

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, February 2, 2017

Anna, Illinois

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\$1.00

Volume 168, Number 7

News

Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area.

An American Red Cross blood drive is planned from noon until 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at the First Baptist Church in Anna.

An annual county tax sale is set for 10 a.m. Feb. 8. The sale will be at the treasurer's office at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Good luck to the local student athletes and their teams which are competing at state.

The Friends of Stinson Library plan to host a book sale. The event will be at Stinson Memorial Library in Anna, with sale activities planned Feb. 10-12.

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council/Anna Arts Center is planning to host Civil War Weekend activities Feb. 16-19.

National FFA Week is Feb. 18-25.

A frog and toad call survey volunteer orientation program is planned Saturday afternoon, Feb. 4, at the Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center near Cypress.

Illinois State Police District 22 hosted a media relations session Monday morning. The Gazette-Democrat was represented at the session, which was held at the district's headquarters at Ullin.



Anna school hosts Cookies with Cop event

By Amber Skelton

Officers from three law enforcement agencies which serve the Union County area were in for a treat at Lincoln Elementary School in Anna on Thursday, Jan. 26.

Second grade students, with the help of their teachers, honored the officers with a Cookies with a Cop event.

Ten law enforcement personnel were present from Illinois State Police District 22, the Union County Sheriff's Office and the Anna Police Department.

Morgan Rathjen, one of the 2nd grade teachers who organized the program, was excited to give the cops some gratitude.

"We wanted to give back, especially with the way things are now."

The 2nd grade teachers had been working with their classes for two weeks to put the program together.

They read the story "Officer Buckle and Gloria" by Peggy Rathmann and made paper police hats.

Each student also colored a sheet of paper with a word or phrase that finished the sentence: "A police officer is..." The pages were combined to create a book for each law enforcement agency.

One after another on Thursday, the students read their pages to the officers. Some said that a police officer is "friendly." Others said a police officer is "always ready to serve." More than one student said that a police officer is "a good driver."

The law enforcement personnel were given first choice from the cookie table and spent some time talking with the students.

Blood drive set at Lick Creek

Area residents are invited to give the gift of life at an American Red Cross blood drive which is planned at Lick Creek School.

The Lick Creek School Beta Club is sponsoring the blood drive.

The blood drive is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, at the Union County school.

For more information, call the school at 833-2545.



Honoring law enforcement personnel

Second grade students at Lincoln Elementary School honored law enforcement personnel from the Illinois State Police, the Union County Sheriff's Office and the Anna Police Department during Cookies with a Cop on Thursday, Jan. 26. Photo by Amber Skelton.

Triplets celebrate 16th birthday

By Lindsey Rae Vaughn

Having siblings can be a challenge and a blessing and that's no different for the Barringer triplets of Union County.

Eli, Brenley and Ashley Barringer celebrated their 16th birthday on Jan. 21, a huge milestone for any teenager.

Eli, the only boy of the three, is technically the oldest. Brenley was born second and Ashley is the baby of the three.

Their mother, Rebecca Mize, says triplets don't run in the family. They were a product of in vitro fertilization.

"It was the farthest thing from my mind," Rebecca said about having triplets.

"I would rather have three than none though. I'm very blessed."

They were born at 32 weeks, all healthy, all weighing about four pounds.

The triplets, who are sophomores at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School, attended Lick Creek Elementary School for most of their lives and were always together.

Though they spend a lot of time together, their personalities are unique.

"We've always been different from each other," Brenley said.

"We used to always be

dressed alike, and so now we try to dress totally different," Ashley said.

They also have different interests.

"I like to play sports and I like to be on the farm a lot," Brenley said.

Ashley said, "I'm kind of more of the study nerd."

"I just like being outside and on the farm," Eli said.

The triplets have an older brother, Garrett, who is 18.

Garrett took advantage of being the older brother, like sitting in the front seat, but just because he is older doesn't mean he isn't close with the younger three.

"I feel like I'm closer with him than anyone else," Brenley said.

Of course, the triplets said there are some downsides, like sharing a birthday and gifts, especially so close to Christmas.

Also, going to a small school like Lick Creek meant they had a lot of the same friends.

When they started attending high school, it was the first time they hadn't been in a class together.

Though they are sophomores, they already have ideas about their future.

Brenley wants to become an occupational therapist or a registered nurse. She also would like to attend Murray State University.

Ashley wants to go



Ashley, Eli and Brenley Barringer. Photo provided

into nursing or to medical school. She would like to stay closer to home.

Like his sister, Eli would like to stay close to home as well. He wants to be an equipment operator or mechanical engineer.

Each triplet has different characteristics and roles.

The siblings said Ashley is the caretaker, but when they were younger, she was always the tattletale.

Eli is protective of the girls, but was also the instigator, along with Brenley.

Rebecca said sometimes the girls' personalities have flip-flopped over the years, with one more reserved and the other being a social butterfly.

The mother of four said the biggest challenge rais-

ing triplets, along with a toddler, was the sibling rivalry.

"They would always fight. They were always competing for everything," Rebecca said.

The siblings are asked often about being triplets and they don't mind.

"I think it's cool that people are interested," Brenley said.

At the end of the day, they see the many benefits of being a triplet.

"You learn how to share and get along," Ashley said.

"There is never a dull moment. It's never boring and you always have someone," Eli said.

The best advice Rebecca had for parents was to "enjoy it because it goes by so fast. Savor the moment."



Fire destroys barn

No injuries were reported when a fire destroyed a barn between Anna and Lick Creek on Wednesday evening, Jan. 25. The blaze was reported to the Anna Fire Department at about 4:28 p.m. The Anna, Cobden and Jonesboro fire departments responded to the call at 6275 Lick Creek Rd., about 7.5 miles from Anna. The cause of the fire was not determined. Firefighters were at the scene for about three hours.



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Periodical postage paid at Anna, Illinois 62904-0529

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Commissioners approve ordinance which prohibits nepotism in hiring

An ordinance has been approved which bans nepotism in county hiring.

The ordinance was approved at a regular meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners which was held last Friday morning. The meeting was at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

The ordinance was drafted by Union County State's Attorney Tyler R. Edmonds. The document provides guidelines for hirings which involve the county board. The state's attorney noted that similar anti-nepotism guidelines have been adopted in other jurisdictions.

Specifically, the ordinance amends the Union County Code of Ordinances by Section Article 6 of Chapter 11.

In related action, the commissioners also approved a resolution which recommended that the county's elected officials adopt an anti-nepotism policy.

The state's attorney said at Friday's meeting that he planned to adopt the policy immediately.

The ordinance declares that the county board has determined that employment actions it takes, "including hiring, promotion, discipline and dismissal should not be based on favoritism granted to family members of elected officials, department heads and other supervisory personnel."

The document further declares that the county board "has determined that prohibiting nepotism, being favoritism, or the appearance of such favoritism, in County employment actions, will protect" the county and also will "ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent in the most efficient and effective manner and promote public confidence in the operation and efficiency of County government."

The ordinance includes definitions for a "family member," a "management employee" and an "employee."

A family member, as defined in the ordinance, "means a person related to a County Commissioner, Elected Official or Man-

agement Employee as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, husband, wife, party to a civil union, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother or stepsister."

Management employees include the county administrator, the chief information officer, the Emergency Telephone System Board coordinator, the supervisor of assessments, the director the Union County Ambulance Service, the Union County highway engineer (the superintendent of highways) "or any other Employee responsible for the hiring, promotion, discipline and dismissal of Employees."

An employee is a person employed by the county, whether on a full-time or part-time basis or pursuant to a contract whose duties are subject to the direction and control of the county, but does not include an independent contractor.

An employee does not include a person who is employed in the offices of

the county coroner, clerk, circuit clerk, sheriff, state's attorney or treasurer — all of which are elected positions.

The ordinance declares that: "No person shall knowingly hire a Family Member of any County Commissioner, Elected Official or Management Employee as an Employee."

The guidelines do not cover any employee hired prior to Jan. 27, 2017.

A violation of the ordinance would be a petty offense, leading to a possible fine not to exceed \$1,000.

In other action at Friday's meeting:

The commissioners approved a county highway maintenance resolution for 2017. The resolution addressed spending authority for \$500,000 in state allocated motor fuel tax funds for highway maintenance work.

Approval was given for a \$4,000 tourism grant to the Cross of Peace on Bald Knob Mountain near Alto Pass. Tourism grant funds are generated by a local hotel/motel tax. The grant to the Cross of Peace will be used for a variety of promotional materials.

State police announce Super Bowl weekend enforcement plans

Illinois State Police, ISP, District 22 early this week rolled out enforcement plans for the 51st Super Bowl weekend.

ISP troopers will strictly enforce "Fatal 4" moving violations, which includes driving under the influence, speeding, distracted driving and seat belt compliance, but will place an emphasis on impaired driving.

During the 50th Super Bowl weekend in 2016, ISP troopers issued 2,494 "Fatal 4" citations statewide, 200 of which were alcohol related arrests, nearly double the 105 alcohol arrests during the 49th Super Bowl weekend in 2015.

District 22 plans to conduct roving patrols and roadside safety checks in high fatality areas throughout the weekend.

"If you drive impaired,

expect to be pulled over," interim District 22 commander Lt. Michael Alvey advised in a news release.

