri Lynn Reynolds. Name: Bucks Add. of Cobden, Block

B.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Collin Cain, Beverly Earnhart, Gerald E. Cain Trust. Grantee: Collin H. Crane, James R. Crane. Tract Section 18 Township 12S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Jimmy S. Hastings. Grantee: Chad Edward Goines, Kelsey Ann Goines. Tract Section 29 Township 12S Range 1W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Rebecca Stark, Thomas J. Stark Jr. Grantee: Jason Lee Charles. Name: Lewis 1st Add. of Anna, Lot 8.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Ice Family Trust, Jeffrey L. Starr. Grantee: Jeffrey L. Starr. Name: Forest Place Addition, Block 4, Lot 6.

Warranty Deed. Debbie A. McLane. Grantee: Rebecca N. Holt, Tyler K. Pearce. Tract Section 25 Township 12S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Heather E. Morgan, Janice E. Paris, Dee Ann Rose. Grantee: Paige Bosanko, Randy Bosanko. Name: Original Plat of Wolf Lake, Lots 25, 26, 27, 28.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Cindy Nixon. Grantee: Rachel M. Fuschi, Robert W. Rion. Tract Section 25 Township 11S Range 1E.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Michael F. Hathy. Grantee: Joshua S. Hathy. Tract Section 36 Township 12S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Joshua S. Hathy. Grantee: Land Trust Number 94, John S. Rendleman. Tract Section

26 Township 12S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Amie K. Messman, Amie K. Ury. Grantee: Jess Wayne Dawley. Name: Garrott Addition, Lot 9.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Frances Child, Robert Child. Grantee: Chanda Child, Hillary Child, Tress Digiorgio. Tract Section 10 Township 11S Range 2W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Bryon K. Lewallen, Julie A. Thomas. Grantee: Bryon K. Lewallen. Tract Section 13 Township 12S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Justin T. Barlow, Niki R. Barlow. Grantee: Colton Casey. Tract Section 29 Township 12S Range 1W.

Traffic Citations

The following people were cited for speeding and were assessed \$120 in fines and court costs as recorded at the Union County circuit clerk's office in Jonesboro:

Ninette L. Jones Margrum, Anna. James W. Bond Jr., Cobden. Filiberto A. Mejia, Union City, Tenn. Kori R. Colbert, Murphysboro. Adam L. Crowell, Alto Pass.

Walter J. Coleman, Carbondale. Joseph E. Hayes, Scott City, Mo. Ahmed R. Alnuqaydan, Carbondale. John Francis Knap, Jackson, Mo. Brittany V. Beveridge, Cape Girardeau.

Jose M. Labrena-Ferreiba, Santa Rosa, Calif. David A. Thigpen, Jackson, Miss. Erwin L. Vance, San Antonio, Texas. Kimberly K. Campbell, Murray, Ky. Amy Dentman, Carbondale.

Roger Allen Beasley, Cape Girardeau. William J. Burke, Murphysboro. David Wayne Tompkins, Carbondale. Win-

fred G. Richards, Mounds. Cynthia L. Stamm, Murphysboro.

Tilson F. Thompson, Naperville. Adam D. Crow, Murphysboro. Ricardo Ramos, Waukegan. Cierra Shea Cochran, Anna. Toma K. Branche, Cypress. Austin K. Quinton, Paducah.

Miguel M. Jackson, De Soto. Xunze Zhov, Cape Girardeau. Sai K. Arra, Charleston. Geraldine E. Chandler, Porter, Ind.

The following people were cited for the indicated violations and were assessed the accompanying fines and court costs as recorded at the circuit clerk's office:

Tyte P. Smith, Jonesboro, seat belt required/driver, \$60. Michael E.L. Smith, Anna, operate uninsured motor vehicle, \$200.

James M. Coles, Anna, improper left turn/oncoming traffic, \$120. Aimee D. Cain, Tamms, operate uninsured motor vehicle, \$200.