Alvey reminds area residents "to celebrate responsibly, obey the speed limit, and refrain from using wireless devices while driving.

"Alcohol is a leading factor in fatal traffic crashes, especially during celebratory weekends."

Alvey added that the state police are reminding motorists "to help keep the roadways safe by planning ahead and designating a driver, calling a cab or using a ride share service. Everyone wins when we all make it home safe."

President James Monroe signed a Congressional resolution on Dec. 3, 1818, which made Illinois the 21st state.

Charges filed in case alleged to involve BB pistol brought to school

The Anna Police Department reported on Wednesday, Jan. 25, that charges had been filed, and an arrest had been made, in connection with an alleged incident which occurred at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School.

The charges stemmed from an incident on Thursday, Jan. 19, in which a student allegedly brought a gun to school.

The Anna Police Department initiated an investigation, and with the assistance of the Union County State's Attorney Tyler Edmonds'

office, applicable charges were filed against a juvenile in connection with the incident.

The juvenile was charged with unlawful use of a weapon and disorderly conduct. Each charge was classified as a Class 4 felony.

The investigation involves an A-JCHS student who is alleged to have brought an unloaded CO2 BB pistol on campus, according to school district superintendent Rob Wright.

The student is alleged to have brought the pistol inside the school in a backpack.

Wright said once school officials received a tip about the situation, they immediately apprehended the student and did an all-call to parents.

Wright also clarified that by federal and state law, the BB pistol is not considered a weapon.

Weather

Temperatures ranged from a high of 60 degrees to a low of 21 during the period of Jan. 24-30 in Union County.

The last full week of January was dry, with only a few snowflakes seen on the morning of Jan. 29.

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

	H	L
Tuesday, Jan. 24	54	35
Wednesday, Jan. 25	60	38
Thursday, Jan. 26	39	32
Friday, Jan. 27	43	25
Saturday, Jan. 28	48	27
Sunday, Jan. 29	40	25
Monday, Jan. 30	50	21

Anna man sentenced to five years

Union County state's Attorney Tyler R. Edmonds reported Jan. 24 that Dwight E. Vaughn, 32, of Anna has been sentenced to five years in the Illinois Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to one count of violation of an order of protection, which is a Class 4 felony.

Vaughn will also serve four years of mandatory supervised release, formerly known as parole.

Vaughn was arrested in November 2016 following an investigation by the Anna Police Department.

Vaughn entered the residence of a protected person under the order of protection without permission.

The violation of an order of protection charge was elevated to a felony because Vaughn previously had been convicted of aggravated domestic battery.

Village of Mill Creek

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

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Union County CEO program accepting student applications for 2017-2018 class

The Union County CEO advisory board is accepting applications for the 2017-2018 class through Feb. 15.

All Union County students who will be juniors or seniors next year are welcome to apply.

Applications are available from each high school's guidance counselor. Interested home-schooled students can obtain an application from CEO treasurer Mark Chamness at Whitney Accounting at 105 Transcraft Dr. in Anna.

The current team has been involved in recruitment activities with all the high schools in the county. Here are a few reflections from last week's student journals.

Jessica Glasco: Going to Shawnee High School and giving a presentation to possible future CEO applicants was a great experience. I was ecstatic when I got to share my experiences

that I've had with this great program! Seeing my team stand beside each other and come together really made me feel like we were a family.

Jessa Bond: We went to speak with juniors and sophomores at Cobden High School. Our whole team did really well speaking together in front of the group. It was awesome to talk with students about such an amazing opportunity for them. Several students seemed very interested in the program. I wish that we could help to show them how much this program will affect them for the better.

Erin Dillow: As we went through this week presenting to the schools, I couldn't help but notice how much we have grown. Not just in our presentation skills, but on a personal level as well. We have begun to see our community in a differ-

ent light, and I cannot help but notice how each and every one of us smile at the thought of our past visits, and how a fondness for our county has taken root in our team. I am proud of my team and what we have accomplished, and I cannot wait to see how we get through the next obstacle... our personal businesses!

The cover letter to the applications explains:

"The Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) Advisory Board welcomes your application to participate in the 2017-2018 CEO Class. This class is not only for students looking for a career in business, but for any student wanting to know more about a variety of paths to a successful life, and about leadership, and economic development.

"In a blind selection process, we will be looking for exceptional candidates

who show dependability and reliability through their school records; drive and initiative through their letters of recommendation; and through their personal narratives show their personalities, work styles, technical skills, and reasons why each applicant wishes to be a part of the CEO class."

CEO is a year-long course designed to utilize partnerships that provide an overview of business development and processes.

The local business community partners with area schools to create project-based experiences for students by providing funding, expertise, meeting spaces, business tours and one-on-one mentoring.

Team members visit about 70 area businesses, learn from over 30 guest speakers, participate in a class business, write business plans, and start and operate their own businesses.

Business concepts learned through the experiential CEO class are critical. The 21st century skills of inquiry, problem-solving, teamwork, self-motivation, responsibility, higher order thinking, as well as written, verbal and electronic communication are at the heart of student development throughout the course.

The two-credit "Entrepreneurship" class meets for one and a half hours each school day from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at a variety of businesses.

For CEO 17, 3 hours of SIU credit was given to eligible students for \$25 with an SIU CEO scholarship for the remainder.

For more information about the program, visit www.unioncountyceo.org or Facebook: Union County CEO.

Chamber gala held Saturday

The Union County Chamber of Commerce hosted a 2017 gala last Saturday night.

The gala was held at the Blue Boar Lodge between Anna and Cobden.

The very well attended event included the presentation of several awards by the chamber. The awards included:

Director MVP: Andy Sisulak.

Citizen of the year: Rusty Flamm.

Business Improvement: Union County Abstract Office Inc. Auto Tire & Parts NAPA.

New Business of the Year: Rust Buckets Garage Wing and Burger Company.

More information about the gala and the award winners will be featured in The Gazette-Democrat's upcoming Progress Section.



The Cobden Medical Building/Clinic has been purchased by the Union County Historical and Genealogy Society.

Historical, genealogy society purchases medical building/clinic

The Union County Historical and Genealogy Society has purchased the Cobden Medical Building/Clinic.

The building is located at 103 N. Appleknocker in Cobden.

The society's purchase of the building was announced in a news release from the society's president, Patrick Brumleve.

The Cobden Civic Industrial Foundation had owned the building.

The Union County Museum and the Resale Shop will remain in the DuBois building. Both are operated by the society.

The medical building, built in 1958 by the community through loans and donations, is a one-story, stone structure a short distance north of the DuBois building.

The stone used in the construction of the building is a product of the Lutz Marble Co. of Anna. It was built to help attract much-needed doctors to the Cobden area, and served its purpose well until about three years ago, when the last of the doctors and dentists moved out, the historical society reported.

It is a perfect fit for the historical society's plans for a resource/cultural center with its concrete flooring, multiple rooms and two large areas for programs, according to Brumleve.

"Since we moved into the DuBois building in 2006, donations of photos, artifacts, newspapers, post cards, diaries, school records, family memorabilia and art work have been overwhelming," Brumleve said.

Works of local artists featured at SIU exhibits

Two local artists are set to be featured in exhibits at the University Museum in Carbondale.

The museum is located on the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Marlene Rivero of Grand Chain and Jeremy Crawford of Carbondale, both graduates of SIU, have exhibits that opened on Jan. 17 and continue through May 10.

A reception that honors both artists is scheduled Friday, Feb. 3, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Receptions for several other exhibits at the museum also are planned at that time.

Rivero's exhibit is titled "The Civil War: What Was & What Is: Interpretations

"It became clear that we could not adequately accommodate these donations nor did we have the space to make them available to the public for research, but this should alleviate the problem.

"We have also had to limit our programs because we did not have a large enough area for seating."

The interior of the former medical clinic building will have to be painted, some areas of some of the walls repaired and new carpeting installed before the research items can be moved.

The resource center is being named for the longtime president and one of the founders of the historical society, the late Jane Clark Brown of Anna.

The historical society expressed gratitude to the many people who responded to the fundraising endeavor to make the purchase possible.

Specific rooms will have plaques acknowledging major donors, and others will be recognized with certificates.

Paulette Aronson said on behalf of the historical society board of directors: "We are excited about this new challenge and opportunity to continue to work to preserve the history of the area, and we trust the community will continue to support us."

Board member Judy Travelstead noted that "many small, local museums throughout the country are closing for various reasons, so it is particularly gratifying that we are continuing to grow."

State senators visit county, tour Choate Center in Anna

By Amber Skelton
Anna hosted a visit by two of Illinois' newest state senators on Monday, Jan. 30.

Paul Schimpf, R-Waterloo, and Dale Fowler, R-Harrisburg, toured the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna, where they spoke with residents, caregivers and administrators.

Schimpf represents the 58th State Senate District. Fowler represents the 59th State Senate District. Union County is in both districts; U.S. Route 51 serves as an approximate dividing line between the two districts.

Neither of the freshman lawmakers had been to the facility previously, but both welcomed the opportunity, and state how important Choate is to the area. The facility is home to some 550 jobs.

The legislators spent about two hours at the facility. Fowler said he found the visit to be "very informative."

Fowler noted that the campus requires a lot of

maintenance due to wear and tear of the buildings.

The two were led by provider relations manager Bryant Davis through several of Choate's buildings. Davis shared with them that the demand for the facility's services is increasing.

Schimpf said they talked with the caregivers and patients. He said the residents seemed happy, but they need to have a sense of stability "and to feel safe and secure that this is their home."

Fowler added that "our job is to get them resources."

Focusing on the future of the center, which often surfaces as a concern for the area, Schimpf said "there's a demand" for Choate's services. Schimpf said he anticipates that Choate will remain open.

Regarding Illinois' ongoing budget crisis, the senators said that "terms seem to be changing on an almost daily basis," but that they are optimistic that they might be able to link the budget with reforms.

The legislators agreed that it is critical for Illinois to have a balanced budget, but that goal can't be achieved on the backs of the people of the state.

Both would like to see Illinois become more economically competitive.

Schimpf said that the discussions also need to focus on "meaningful reform."

Both Fowler and Schimpf have been busy on the job since being sworn in on Jan. 11, and "the pace picks up every day."

Schimpf said that he was surprised at the "pace of the budget compromise. It's a challenge to get up to speed on all of the provisions."

Fowler said "we've come in at a very unique time."

Schimpf planned a stop at Kiki's Coffeehouse in Anna to meet informally with some Union County Republicans.

Both said they hope to make time for many informal stops.



Clare Bunyan of Cobden recently represented Union County in the state pageant at the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs Convention in Springfield. Clare was named first runner-up from a field of 72 contestants. Congratulations Clare. We are proud of your accomplishment!

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SPORTS

A-J wrestling team tops Sparta for title

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School wrestling team captured its first Southern Illinois River-to-River Conference Mississippi Division title outright with a 55-24 win over visiting Sparta Tuesday, Jan. 24.

A-J wrestling coach Eric Massey said the Wildcats have shared the conference title for the last two years.

A-J defeated Paducah Tilghman 72-12 and Murphysboro 43-31 at the Litchfield Tournament Saturday, Jan. 28.

Second place finishes for the Wildcats were recorded by Arieht Hart (152 pounds) and Nick Harvel

(195 pounds). A fourth place finish for A-J was recorded by Nick Jimenez (285 pounds).

Fifth place finishes for the Wildcats were recorded by Nate Kisat (132 pounds) and Nick Sanders (160 pounds).

A sixth place finish for A-J was recorded by Lee Teller (106 pounds).

The Wildcats finished in 7th place out of 16 teams at the Litchfield Tournament.

A-J finished 7-1 in the conference and 17-4 overall in dual meet competition during the regular season.

The Wildcats are scheduled to compete in the regional tournament at West Frankfort Saturday, Feb. 4.

A-J scores road win over West Frankfort

The Anna-Jonesboro High Community High School boys' basketball team split in action last week.

A-J 47, West Frankfort 46: Jake Parr made a 3-pointer in the waning seconds to lift the visiting Wildcats to the win Saturday, Jan. 28.

The Redbirds drove down the floor but missed twice as time expired to preserve the A-J win.

A-J coach Mike Chamness said that during the fourth quarter, his squad was able to hold on to the lead. "We did a pretty good job, especially on defense," he said.

A-J led 11-7 after one quarter and 30-21 at the half.

"We got off to a pretty good start and shot well," Chamness said. "We knew the second half they would make a run."

The Redbirds pulled to 36-32 after three quarters and outscored A-J 14-11

down the stretch. Jacob Zimmerman, who had five 3-pointers and was 5 of 7 from that range, finished with 17 points.

Parr had 17 points and 14 rebounds. Sheldon McGrath had 6 points and 4 rebounds.

Logan Sawyer had 2 rebounds. Ross Pinnon had 3 points and 4 rebounds.

A-J was 8 of 24 in shot attempts from the floor, 9 of 19 from 3-point range and 4 of 6 from the free throw line.

The Redbirds were 11 of 25 in shot attempts from the floor, 6 of 20 from 3-point range and 6 of 7 from the charity stripe.

Nashville 61, A-J 43: The visiting Wildcats couldn't recover from a bad first quarter in the Southern Illinois River-to-River Conference Mississippi Division loss Friday, Jan. 27.

The Hornets pulled ahead 13-4 after one quarter and 26-12 at the half. Nashville led 38-26 going into the final period.

McGrath had 14 points and 4 rebounds to lead A-J. Parr had 13 points and 10 rebounds. Jade Gillis had 6 points and a rebound.

Pinnon had 5 points and 2 rebounds. Noah McFarland had 3 points and a rebound. Sawyer had 2 points and 3 rebounds.

A-J was 11 of 27 in shot attempts from the floor, 4 of 14 from 3-point range and 9 of 14 from the free throw line.

The Hornets were 25 of 41 in shot attempts from the floor, 3 of 16 from 3-point range and 2 of 3 from the charity stripe.

A-J, 15-11, plays Friday at home against Carterville and Saturday in the Benton Shootout against Carmi-White County at 11:30 a.m.

A-J to host 2A regional

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School will host the Class 2A regional girls' high school basketball tournament Feb. 6-9.

The tournament schedule follows:

Monday, Feb. 6, Chester vs. Trico at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 8, Sesser-Valier vs. Monday's winner at 6 p.m.; followed by A-J vs. Vienna at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 9, Wednesday's winners play the championship at 7 p.m.



Jonesboro girls fourth at state

The Jonesboro Grade School girls basketball team got fourth place in the 2017 SIJHSAA Class M girls basketball tournament on Friday, Jan. 27, at Rend Lake College in Ina. In the quarterfinals, Jonesboro defeated Trico 35-23. Jonesboro lost in the semifinals to Nashville 36-34 and fell to Aviston 50-44, which gave them fourth place. Vienna won the state tournament title. In regular season play, Jonesboro beat Vienna twice. Jonesboro finished its season with a record of 26-3.

Jonesboro team members are, in the first row, from left, Libby Smith, Jenna Sadler, Olivia Bowen, Heidi Jones, Marlee Smith and Jera Reynolds. In the second row are assistant coach Danny McFarland, Chloe McFarland, Jaley Watkins, Tae DeWitt, Kaya Coleman, Anna Hess and coach Beth Miller. Photo provided.

Saluki Sports Update

By Fred Huff

Dog fights are commonplace, but seldom like this one in the Missouri Valley Conference basketball standings. And, there's less than half-a-season remaining to be played.

Four teams, Southern Illinois, Missouri State, Northern Iowa and Drake, are presently tied for fourth place with identical 5-5 records.

What's more, another entry, Loyola of Chicago, is just one game ahead of the pack. That's five clubs battling to avoid the Thursday night play-in round of the MVC tournament in St. Louis and the Salukis are going to have to continue to play their "A" game in order to avoid it.

That's a pessimistic comment one might say, and they may be correct as SIU, at the same time, could finish as high as third in final standings. Take a look at the schedule, however.

Of the eight remaining games, only three are what we believe to be next to automatic "Ws." The Salukis host Bradley and Evansville and neither of those two teams are about to beat SIU at home. And, playing at Indiana State on the road doesn't bother me either.

However, the five other games are trouble. Two are against Loyola, along with single games vs. Wichita State and road contests at Illinois State and Northern Iowa.

If visiting in Las Vegas, we'd find someplace to make a little money that the Salukis will finish in the middle of the pack, maybe not fourth, but in the middle at fifth or sixth place. But, it certainly isn't automatic and our wager would be small.

Repeating one of our thoughts from a week ago, Sean O'Brien is a player. Definitely. No second-

guessing and we'd enjoy sitting next to Walt Frazier next week when he'll be among members of SIU's national championship team returning for their 50th anniversary of the NIT experience in 1967.

Frazier will enjoy O'Brien's game. He's cute on the floor as well as tough under the boards. And, we're talking about O'Brien, not Frazier who had his day playing with the New York Knicks after his two years with the Salukis.

What a shame. The Salukis, and Southern Illinois basketball fans, only got to see Frazier in action two years before he left for the pros and later was selected as one of the NBA's all-time top-50 greatest players.

Even at that, it was one more season than it could have been had Don Boydston, SIU's athletics director at the time, hadn't got involved when Walt flunked out of school after his first season of actual play. Boydston talked Frazier into coming back to Carbondale, sitting out his year, then getting back to the court.

Basketball coach Jack Hartman did not particularly want him back and only after being ordered by Boydston to do so, allowed Frazier to practice with the team while ineligible.

We're not trying to be ugly with Hartman, but that's the way it was and there are several others who would tell the same story. Frazier is one of them.

It's no big deal now. SIU won the NIT championship a year later. Frazier was the MVP. Hartman was honored as being the coach. And, hopefully the guy who made the defensive adjustments at halftime, George Iubelt, will be back in Carbondale next week enjoying the occasion. And, so will we.

Lady Wildcats score win over Pinckneyville

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School girls' basketball team split in recent action.

Sesser-Valier 51, A-J 42: The Lady Wildcats fell behind early in the non-conference home loss Saturday, Jan. 28.

The Lady Red Devils built a 6-0 lead before A-J's Elle Basler and Angel Helm came back to tie the game with back to back 3-pointers.

S-V then went on a run to outscore A-J 10-4 to pull ahead for keeps 18-10 after the opening quarter.

Basler had 22 points to lead A-J. Helm added 9 points, Jasmin Foster 7 and Connor Hadley 4.