Patrick D. Braun, Pinckneyville, speeding, 21-25 mph above limit, \$120. Tracey M. Vaughn, Jonesboro, unsafe backing on a roadway, \$120.

Kerry A. Arnold, Jonesboro, stop/stand/park/non-business district, \$120. Joshua Burton, Anna, transport/carry alcoholic liquor/passenger, \$120.

Sabrina M. Smith, Grand Tower, fail to reduce speed, \$120. Brian E. Clutts, Cobden, seat belt required/driver, \$60.

Dakoda Rose Lingle, Chaffee, Mo., seat belt required/driver, \$60. Eric L. Niswonger, Cape Girardeau, electronic communication device, \$120.

Terry Lynn Blake, Cobden, electronic communication device, \$120. Derek S. Craig, Carbondale, speeding, 21-25 mph above limit, \$140.

Jamie L. Kirkpatrick, Marble Hill, Mo., overweight on axle, \$2,000. Teresa R. Pengress, Cobden, seat belt required/driver, \$60.

Jessie Allen Magee, Sikeston, Mo., seat belt required/passenger, \$60. Laurie M. Yates, Cobden, registration expiration, \$120.

Edward L. Jones Whitford, Jonesboro, seat belt required/driver, \$60. Wanda M. Rodgers, Mound City, child restraint violation, \$65.

William B. Roa-Schmitt, Glen Carbon, violation/Illinois Motor Carrier Act, \$120. Lanverto Larrera, Addison, speeding, 21-25 mph above limit, \$140.

Slater T. Martin, Robinson, speeding, 21-25 mph above limit, \$140.

Marriage Licenses

The county clerk's office issued a marriage license to:

Mark Allen Norris, 33, of Carbondale, and Meghan Renee Carls, 25, of Carbondale.

David Lawrence Gerardi, 43, of Jonesboro, and Charla Nicole Schaubert, 29, of Herrin.

John Adam Tripp, 30, of Anna, and Karen Sue Carwylve, 45, of Anna.

Tab Robert Parks, 50, of Cape Girardeau, and Loreal Elizabeth Mason, 32, of Burton, Mich.

Steven Michael Isom, 25, of Anna, and Jessica Renee Strunk, 29, of Anna.

Kenneth Ray Jarden, 26, of Jonesboro, and Melinda Sue Rogers, 28, of Jonesboro.

Health care workers with criminal convictions may regain their licensure

Effective in January, previously barred health care workers and applicants with criminal convictions may again become eligible for licensure in Illinois.

Under a new law, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, IDFPR, is implementing a review process for impacted health care workers.

Health care workers include doctors, nurses, social workers and more.

The new law partially rescinds a 2011 law that automatically and permanently revoked or denied licensure for health care workers with certain felony convictions in their past.

The new measure is part of ongoing efforts by Gov. Bruce Rauner and legislators to remove unnecessary barriers to professional licensure while ensuring the health, safety,

and welfare of the public.

Health care workers who qualify for review under the new law will have the opportunity to present information proving they have been rehabilitated from their conviction.

Health care workers with certain felony convictions that have met the timing requirements under the new law may file a petition for review to determine whether their conviction is still a barrier to licensure.

The new law sets forth the factors IDFPR may consider in determining whether a health care worker has been rehabilitated.

Factors include, but are not limited to, the seriousness of the offense, prior disciplinary history, and voluntary remedial actions.

Health care workers who have been permanently revoked or denied licensure may immediately file a petition for review to prove rehabilitation.

First-time applicants must submit an initial application for licensure prior to filing a petition for review.

If a petition for review is granted, the conviction is no longer a barrier to licensure.

The previously barred health care worker or first-time applicant must still meet all licensure requirements. This may include submitting licensing forms, fingerprinting, and proving competency to practice.

For more information on IDFPR and the petition for review process, visit the department's website at www.idfpr.com. Answers to frequently asked questions and application information pertaining to each profession can be found on the website.