A-J 47, Pinckneyville 41: The visiting Lady Wildcats built an early lead on their way to the Southern Illinois River-to-River Conference Mississippi Division win Thursday, Jan. 19.

Basler scored 24 points and had 7 rebounds to lead A-J.

Hadley added 10 points and 7 rebounds. Helm had 7 points and 7 rebounds.

Foster had 4 points and 5 rebounds. Lexi Smith had 2 points and a rebound.

Lexa Sharp and Julia El-

lis had 2 rebounds apiece and Sydney Heath had a rebound.

The Lady Wildcats improved to 15-11 overall and are scheduled to close out regular season play Thursday, today, at Sparta. A-J hosts the Class 2A regional next week.

Cobden 35, Dongola 32

Alaina Hartline scored 14 points to lead host Cobden to a 35-32 win over Dongola in South Egyptian Conference high school girls' basketball action Monday, Jan. 30.

Makynzie Peterman added 8 points for the Appleknockers. Jenna Hartline had 6 points, Grace Rhodes 5 and Maddie Shoemate 4.

Makenzie Prout scored 11 points to lead the Lady Demons. Tiffany Shirkey added 8 points, Barb Gorst and Delaney Cummings 3 each and Cheyenne Lingle and Shaylee Lingle 2 apiece.

Dongola plays Thursday, today, at home against Shawnee on Senior Night. Cobden plays Thursday, today, at Trico.

Cobden girls drop pair of games

The Cobden High School girls' basketball team lost a pair of games in recent action.

Shawnee 37, Cobden 33: Host Cobden couldn't hold a lead in the South Egyptian Conference loss Thursday, Jan. 26.

Alaina Hartline had 14 points to lead Cobden. Jenna Hartline added 11 points, Makynzie Peterman 5 and Grace Rhodes 3.

Madi Ellet had 14 points to lead Shawnee. Autumn McMahan added 10 points, Abbey Livesay and Katie Charles 5 each and Kirsten Pitts 2.

Century 55, Cobden 48: The visiting Appleknockers couldn't recover from a bad third quarter in the conference loss Monday, Jan. 23.

Alaina Hartline had 31 points to lead Cobden. Jenna Hartline added 10 points, Meredith Flamm 4 and Katie Eck 3.

Cobden is scheduled to close out regular season play Thursday, today, at Trico.

Shawnee, 2-14, is scheduled to close out regular season play Thursday, today, at home against Dongola.



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7G

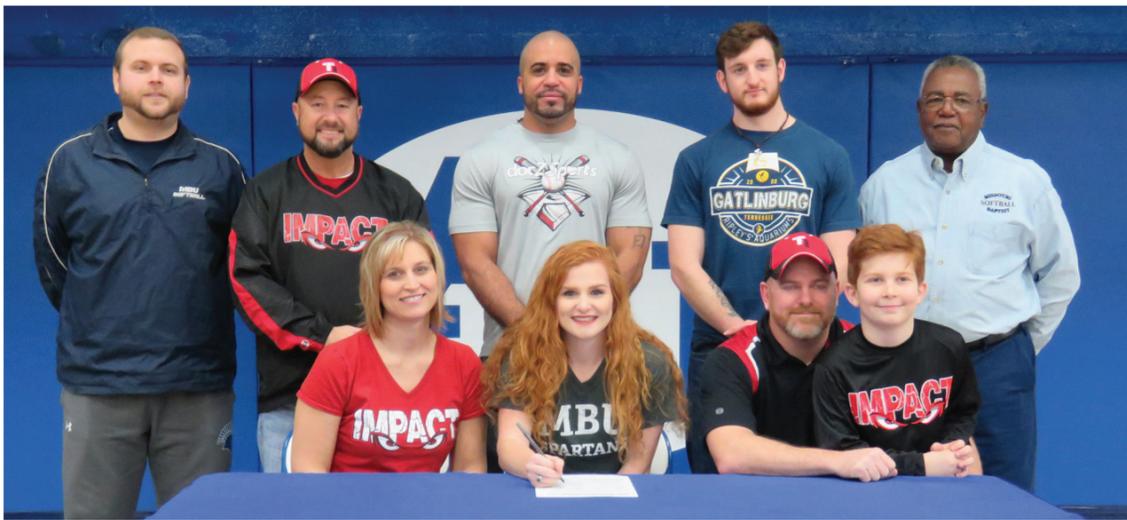
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A-J softball player signs

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School student athlete Mackenzie Conway has signed a national letter of intent to play softball for the Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis. She plans to study social sciences and hopes to work as a children's counselor. A signing ceremony was held last week at A-JCHS. In the first row are Mackenzie's mother Kim Conway; Mackenzie Conway; her father, Chuck Conway and her brother Kyle Conway. In the second row are Missouri Baptist assistant softball coach Brett Sauerwein, travel coach Mike Runyon, hitting coach Ralph Santana, brother Justin Brimm and assistant head coach Ken Messer-Brooks. Photo by Amber Skelton.

Family Fun Night set at Jonesboro School

Family Fun Night is set for Saturday, Feb. 4, at Jonesboro Elementary School from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. In the cafeteria, 26 local vendors will be selling products. Crafts, jewelry, cosmetics, clothing, health products, cooking and many more items will be available for purchase. Organizers of the event encourage the community to come and support local entrepreneurs. Gift ideas will be available for Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day and graduation. Admission is free. Barbecue will be the

main course at the concession stand. Barbecue sandwiches and nachos may be purchased separately, or as a complete meal for \$5. A hot dog, chips and drink will be \$3. Barbecue can be purchased to eat at the event or to take home. A bake sale is also planned. Pies, cakes, cookies, brownies and candy will be available. There will be plenty of activities for the kids. Lazer tag is planned in the gym from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Armbands can be purchased for \$10 to play unlimited games of laser tag,

or tickets will be sold for \$3 for one game of lazer tag. Carnival games for younger children can be played for 50 cents a ticket. Anyone is welcome to stroll the cake walk for 50 cents a game. Silent auction and raffle items will also be available. Some items include a car detail from Coad's, a one night weekend stay

from Drury, gift cards from Casey's and Rhodes 101, a bed and breakfast stay, beauty gift baskets, jewelry, and much more. Eighth grade students are also selling raffle tickets to win a Yeti 65 Cooler. Tickets are one for \$5 or three tickets for \$10. The drawing will be held at 8 p.m. that night. You do not need to be present to win.

Cobden boys head to state in junior high basketball

The Cobden Junior High School boys' basketball team has advanced to the state finals of Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association's post-season playoffs. The finals are scheduled to begin Saturday, Feb. 4, in the James Waugh Gym at Rend Lake College in Ina. Competition continues with quarterfinals on Feb. 6, semifinals on Feb. 9 and the third/fourth place game and championship on Feb. 11. Cobden advanced to the finals with a victory Monday night in the New Simpson Hill regional.

Cobden defeated New Simpson Hill 43-31 for the regional title. The Union County squad joined Carrier Mills, Cisne, Oakdale, Okawville, Valmeyer, Signal Hill, All Saints Academy, Odin, Elverado, Woodlawn, Pinckneyville, Cairo, Ewing, Allendale and either St. Mary's or Trinity Lutheran of Centralia in the finals. Cobden is set to face Pinckneyville at 3:45 p.m. Saturday in the first round at state. Pinckneyville won its own regional with a 40-36 victory over Steeleville.

Goreville, Meridian schools to host 1A girls regionals

Goreville and Meridian will each host Class 1A high school girls' regional basketball tournaments Feb. 6-9. The Goreville regional schedule follows: Monday, Feb. 6: Pope County vs. Shawnee at 6 p.m.; Cobden vs. Hardin County at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8: Goreville vs. Pope County-Shawnee winner at 6 p.m.; Century vs. Cobden-Hardin County winner at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 9: Wednesday's winners in championship at 7 p.m. The Meridian regional schedule: Monday, Feb. 6: Dongola vs. Joppa-Maple Grove at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7: Meridian vs. Dongola-Joppa-Maple Grove winner at 6 p.m.; Cairo vs. Egyptian at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9: Tuesday's winners in championship at 7 p.m.

Lick Creek School names honor students

Lick Creek Elementary School has announced honor and high honor roll students for the second quarter. **8th Grade High Honor Roll** Julia Hall, Grayson Heath, Kyleigh Matuszewich, Hannah Miller, Miranda Miller. **8th Grade Honor Roll** Abbie Edwards, Jaiden Foster, Cierra Thorn. **7th Grade High Honor Roll** Addison Denny, Bryce Ecker, Kristin Edmonds, Ethan Minckler, Erin Overstreet, Bo Schuetz, Will Smiley. **7th Grade Honor Roll** Campbell Belcher, Gracie Cook, Savana Rambeau, Molly Redman, Jude Smith, Brooke Starr. **6th Grade High Honor Roll** Brodie Denny, Danielle Dunaway, Kaylee Stover, Shealyn Thorn, Louis Van Muylder. **6th Grade Honor Roll** Hunter Chapman, Kiley Dailey, Macie George, Shayden Heath, Timothy Plott, Morgan Smith. **5th Grade High Honor Roll** Payton Denny, Evan Hall, Lucas Hoehner, Matti Houseman, Tysen Tripp. **5th Grade Honor Roll** Brisan Dirden, J.J. Gerardi, Drew Holshouser, Gunnar Myers, Sammi Turner, Hailey Wright, Meranda Wright. **4th Grade High Honor Roll** Brinley Corbit, Macie Hoehner, Kayla Matusze-

wich, Sophia Smiley, Clayton Smith, Kenzie Stover, Luke Vaughn. **4th Grade Honor Roll** Lindsay Elsner, Malayna Korb, Kaitlyn Matuszewich. **3rd Grade High Honor Roll** Sandy Browning, Lydia Coleson, Lauren Ecker, Emily Kacinski, Alex Orange, Calie Pinnon, Paxten Roberts, Kaylina Willey. **3rd Grade Honor Roll** Henry Hoehner, Lydia Jerrell, Andrew Larsen, Chris Wright.

School News Notes

The following items of interest were compiled from Union County area school districts: **Lick Creek** Lick Creek School plans to host Cairo in its first volleyball game of the season on Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. Eighth grade red, white and blue day is Friday, Feb. 17. There is no school Monday, Feb. 20. History fair judging is planned Tuesday, Feb. 21. **Cobden** Nicholas Grossman, a high school English teacher, represented Cobden High School and SIU last weekend by presenting a paper he wrote about the plays of Shakespeare at the Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in Chicago. FFA officers attended a Farm Bureau Acquaintance Day at SIU. **Jonesboro** Feb. 4 is Family Fun Night (with a shopping bazaar); hours are from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Junior High Beta Club convention in Springfield is Feb. 27-28. **Dongola** The 2017 homecoming king and queen, Jordan Hatton and Barb Gorst, were crowned Saturday, Jan. 28. **Anna-Jonesboro** Lindsey Sommer is collecting pennies for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Donations (pennies only) can be made in her room and at the office. Safe Celebration will be sponsoring its first prom expo on Feb. 25. The U.S. Forest Service/Shawnee National Forest's Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District is recruiting young people to participate in the Youth Conservation Corps Program. The YCC program is a summer employment program for young males and females which offers work

in the area of natural resources. Enrollees will be selected on a random basis, and will be paid minimum wage. The program is scheduled to begin June 12 and end on Aug. 4. Applications are available in the guidance office. Applications will be accepted until March 10. The City of Anna is accepting applications for pool lifeguard and pool concession employees. Applications can be picked up at Anna City Hall between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. More information is available in the guidance office. The A-J competitive cheer team earned a fourth place finish at Troy, which qualified the team for IHSA state competition this Friday in Bloomington. Junior class members were advised that Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is sponsoring Youth to Springfield (March 29) and a Youth to Washington Tour (June 9-16). Each youth tour winner will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship. There is no cost to the student other than incidental expenditures for souvenirs or snacks. Students do not have to receive electricity from SIEC to apply. Applications are available in the guidance office. The deadline is Feb. 28. **Shawnee** School will dismiss at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, for professional development. Senior night is Tuesday, Feb. 14. The Shawnee FFA Chapter is planning to host a family game night for all families on Friday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the old cafeteria. Snacks will be provided. The Shawnee spring concert is planned April 27.

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GRIEF SHARE

Group meetings begin Thursday February 2 from 7-9 P.M. at Harvest Church of Southern Illinois 602 E. Davie Street • Anna, IL • 833-0603

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Contact Marilyn Uehle at 697-1772 for more information.

6P7G

A-J Cheer Squad heads to state

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School cheerleading team has qualified for the Illinois High School Association State Finals, which are scheduled to be held at U.S. Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington Friday, Feb. 3.

The girls have been working towards this com-

petition since their season began back in April of 2016. They practiced for football and basketball games in the summer. They got the choreography for their competition routine in Evansville, but were not able to practice it until competition season.

In the meantime, they

hosted the Little Wildcat Cheerleading/Dance Clinic in August and taught young girls a routine to perform at an A-J home football game. They also performed in the A-J homecoming parade in Anna.

Beginning in October, the squad practiced every night of the week for two to three

hours. Some also attended tumbling practices many nights.

Coach Kristin Chamness, who has worked with the team for four years, said that cheerleading "is pretty much their whole existence. They have to be really resilient."

The first competition they attended was in November. They went to four invitationals in a row in Waterloo, Mt. Vernon, Pinckneyville and Edwardsville, taking home first place in each competition.

The team advanced to the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association State Finals in Springfield in December by placing fourth out of 28 teams.

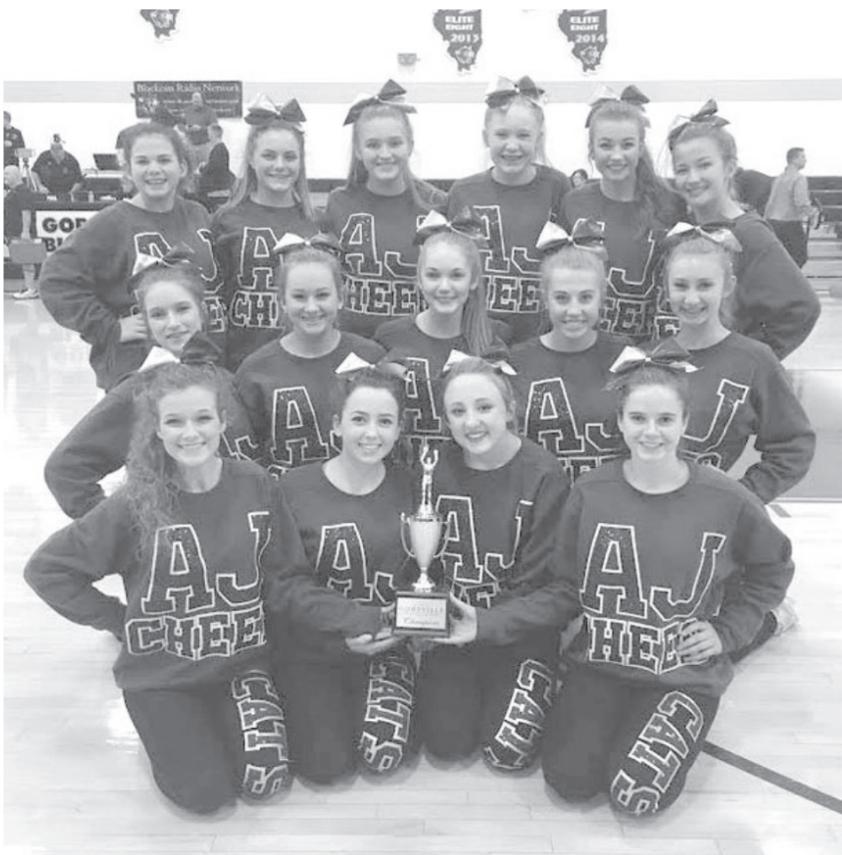
Chamness said that the IHSA state competition is only about 10 years old and that A-J has never made it that far. "It's the dream," she said.

Twenty-five teams are scheduled to compete Friday, Feb. 3, in Bloomington. The top 10 teams will advance to the finals on

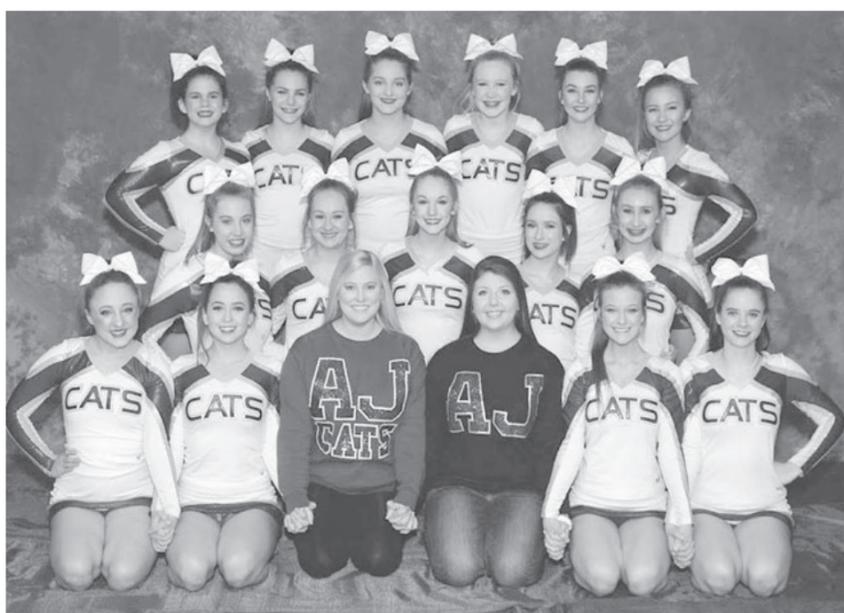
Saturday, Feb. 4.

Teams will perform a two and a half minute routine that will be judged in many categories. Some of those are projection and showmanship, tumbling abilities, stunting abilities, jump skills, motions, dance skills, creativity and more.

Chamness said that the team is currently ranked about 12th in points, but that it's very close. "It really depends on how everyone performs that day."



The A-J team placed first in the cheer competition that went on during the Goreville Invitational Tournament in early December. Photos provided.



First row, from left to right, Hannah Fuller, Kortnie Bonner, coach Kristin Chamness, assistant coach Sydney Heern, Alivia Miller and Hannah Stark. Second row, Ashley Detering, Mariah Dilman, Maddie Lingle, Olivia Wilkins and Mallory Cochran. Third row, Jenna Clark, Emma Tweedy, Lily Yana, Luca Mays, Addison Osman and Cheyanne Roach. Photo provided.