Hess News

By Glenn Heisner

Justin McClellan, our oldest grandson who is based in Nashville, Tenn., spent Christmas with us.

Danny, Jonathon and Andrew Heisner came up from Alabama for New Year's with us and visited other relatives. Jonathon is on Christmas break from the University of Alabama.

Louise and Bruce Williams had their family Christmas dinner New Years Eve with 32 present.

Upward Basketball practice starts this week at Anna Heights Baptist Church.

Union County Saddle Club will meet at Stinson Library Jan. 21.

January birthdays: Foster Needling 3rd, Nancy Pind 8th, Josh Schlenker 10th, Gary Roach 12th, Delores Pribble 19th, Holly Baringer 23rd.

Anniversaries: Bill and Janette Dove 10th; Harley and Patsy Rhodes, 55 years on Jan. 27; Louise and Bruce Williams, 60th on Jan. 31.

Evelyn Welborn

born on Dec. 14

Evelyn Jade Welborn was born at 7:34 p.m. on Dec. 14, 2016, at Saint Francis Medical Center's Family BirthPlace in Cape Girardeau.

She weighed 9 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Evelyn's parents are Sarah and George Welborn of Chester. She has two brothers and a sister.

Maternal grandparents are Steve and Bonnie Sullivan of Anna.

Paternal grandparents are George and Nancy Welborn of Anna.

Harper Marks

born on Dec. 20

Harper Kate Marks was born at 12:37 p.m. on Dec. 20, 2016, at Saint Francis Medical Center's Family BirthPlace in Cape Girardeau.

Harper weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 19.25 inches long.

Harper's parents are Jamia and Justin Marks of Jonesboro. She has a brother and a sister.

Maternal grandparents are Carter and Roni Lacy of Jonesboro.

Paternal grandparents are John and Vivian Marks of Alto Pass.

Gospel singing set

Shiloh Baptist Church in Villa Ridge plans to host a gospel singing on Saturday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m.

Billy Carter and friends and the Gloryroad Travelers of Mounds are set to perform.

THURSDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball "Teams TBA" (Live) (HD)	2 Broke 2 Broke	Law & Order: SVU "Clock"	Stuck Mid.	"Fool" (08)	★★★"Mr. Woodcock" (07)	(10) "The Hateful Eight" (15) Group encounters betrayal and deception. (HD)
7 PM :30	Great American Baking	Big Bang Indoors	Hell's Kitchen "Aerial Maneuvers; Fusion Confusion"	Superstore Good Place		Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Stuck Mid.	Tonight	(20) "American Pie" (99, Comedy) Lessons in love.	
8 PM :30	Great American Baking	(011) Mom Pieces (HD)		Chicago Med (HD)	College Basketball California vs UCLA (Live) (HD)	Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Stuck Mid.		(50) "Black Mass" (15) Deals between FBI and Irish mobster. (HD)	
9 PM :30	Get Away with Murder	Pure Genius (HD)	Local Programs	The Blacklist (HD)		Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Walk Prank Best Fnds		★★★"Harold Kumar Escape" (08) (HD)	The Affair "6" (HD)
10 PM :30	Local	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Conan Tracy Morgan.	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Stuck Mid.			
11 PM :30	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night	SportsCenter with Scott	Billy On Conan (HD)	Shooter "Red on Red"	The Lodge Girl World Best Fnds	"Blues Brothers" (80)	"Search Party" (16) Rescue mission.	The Affair "6" (HD)

FRIDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA Countdown (Live)	Seinfeld	Mod Family	Undercover	"Caesar!"	"American Pie 2" (01)	Madonna: Rebel Heart Tour Famed pop career.
7 PM :30	Man Stand.	MacGyver "Screwdriver"	Rosewood (HD)	Grimm "Fugitive" (HD)	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Milwaukee Bucks (Live) (HD)	Big Bang	Mod Family	Bizaardvark	★★★"Forgotten Sarah Marshall" Man's ex-girlfriend.	(20) "Vacation" (15) Ed Helms. Walley World. (HD)	Nasty Show
8 PM :30	Shark Tank (HD)	Hawaii Five-0 "Ka aelike"	Sleepy Hollow "Columbia"	Emerald City Dorothy in storm. (HD)		Big Bang	Mod Family	"Big Hero 6" Prodigy, robot & others on city mystery.			
9 PM :30	20/20 Investigative news.	Blue Bloods "Genetics"	Local Programs Local info.		NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Golden State Warriors (Live)	ELEAGUE (HD)	Mod Family		"I Love You, Man" Quest for best man.	"Jurassic World" (15) Chris Pratt. Dino theme park.	"Cabin Fever" (16) Friends' fun soon turns to terror.
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local		★★★"The A-Team" (10, Action) Team seeks justice.	Mod Family	Bizaardvark			
11 PM :30	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)			Mod Family	Liv Maddie	(45) ★★"Friday" (95) Los Angeles life.	"Executive Decision" (16) Rescue mission.	"The Hurt Locker" (09)
11 PM :30	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night			★★★"Devil Wears Prada"	The Lodge Best Fnds			

SATURDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	E:60 (HD) Sports (HD)	2 Broke (HD) 2 Broke (HD)	This Is Us (HD)	(5:00) "Movie"	"Minority Report" (02)	"TRON: Living video game.	"Tears of the Sun" (03) (R)
7 PM :30	Last Man Standing (HD)	Ransom "Grand Slam" (HD)	Sleepy Hollow "Columbia"	Dateline NBC Investigative features and profiles. (HD)	College Basketball (Live) (HD)	Big Bang	This Is Us "Pilgrimage Rick"	MECH-X4	"Demolition" (16) Unlikely connection. (R)	(55) "Mission: Impossible II" (20) Virus leak threat. (HD)	★★★"Love the Coopers" (15, Comedy) Chaotic holiday.
8 PM :30	20/20 Investigative news.	Criminal Minds "Taboo"	Star "Devil You Know" (HD)			Big Bang	This Is Us "The Trip" (HD)	MECH-X4	"Wreck-It Ralph" (12, Adventure) Good intentions. (HD)	(45) ★★½	
9 PM :30	20/20 Investigative news.	48 Hours	Local Programs Local info.	Saturday Night Live (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Big Bang	This Is Us "Last Christmas"	"The Revolution" (16, Drama) Man wants revenge on former friend. (R) (HD)	"The Revenger" (16, Drama) Man wants revenge on former friend. (R) (HD)	"Fantastic Four" (15) Team with powers.	★★★"Burnt" (15) Friends' fun soon turns to terror.
10 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Hell's Kitchen (HD)	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Frontal (HD)	Law & Order: SVU "Escape"	Walk Prank Best Fnds		(45) ★★½	
11 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	(29) Saturday Night Live Sketch comedy.	NFL Primetime (HD)	★★★★"Shrek" (01) A princess' secret. (HD)	Law & Order: SVU "Escape"	Liv Maddie Austin & Ally	"Sisters" (R)	"Legend" (15) Criminal brothers. (HD)	(45) The Affair "6" (HD)

SUNDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Funniest Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	Son of Zorn Bob's Bgr	Golden Globe Awards (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	(4:45) "Happy Pregame" (11)	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Stuck Mid.	(15) "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" (16) Family secret.	(20) ★★½"The Insider" (99, Drama) Russell Crowe. Man sued for telling the truth. (HD)	The Affair "6" (HD)
7 PM :30	To Tell the Truth (HD)	NCIS: L.A. "Kulinda" (HD)	Simpsons Son of Zorn	The 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards Achievement in entertainment. (HD)	NFL Primetime (HD)	Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Undercover	"Demolition" (16) Unlikely connection. (R)	(55) "Mission: Impossible II" (20) Virus leak threat. (HD)	★★★"Love the Coopers" (15, Comedy) Chaotic holiday.
8 PM :30	To Tell the Truth (HD)	Madam Secretary (HD)	Family Guy Bob's Bgr		SportsCenter (HD)	Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Bizaardvark	★★★"Cloud 9" (14) Young snowboarder.	(45) ★★½	
9 PM :30	Conviction "Black Orchid"	Elementary "Be My Guest"	Local Programs Local info.	Saturday Night Live (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Liv Maddie	"The Revenger" (16, Drama) Man wants revenge on former friend. (R) (HD)	"Fantastic Four" (15) Team with powers.	★★★"Burnt" (15) Friends' fun soon turns to terror.
10 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Hell's Kitchen (HD)	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Frontal (HD)	Law & Order: SVU "Escape"	Walk Prank Best Fnds		(45) ★★½	
11 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	(29) Saturday Night Live Sketch comedy.	NFL Primetime (HD)	★★★★"Shrek" (01) A princess' secret. (HD)	Law & Order: SVU "Escape"	Liv Maddie Austin & Ally	"Sisters" (R)	"Legend" (15) Criminal brothers. (HD)	(45) The Affair "6" (HD)

MONDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	Champ. Pregame	Family Guy	Mod Family	Undercover	★★"Point"	"Ocean's Thirteen" (07)	(15) "A Perfect Day" (15) Workers' to help. (HD)
7 PM :30	The Bachelor (HD)	Big Bang Kevin Wait	Showtime at the Apollo Talent showcase. (HD)	The Celebrity Apprentice "Fire Up That Chopper"	2017 CFP National Championship from Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla. (Live) (HD)	Family Guy	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Stuck Mid.	"Mad Max: Fury Road" (15) So-called collapse. (R) (HD)	(05) "Pitch Perfect 2" (15) A cappella group. (HD)	The Affair Noah's life. (HD)
8 PM :30	(011) Big Fan	Man Plan				Am. Dad	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Good Luck			
9 PM :30	Big Fan	Odd Couple	Local Programs Local info.	The Wall (HD)		Family Guy	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Liv Maddie			
10 PM :30	(011) Conviction (HD)	Scorpion "White Out" (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Local		Family Guy	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Bizaardvark	★★★½"Cloud 9" (14) Young snowboarder.	★★★½"Juno" (07) A pregnant teen. (HD)	"No Escape" (15) Escaping coup. (HD)
11 PM :30	Conviction "Black Orchid"	Elementary "Be My Guest"	Local Programs Local info.	Saturday Night Live (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Frontal (HD)	Law & Order: SVU "Escape"	Liv Maddie	"The Big Lebowski" (98) Jeff Bridges. Mistaken identity.	"Johnny Handsome" (89)	The Affair Noah's life. (HD)
11 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Dateline NBC (HD)	SportsCenter with Scott	Conan (HD)	Mod Family	Girl World Best Fnds	"Our Brand Is Crisis" (R)		

TUESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball Kentucky vs Vanderbilt (Live) (HD)	Seinfeld	NCIS "Psych Out" (HD)	Undercover	"Unbreak"	"Search Party" (16) (HD)	(5:30) "Cinderella Man" (05) Boxing champion. (HD)
7 PM :30	The Middle Housewife	NCIS "Being Bad" (HD)	New Girl The Mick	The Wall (HD)		Big Bang	WWE SmackDown (HD)	Stuck Mid.	"Demolition" (16) Unlikely connection.	"American Pie 2" (01) Jason Biggs. Summer reunion.	Inside the NFL (HD)
8 PM :30	Fresh Off O'Neals	Bull "Never Saw the Sign"	Bones Inventor's death.	This Is Us (HD)	College Basketball Indiana vs Maryland (Live) (HD)	Big Bang		Good Luck			
9 PM :30	Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.	NCIS: New Orleans (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Chicago Fire (HD)		Big Bang	Shooter Protect his family.	Liv Maddie	(45) ★★½"AVPR: Aliens vs. Predator" (07)	★★★"Bad Santa" (03) Santa steals (HD)	Martin Lawrence. Doi
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Conan Zany sketches.	Incorporated	BUNK'D		(20) "Child 44" (15) Soviet police look for child killer.	Inside the NFL (HD)
11 PM :30	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Frontal (HD)	Law & Order: SVU "Alien"	Jessie (HD)			
11 PM :30	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night		Conan (HD)		Girl World Best Fnds	"Our Brand Is Crisis" (R)	"Sweetest Thing" (02) (HD)	"Saw II" Jigsaw is back.

WEDNESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA Countdown (HD)	Seinfeld	NCIS "Phoenix" (HD)	Undercover	"6th Sense"	★★★"Monster's Ball" (02)	"Tears of the Sun" (03)
7 PM :30	Goldbergs	Undercover Boss (HD)	Lethal Weapon "Lawmen"	Blindspot (HD)	NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Boston Celtics (Live) (HD)	Seinfeld	NCIS "Lost at Sea" (HD)	Good Luck	Tonight	★★★"Old School" (03) Fratelly fraternity.	★★★"The Bourne Ultimatum" (07) Amnesia assassin.
8 PM :30	Mod Family black-ish	Criminal Minds (HD)	(011) Star "Next of Kin"	Law & Order: SVU (HD)		Big Bang	NCIS "The Namesake"	Stuck Mid.			
9 PM :30	Fresh Off O'Neals	Bull "Never Saw the Sign"	Bones Inventor's death.	This Is Us (HD)	College Basketball Indiana vs Maryland (Live) (HD)	Big Bang	NCIS "Gone"	Good Luck			
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Conan Zany sketches.	Incorporated	Liv Maddie			
11 PM :30	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Frontal (HD)	Law & Order: SVU "Alien"	Jessie (HD)			
11 PM :30	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night		Conan (HD)		Girl World Best Fnds	"Our Brand Is Crisis" (R)	★★★"Criminal" (16) (HD)	"Rambo" (08) Thai missionaries. (HD)

Opinion and Commentary

Involving Everyone

How to strengthen family bonds

The Fellowship House – Rising Up for Change Coalition meeting in January will focus on strengthening family bonds. The coalition notes that this process involves “Everyone.”

According to ParentsEmpowered.org, kids are less likely to use alcohol, tobacco, and other illicit drugs when close parent/child relationships and parental involvement are present. The feeling of being loved, connected and valued must be part of the family environment. This can be accomplished by doing the following:

- Create a home environment that is positive and loving.
- Plan fun activities on a regular basis as a family.
- Put the electronics away and have dinner with pleasant conversation at least five times a week.
- Take time daily to talk and have meaningful positive interaction with each family member about school, interests, activities, goals, fears, concerns and other matters.
- Be aware of any signs of depression or stress. Encourage a positive attitude and healthy ways to cope such as taking a walk, listening to music, talking to a friend, exercising or writing in a journal.

The responsibility goes beyond the parents for prevention efforts. “It takes a village.” As a parent, be a positive role model, set limits, and provide consequences when limits are tested. As a community, ordinances should be in place that restrict youth from obtaining tobacco, alcohol or any other drug. Schools, teachers and agencies need to collaborate to ensure peer mentoring programs, leadership programs, and age-specific prevention programs.

By working together, our youth need to be given similar positive consistent messages throughout their lives. Fellowship House – Rising Up for Change Coalition is another venue to help in prevention efforts. For more information, you can call Preventionists, Teresa Goddard or Mandy Hazel at The Fellowship House at 833-4460.

Page from the Past

From the files of The Gazette-Democrat

50 Years Ago, January 5, 1967

Residents of Union County have been fortunate this Christmas and New Year's inasmuch as no serious accidents occurred over the six days period.

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School has added another service for its students, graduates and community as a whole. Through the state reimbursed program, which Mr. Murray has been able to gain state approval, with the co-operation and assistance of the Board of Education and the A-JCHS faculty, a good beginning for vocational training of high school students, who do not plan to attend post high school formal training has been put into operation in the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School.