The team spent a week at the Universal Cheer Association camp in Destin, Fla., last summer. Four girls qualified for an All-American award, giving one the opportunity to perform in a Disney parade and two to perform in London, England.



Maddie Lingle performs a basket toss.

Good Luck Queens of the Jungle!
We love you, Mal!

Dad, Mom, Trevor and Seth

7GC

Good Luck at State, Hannah!

I love you, Ryan

7GC



The girls spent some time practicing on the beach at Universal Cheer Association camp.

You have 3 minutes to leave your mark. Embrace it. Cherish it. Conquer it. Make it count. We love you Mariah! Go A-J Cats.

Love, Mom and Dad

7G

Best of luck A-JCHS Competitive Cheer Squad!! We love you Lily.

Mom, Holly and Allie Dad, Ivy Cheyenne and Drake

7G

Best of luck, girls!

We love you Emma!

Love, Mom, Michael, Dad, Allison, Mamaw, Gampie, Popsie and Mimi

7G

Good luck to the A-J Cheer Squad from all of the sponsors on these pages.

A-JCHS wishes our competitive cheer squad good luck at state!

7G

Best of luck to the A-J Cheer Squad



The A-J cheerleaders before the competition.



The team represented Anna-Jonesboro Community High School in the A-JCHS homecoming parade in September.



The team performed during many A-JCHS football games.



Coaches Kristin Chamness and Sydney Heern with their first place trophy at Mt. Vernon.



The cheer team held the Little Wildcat Cheerleading/Dance Clinic in August. They worked with young girls to learn a routine they would perform at an A-JCHS football game.

Congrats to the A-J Cheer Squad

Good luck A-JCHS cheerleaders from the Short Family

7GC

Good luck at State A-J! We are so proud of you, Ashley!

Love, Mom, Dad, Andrew and Austin

7GC

Congratulations A-J Cheerleaders on a great season and Good Luck at State! We love you Luca!

Mom, Lia and Elly

7GC

Congratulations and best wishes at the IHSA State Cheerleading competition Hannah!

Love and Hugs, Mom and Dad

7GC

Best of luck A-JCHS Competitive Cheer Squad!! We love you Olivia!

Mom, Dad and Tess

7GC

We love you Alivia Renee Miller!

7GC

Best of luck A-JCHS Competitive Cheer Squad!! We love you Kortnie!

Dad, Mom, Kelsie, Jason and Kora

7GC

GOOD LUCK LADIES! Your hard work has paid off this season! So proud of you Cheyenne Hope!

Love, Mom, Mike, Drake, Lily, Holly and Allie

7GC

Keep your head high, your bow higher, and your confidence highest!

Good luck A-JCHS Cheer! We love you Addison!

Mom, Dad and Avery

7GC

Good luck to the A-JCHS cheerleaders at State! We are so proud of you, Jenna!

Love, Mom, Dad, Meg and Adam

7GC

Good luck to the A-J Wildcat cheerleaders! Congratulations Maddie! We love you!

Mom, Rick, Lexie and Liam Dad and Trena

7GC

Best of luck A-JCHS Competitive Cheer Squad!! We love you Hannah!

Love, Mom and Dad

7GC

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

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above entitled matter on January 4, 2017; Scott Harvel, Sheriff, 307 W. Market, Jonesboro, IL 62952, will on March 1, 2017 at 9:00 AM, at Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market Street, Room 101, Jonesboro, IL 62952, sell to the highest bidder for cash (ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Union County, Illinois.

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

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

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

Said property is legally described as follows:

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

Improvements: SINGLE FAMILY

Residential

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

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HELP WANTED: The City of Anna is now accepting applications for pool lifeguard and pool concession employees.

American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification is highly desirable. Applications can be picked up at City Hall, 103 Market Street, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Positions will remain open until filled. EOE.

HELP WANTED: The City of Anna is now accepting applications for Pool Manager and Head Lifeguard. American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification, prior management experience and W.S.I. training is highly desirable. Must pass background check. Applications can be picked up at City Hall, 103 Market Street, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Positions will remain open until filled. EOE.

HELP WANTED: Greg's Truck Service is looking to hire local drivers. Dump experience preferred but not mandatory. Home every night. Please apply at 140 Wolf Creek Road, Goreville, IL 62939.

HELP WANTED: Super 8 in Anna is accepting applications for part-time and possible full-time front desk & housekeeping. Must apply in person. No phone calls please.

HELP WANTED: Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81 is accepting applications for the following vacancy: • Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Interested applicants should pick up an application or print one from our website at www.aj81.net and return, along with letter of interest, resume and credentials to Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81, Attn: Rob Wright, Superintendent, 608 S. Main St., Anna, IL 62906. Please contact the Superintendent's Office at (618)-833-8421 for more information. The deadline for applying is February 10, 2017.

HELP WANTED: Integrity Healthcare of Anna is accepting applications for all positions. Please apply in person at 315 Brady Mill Road, Anna, IL. EOE.

HELP WANTED: Part-time LPN for developmentally disabled individuals in a day training setting. Duties include medication administration, quality assurance, paperwork, etc. Position is typically Tuesday and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Must have valid driver's license and transportation. Apply in person, mail resume, or fax to: Rave, Inc., 214 West Davie Street, Anna, IL 62906 or fax to (618)-833-4222.

HELP WANTED: Direct Support Person to assist in providing training to individuals with developmental disabilities in a vocational, day training & residential program. High school diploma or GED required. Benefits for full-time staff of dental, vision, life insurance, and medical insurance are available. Workshop starting salary \$9.00/hour and residential \$9.50/hour. We have a dollar an hour differential increase for working the midnight shifts. Training and certification provided. Experience preferred. Apply at RAVE, Inc., 214 W. Davie, Anna, IL 62906. EOE.

TEMP FARM LABORERS: (6), 03/11/2017-12/25/2017. Hand hoe vegetables; plant, cultivate, harvest & pack vegetables; load trucks. Must be able to carry 60 lb. bags of cabbage. 1 month experience as vegetable or fruit harvester required. \$13.12/hour 3/4 work days guaranteed, no cost for tools & equipment, no cost housing for workers (including U.S. workers) who can't reasonably return to permanent residence at end of workday. Distant workers will receive transport & subsistence costs to worksite at 1/2 of contract. Don Bok Farm, Pacific, MO. Report or send resume to nearest IL Workforce Center for referral. MO Job #12124283.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY: Aluminum cans and other junk. Will pick up junk appliances. ALSO, APPLIANCES FOR SALE. Call (618)-833-3544.

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TREECE Backhoe & Hauling Skid Steer Trenching Gravel, Dirt & Sand (618)-833-6197 or (618)-697-0453

NOTICE

\$100.00 REWARD for contact information for Kevin & Debra Roach. Call (505)-281-9820.

To Place Your Ad In The Gazette-Democrat Call (618) 833-2158

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

State of Illinois Department of Agriculture

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following licenses have been revoked and experienced failure on 12/29/2016 for Keller Grain Company, Inc. Keller Grain Company, Inc. has been ordered to cease and desist doing business as a licensed grain warehouse and dealer in the State of Illinois.

License
Grain Dealer License #5326 **Issued for Location** 9225 State Route 146 West, Jonesboro, IL 1000 Sheridan Road, Anna, IL

License
Warehouse License #1749 **Issued for Location** 9225 State Route 146 West, Jonesboro, IL 1000 Sheridan Road, Anna, IL

Therefore, any persons or producers of grain who has sold grain to the above company and has not been paid or received final payment, may contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Warehouses, State Fairgrounds, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL 62794-9281, (800)-654-0882.

All producers who have not been paid by Keller Grain Company, Inc. must file a claim with the Illinois Department of Agriculture on or before the later of: (a) the claim date of 3/29/2017 or (b) 7 days from the date notice was mailed to the claimant. If the date notice was mailed to that claimant is on or before the claim date, or the claimant's claim shall be barred.

Claims may be filed at 9225 State Route 146 West, Jonesboro, IL 62952 or by mail with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Warehouses, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL 62974-9281.

Raymond Poe
Director
Illinois Department of Agriculture
5-7g

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 18th day of January, 2017, under the Assumed Name of Strip Club Choppers Midwest with the place of business located at 102 E. Heacock Street, Jonesboro, IL 62952 and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of said Business is:

Mike Baker
Lisa Baker
102 E. Heacock Street
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Terry Bartruff
Union County Clerk
6-8gc

NOTICE UNDER ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME ACT

State of Illinois SS County of Union

Notice is hereby given pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Name in the conduct or Transaction of Business in the State," as Amended that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Union County, Filed this 30th day of January, 2017, under the Assumed Name of The Here & Now Shop with the place of business located at 319 S. Main Street, Anna, Illinois

62906 and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of said Business is:

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

Terry Bartruff
Union County Clerk
7-9gc

NOTICE UNDER ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME ACT

State of Illinois SS County of Union

Notice is hereby given pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Name in the conduct or Transaction of Business in the State," as Amended that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Union County, Filed this 27th day of January, 2017, under the Assumed Name of King Neptunes Cajun House with the place of business located at 138 E. Davie Street, Anna, Illinois 62906 and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of said Business is:

Lynn Stoner
138 E. Davie Street
Anna, IL 62906

Terry Bartruff
Union County Clerk
7-9gc

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that at 1 P.M. on March 22, 2017, I will present a Petition in the said Court praying for the change of my minor child's name from Ellie Marie Rae Hileman to Ellie Marie Rae Brown pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.

Dated: January 23, 2107.

AMELIA R. BROWN

CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC

NATALIE HATFIELD
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
205 B. N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
BAR NO. 6244394
7-9g

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

STATE BANK OF LINCOLN, an Illinois banking corporation, as assignee of First National Bank of Jonesboro, Plaintiff,

v.

LLOYD W. EDWARDS, JILL E. EDWARDS, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

No.: 2016-CH-25

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

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

The Plaintiff has certified that the above entitled mortgage foreclosure action was filed on October 4, 2016, and is now pending. (i) The names of all plaintiffs and the case number are identified above. (ii) The court in which said action was brought is identified above. (iii) The name of the title

holder of record is:

Lloyd W. Edwards and Jill E. Edwards

(iv) A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:

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

Situated in Union County, Illinois.

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

(v) Common address or location of mortgaged premises:

114 West Lewis Avenue, Anna, Illinois 62906

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

(A) Nature of instrument: Mortgage.

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

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

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

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

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

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

tion. YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE MEDIATION DATE ABOVE OR YOUR RIGHT TO MEDIATION WILL TERMINATE.

Tiffany Busby
Clerk of the Circuit Court

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

2017 NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

To All Owners And Occupiers Of Lands Lying Within The Boundaries Of The Union County Soil And Water Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on the 14th day of February, 2017 from 7 a.m till 5 p.m. at the USDA Building, 201 Springfield Ave., Anna, IL 62906. Two directors will be elected to serve the Union County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise.

Only such persons, firms or corporations are eligible to vote.

Carlyn Light
Chairman
Union County Soil and Wa-

ter Conservation District
DATE: 25th day of January, 2017.
7g

16-078574

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

PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION PLAINTIFF,

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

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

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

Scott Harvel, Sheriff, 307 W. Market, Jonesboro, IL 62952, will on March 1, 2017 at 9:00 AM, at Union County Courthouse, 309

W. Market Street, Room 101, Jonesboro, IL 62952, sell to the highest bidder for cash (ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Union County, Illinois.

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

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

Said property is legally described as follows:

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

EAST 49 1/2 FEET TO A STAKE; THENCE SOUTH 6 1/4° EAST 176 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF UNION AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

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

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

Improvements: SINGLE FAMILY Residential

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

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

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

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF YOUR PERSONAL LIABILITY FOR THIS DEBT HAS

BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY OR BY AN ORDER GRANTING IN REM RELIEF FROM STAY, THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED SOLELY TO FORECLOSE THE MORTGAGE REMAINING ON YOUR PROPERTY AND IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE DISCHARGED PERSONAL OBLIGATION.

1713508 7-9g

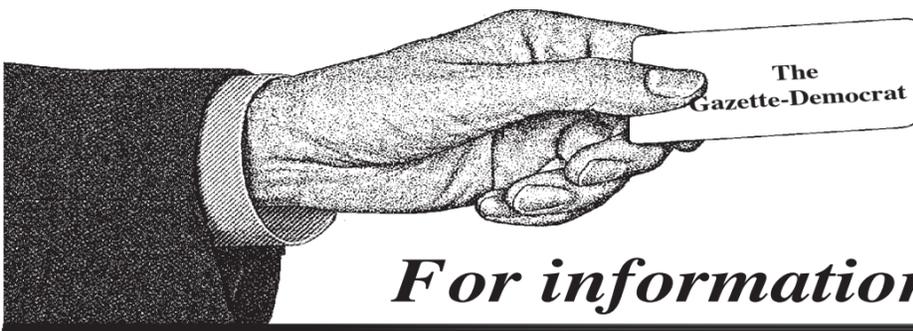
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Bill Hartline
Sales Consultant
Co-Op Chevrolet-Buick-Ford
2525 E. Vienna Anna, IL 62906
coadchevy.com or coadford.com
billhartline@drivecoad.com
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Anna News

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.

60th Anniversary

Louise and Bruce Williams celebrated their 60th anniversary Sunday afternoon at Anna Heights Baptist Church.

Hospice of Southern Illinois

Janna Harner sang at Hospice of Southern Illinois Gala 2017.

She was Lady Gaga and sang "Born This Way" at the Pavillion in Marion. Janna also did a duet as Sandy and sang "You're the One That I Want."

This was Janna's third year being involved. Her first year, she was Whitney Houston and sang "I Will Always Love You."

Her second year, she was Taylor Swift and sang "Shake It Off."

Janna says she is anxious to find out how much money was raised for Southern Illinois Hospice. Last year was around \$40,000.

68th Wedding Anniversary

Jim and Mary Courtright of Jonesboro celebrated their 68th anniversary on Jan. 29.

New Orleans Trip

Several friends vacationed in New Orleans, La. They celebrated Emily Sloan's birthday while there. Other friends were Shaun Chaput, Jacob Hutchison, Sandra Smith, Corey Rood and Danielle Renee Robinson.

South Carolina Trip

Lynn and Don Hinkle went to Hilton Head, S.C., to visit their daughter Danielle and grandkids, for three weeks.

The weather was in the 70s. They almost ran over an alligator laying on the highway one night.

Florida Trip

Rev. Steven, Jena and Gigi Guined vacationed in Naples, Fla.

Birthday Celebration

Tammy and Rommie Hall invited all their family and fixed dinner and cake to celebrate Kendra's birthday.

Guests

Nancy and Tom Ragain and Mary and Carlyn Light went out to eat last Wednesday night.

Correction

Linda Clutts name was left out of the picture in last week's paper where friends joined the hospital auxiliary in hosting a picnic in January at Union County Skilled Nursing Home. Linda lives in Makanda

and came to join the group in leading the singing and passed out musical instruments for everyone to play while they sang. Linda also stayed and helped them play bingo with everyone else.

A special thanks to Linda for all her volunteer work she does. She had meetings that week every day but gave of her time to come to Anna and she is really appreciated.

Congratulations

Dongola girls basketball team won their homecoming game Friday night over Egyptian.

Chamber of Commerce

I attended the Union County Chamber of Commerce Awards night 2017. It was very nice.

Congratulations business of the year Masters Choice Inc., new business of the year Rust Bucket Garage Wing & Burger Company, director MVP Andy Sisulak, business improvement of the year Union County Abstract Office, UNC, business improvement of the year Auto Tire and Parts NAPA and citizen of the year Rusty Flamm.

It has been an honor to attend ribbon cuttings for these businesses in 2016. Thank all of you for serving our community and supporting the chamber of commerce.

Anna Vista

Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day, and Anna Vista is having a Valentine party at noon in the community room. They will be picking a king and queen for the high rise.

AFSCME Retirees

Subchapter 90 met Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Anna Heights Baptist Church.

Guest was Shawna Rhine, sales and promotions manager at WIBH. Shawna thanked the retirees for the donation they made for the New Coats, New Hope Campaign. She told them about the coats.

This past October through December WIBH Radio held its annual New Coats, New Hope campaign to buy new winter coats for kids in Southern Illinois.

The station presented a certificate of appreciation to members of AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 90 for their \$200 donation to the effort. 100 percent of all donations is used to only buy coats for the kids. This

is made possible by Postal Pal in Anna who covers the shipping each year. A special thanks to Shawna Rhine for all she does.

Jim Wright won the door prize.

The retirees meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. They encourage other state retirees to join them.

Postal Pal

Wade and Idegail Dover purchased Postal Pal two and a half years ago as their family business.

Their daughter Hanna works there. The Dovers' other children are Lydia, Fleming, Maelee, Daniel and Titus. They are really appreciated for helping with the New Coats, New Hope campaign.

Martin Auction Co.

Red and Elizabeth Martin are the owners. The Antique Auction is located at 100 Lick Creek Rd.

Red has been in business in the area for 45 years. Red recalls going away for the Vietnam War and the building he is in now not being there but when he came back from Vietnam it was. It was build for a skate rink. Now it is full of beautiful antiques.

Red and Elizabeth have been married 26 years and enjoy meeting everyone that come to look in their store Monday through Saturday. There was a live and online auction last Saturday.

Congratulations Appleknockers

The Cobden marching band was honored by an invite to march in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., May 29. Our community can help by supporting them in upcoming fundraisers to enable them to attend.

The parade takes place in our nation's capitol on historic Constitution Avenue from 7th Street before a street audience of several hundred thousand spectators.

Guests

Jessie Eck met two ladies in a store shopping. Jessie was wearing a pair of cross earrings from her shop Soul Purposed here in Anna.

Valerie approached Jessie and commented on how she liked her cross earrings. Jessie explained how she sold them at her shop.

Their conversation led

into the purpose of Jessie's shop and what God has been leading her to do through Soul Purposed. Jessie then met Leah a few moments later and within those few brief moments, God built a relationship between the three of them that Jessie couldn't be more thankful for.

They are both originally from Peoria but Leah now lives in Southern Illinois. They both have a love and hunger for God that is beautiful and the fellowship this brings is such a blessing to Jessie.

Jessie says she just can't say enough about how God brings people together and the miracles and blessings He is capable of.

Valerie and Leah recently visited Jessie in Anna.