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School has launched a new program to improve its students ability to read.

A capacity crowd attended the 38th Annual Woodrow Wilson Memorial dinner held in the American Legion Community Center, Wednesday evening, Dec. 28.

Normal January temperatures have prevailed in the Union County area this past week, with a high of 47 on Monday, Jan. 2, and the low of 17 on Friday, Dec. 30.

Two Union County men are scheduled for induction into the Armed Services on January 24.

The Anna City Council approved (a) building permit for the construction of an addition to the present Junior High School submitted by Wayne Vincent, contractor.

Illinois lost more people than any other state from 2015 to 2016

A recently released report from the U.S. Census Bureau showed that Illinois lost more people than any other state during the period from July 1, 2015, to July 1, 2016. The information was included in Census Bureau national and state population estimates.

Illinois remained as one of the 10 most populous states in 2016, coming in behind California, Texas, Florida and New York.

The report showed Illinois with a population of 12,801,539 in 2016, down from 12,839,047: a drop of 37,508 people. In 2010, Illinois had a population of 12,831,574 people.

The Census Bureau report showed that Utah's population crossed the 3.0 million mark as it became the nation's fastest-growing state over the previous year.

Utah's population increased 2.0 percent to 3.1 million from July 1, 2015, to July 1, 2016, according to the report.

Following Utah, Nevada (2.0 percent), Idaho (1.8 percent), Florida (1.8 percent) and Washington (1.8 percent) saw the largest percentage increases in population.

North Dakota, which had been the fastest-growing state for the previous four years, mostly from people moving into the state, fell out of the top 10 in growth due to a net outflow of migrants to other parts of the country. Its growth slowed from 2.3 percent in the previous year to 0.1 percent.

Nationally, the U.S. population grew by 0.7 of a percent to 323.1 million. Furthermore, the population of voting-age residents, adults age 18 and over, grew to 249.5 million, making up 77.2 percent of the population in 2016, an increase of 0.9 percent from 2015 (247.3 million).

Please read this. . .

by Geof Skinner

Special memories from holiday season

At some point, when we least expect it, they are going to have their revenge. Especially a certain calico kitty and a traveling lizard.

If you have a pet, any kind of pet, any kind of creature, you might appreciate the story that I'm going to share.

Before we get to the revenge of the critters, I hope you had a wonderful Christmas, and a nice, quiet, calm celebration to herald the arrival of a brand new year.

Our Christmas was, in a word, nice. We welcomed some special visitors, including one with scales. On Christmas Eve, three of us, but not the one with scales, motored to the Trail of Tears State Forest for what has become a tradition.

We wandered through one of the creek beds, looking for you-know-whats. At one point, an "official" state vehicle, a pickup truck as a matter of fact, passed by. The vehicle, based on what I could see, was part of the Conservation Police Officer fleet.

As the pickup drew closer to where we were wandering through the creek bed, the vehicle slowed, and the window on the passenger side was lowered.

"Merry Christmas," the driver said, with holiday cheer. Another special chapter had just been added to our holiday lore.

Our holiday visitors also introduced us to The Great British Bake Off. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, we were able to binge watch an entire seasons of this culinary adventure, which involved all sorts of fascinating British treats. If you get a chance, check it out.

The Bake Off is, surprise, a competition which involves baking by amateur (pronounced "ama ture," not "ama chure") bakers. One of the things that the bakers baked was biscuits. Except that the biscuits were not biscuits, in the sense of biscuits and gravy. The British biscuits were cookies. Please do not ask me to explain. I can't.

The scaly visitor we hosted for the holidays was a reptile, as in a lizard. The lizard's name is Noodles. During the holiday season, Noodles went on quite a little holiday road trip, mainly, I think, 'cause it's hard to find a lizard sitter.

While Noodles was in Southern Illinois, the critter was dressed up in holiday attire for the purpose of creating an electronic Merry Christmas message which featured a lizard and a hand-crafted snowperson.

To be honest with you, it was really hard to tell how Noodles felt about being donned with gay apparel. Most of the lizards I've seen have either been staring back at me from behind an enclosure at a zoo or running for cover when they were spotted in the wild.

Noodles couldn't go anywhere. The lizard pretty much had to endure the situation. All the time, the lizard was just looking back at us, with its lizardy eyes. I'm pretty sure that Noodles was contemplating a time in the future when reptiles would once again rule the world. Then, we will pay.

And we'd better hope that the lizards are not joined in their revenge by a certain calico kitty who was



Utter humiliation? Thank goodness the reptile featured in this pic was not a T rex, 'cause yours truly would have ended up like that fellow who decided to hide in an outhouse in "Jurassic Park."

forced to undergo a rather humiliating experience at the hands of yours truly for a couple of days last week.

During the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, The Other Half motored to the Bluegrass State to spend some time with her dad. She left me at home, alone, with our three cats.

The aforementioned calico kitty is, at this point in her life, taking a half a pill a day, as prescribed by the animal doctor person.

If you have any experience with a cat, you probably know that they do not simply go to the cupboard, get their medicine and take it with a glass of water.

Oh, no. Getting a pill down a kitty involved, shall we say, a bit of highly personal interaction, in that the higher life form, which would be yours truly, held the unhappy kitty in a highly impersonal matter, forced kitty's mouth open and shoved the half a pill down kitty's gullet.

Sometimes, the pill would go down the first time. Sometimes, it would not, which meant that the process was repeated. Kitty, by the way, has sharp teeth and sharp claws. Not much damage was done, though, to either one of us.

Fortunately, The Other Half returned from her journey, and she is now restored as the official shove-the-pill-down-the-throat-of-the-cat person.

In the meantime, I got to thinking that it's probably a good thing that Noodles headed back home, too. Between a humiliated lizard and an upset kitty, I would have been outnumbered. That would have meant sleeping with one eye open, 'cause you never know what would happen if the reptile and the feline starting plotting together...

Commentary

Hacking serious business

By Mike Estel

The alleged hacking by Russia of American computers to influence our last presidential election got me thinking of something that happened to me a couple of years ago.

I had just completed a manuscript for a new book on a flash drive. However, something happened to the flash drive and I lost everything on it.

Talking to a friend who works on computers for a living I asked him to look at it. After keeping it overnight, he told me the next day I had lost everything on it.

I mentioned this to the class I was teaching part-time at Shawnee Community College. One girl after class told me she would like to see the flash drive.

I had not thrown it away yet and gave it to her. The next day she gave it back to me and said everything was saved and was still on it.

She wouldn't tell me what she had done to find it nor would she let me mention her name to the computer person.

The girl is obviously what is known as a hacker and knows something the rest of us don't.

Since then, my son-in-law, who also works on computers at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, told me that given time hackers will figure out how to get into any system.

If the Russians have actually hacked into American computers, which is what our intelligence community is telling us, this is all very scary.

Is nothing safe?

President elect Donald Trump was to be briefed this week on the alleged Russian hacking.

This appears to have happened and everything at present time is pointing to the Russian leadership at being the culprit behind this.

Arizona Senator John McCain has expressed to the media that this is an act of war and a direct threat to our country.

This hacking of American computers is really a very serious situation.

Rumors abound that the incoming president will toss out the sanctions placed on Russia for their unsavory deeds by the present president.

I hope Mr. Trump takes this threat seriously and makes the right decision. This foreign hacking venture has bad implications for all Americans and the future of this country as well.

Refuges to offer free admission dates

Thirty-one national wildlife refuges across the county which normally charge entrance fees will offer free admission on five days in 2017.

Free admission is planned on the following days: Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Feb. 20: Presidents' Day. Sept. 30: National Public Lands Day. Oct. 8: First Sunday of National Wildlife Refuge Week. Nov. 11-12: Veterans Day weekend.

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