United Methodist Church, Anna

Sunday morning Rev. Carl Johnston's sermon was "Come and Surrender," with a gospel lesson from Mark.

Special music was "Be Exalted," a solo by Teri Goldsberry with ladies choir Nancy, Barbara, Chris, Amanda, Muriel, Marcy, Kathy and Carla.

The call to worship and songs were led by Barbara House. During time with children, Rev. Carl asked the children if they had ever been invited anywhere and told the children Jesus invites us to come to him.

After church the bazaar ladies hosted a fundraiser lunch in the fellowship hall. Thank you ladies for a very good meal.

Prayers for Rev. Carl as he travels this week. Sympathy to Rev. Carl and his family on losing a family member. He preached the funeral.

The January mission will be dedicated to collecting soup for Bethany Village.

For the winter months tai chi meets an hour early from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays during February.

Yoga is at 5 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays at 1 p.m. is Bible study. Wednesdays at 7 a.m. is men's Bible study. Wednesday is choir practice at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at 5 p.m. is prayer group.

Rev. Carl told everyone to wear their favorite football jersey next Sunday on Super Bowl Sunday. After church the youth group will

have a lunch fundraiser. They will serve soup and brownies. Adults are \$5, kids are \$3, and kids under 5 are free.

Library Sale

Stinson Memorial Library Friends of Stinson Appreciation sale will be Friday, Feb. 10, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, is the public sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12 is the bag sale from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for \$5 a bag.

Sales are set at the Stinson Library auditorium at 409 S. Main St. in Anna.

Red Hat Meeting

Little Egypt Red Hat Ladies will meet at Golden Corral in Carbondale for the February meeting. Their meetings are always the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

Happy Birthday

24 Jerald Hoffman, Barbara Hopper, Cassandra Musgraves, 25 Jason Leek, Heather Reynolds, Lisa Tomazzoli, 26 Tony Thompson, 27 Laura Guined, 28 Jimmy Page, Jenna Watkins, Weldon Davis, Janice Newton, Riley Girtman 10 years old, Kaylee Stover 12 years old, 29 John Boy, Larry Swope, Tammy Adams, Mike Ebberts, Sherry Skaggs, Sherry Lence, Patricia McIntosh, 31 Al Dammann. Feb. 1 Mayli Knight. Her mommy, daddy, and

baby brother wanted to say happy birthday and they love you. **Chicken People**

Several people gathered at the Anna Art Center last Friday night to watch the movie "Chicken People" starring Brian Caraker and his parents Betty and Bob.

Brian is still performing in the 1960s show at Branson. They are on their winter break now.

Brian keeps very busy on his farm in Arkansas. Last Saturday he judged a chicken show Pearl River Classic in Mississippi.

Congratulations

Teresa Goddard and Sharon Laster have received the approval of their business name as First Class Cookies.

They will be having an open house to promote their business Monday, Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Goddard's Barn and Grill.

VFW

Tuesday is Taco Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

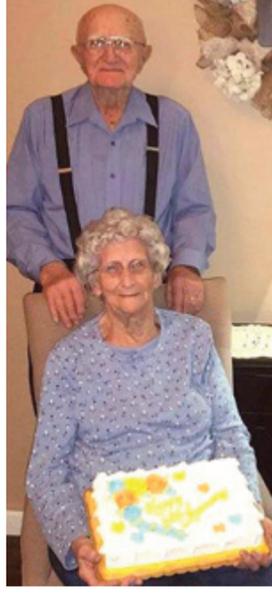
Friday, Feb. 3, will be the monthly fish dinner from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Star Karaoke is from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

On Feb. 11, there will be a Valentine steak dinner from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Star Karaoke is from



Mayli Knight turned 5 on Feb. 1.



Happy 65th wedding anniversary Mary and Jim Courtright.



Red and Elizabeth Martin, owners of Martin Auction Co. on Lick Creek Road in Anna across from Postal Pal. Red has been in the antique business for 45 years.



Jessie Eck's new friends Valerie and Leah like the new shirts and earrings they bought from Jessie's new store in Anna, Soul Purposed, when they visited Jessie. They both are originally from Peoria. Leah now lives in Southern Illinois.



Hanna Dover works at her family business Postal Pal. A big thanks to the Dovers for covering the shipping of the annual New Coats, New Hope Campaign sponsored by WIBH Radio.



Janna Harner in middle at the Hospice of Southern Illinois Gala 2017. Janna was Lady Gaga and sang "Born This Way."



Lori and David Ray were happy to meet Mike Reis and coach Barry Hinson at Buffalo Wild Wings. They enjoyed a great hour of SIU basketball conversation.



AFSCME retirees Sub-Chapter 90 donated to New Coats and New Hope Campaign. In the first row are Teresa Vincent, Jim Wright, Mary Light, Betty Caraker, Shawna Rhine, sales and promotions manager of WIBH, and Betty Eagle. In the second row are Todd Vincent, Teri Goldsberry, Jeri Knupp, Cathy Freeman, Debbie Nash, Judy Shoemaker, Glenn Heisner, John Stadelbacher and Martha Ann Webb.

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Anna News, continued

6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Call or drop by the post to reserve your steak.

Barbeque

Kiwanis Club will again have pork barbeque for sale this weekend for the big game. \$25 for 3 1/2 pounds and \$45 for 7 pounds. Contact any member for an order.

Question

Stephen Burns of St. Louis was looking for a story from someone to learn the date when electricity was first available to the business district of Don-gola. If anyone has a story about this, please email him at sburns05@gmail.com or you can email me.

Anna Eastern Star

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

Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club

On Feb. 6 the club will meet at Union County Hospital. The program will be by Mary Nash Swink with the theme being health.

Free Community Dinners

Loaves and Fishes is a free community meal 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 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 the 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 is on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. There will be free food, desserts and some personal items available for anyone who

needs them. Everyone is welcome.

Cobden Church

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

Connect Point Church

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

Get Well List

Joyce Bartruff, Randy Hindman, Carolyn Harvel, Jessie Sowers, Pinky Cates, Connie Boyd, Steve Boyd, Brandy Girtman, Lisa Renee Mears, Mary Ann Sadler, Matthew Griffin, Kay Chapman, Jeanne Haynes, Bill Eblen, Judy Smith, Joe Lawrence, Phillip Dillow, Ashlin Tweedy, Judy Vaughn, Dakota, Jon Pengress, Jack Lewellyn, Roger and Lana Kay Glasco, Billy Hutcheson, Gorge Griffin, Anna Ferneti, Sarah 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.

Sympathy

Sympathy to the family of Jim Cowsert. Jim fought a long battle with cancer. He will be missed. He worked many years at IKT.

Military Prayer List

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

Education board offers budget recommendations

The Illinois State Board of Education, ISBE, has finalized its fiscal year 2018 budget recommendations for pre-K through 12th grade educational services providers statewide.

ISBE's total budget recommendations amount to \$7.727 billion, an increase of \$266.4 million (3.45 percent) over Fiscal Year 2017 levels.

ISBE held three public hearings in different parts of the state to gather feedback on spending needs and priorities.

ISBE formulated its budget recommendations based on the testimony of educators, students and community members and adhered to three key principles:

Aligning with ISBE's goals; advocating for the needs of children across the state, as identified through requests from the field; and recognizing the need for universal and differentiated support to meet the unique needs of each and every child in the state.

ISBE recommends fully funding General State Aid, GSA, in Fiscal Year 2018 at the Foundation Level of \$6,119 per student, while maintaining the current GSA appropriation of \$5.078 billion.

The Foundation Level represents the mandated minimum level of funding required to meet the basic education needs of one student in the Illinois pre-K

through 12th grade public school system.

Other highlights from the budget request approved by ISBE include:

An increase of \$50 million for early childhood education, as incorporated into the federal preschool expansion grant agreement to increase access to quality, effective services for the most at-risk children in the state.

An increase of \$38.4 million to fully fund bilingual education programs serving the growing number of English Learners in the state.

Increases in funding to support special education, arts and foreign language programs, agricultural education, broadband expansion and other digital technology enhancements, career and technical education, teacher mentoring and diverse educator recruitment, advanced placement exam fees for low-income students, and other critical investments that contribute to the college and career success of all Illinois students.

ISBE plans to submit its recommended budget to the Illinois General Assembly before Feb. 17.

ISBE's complete Fiscal Year 2018 budget recommendations can be seen on the ISBE website at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FY18%20Brd%20Req%20web%20posting.pdf>.

Reynoldsville News

by Sue Eudy

Sue and Steve Eudy visited Friday with Con, Lavern and Sandy Miller of Ullin and with Betty Miller at River to River in Ullin. We also visited with Wilburn Gibbs at River to River in Anna.

Sue Eudy visited Saturday with Linda and Gary Koch of Cape Girardeau and with Lois and Jim Crites in Jackson, Mo.

Sue and Steve Eudy attended a birthday party Sunday afternoon in Cape Girardeau for their great-granddaughter Jade Driskell, who was 1 year old on Friday, Jan. 27.

Tony, Krista and Richard Pender of Metropolis visited Friday with Fred and Maxine Pender of Fair City.

Maxine and Fred Pender visited Saturday with Brad and Lori Pender of Jonesboro. They were celebrating Lori's birthday, which was

Heath retires

Phil Heath of Harrisburg planned to retire from Farm Credit Illinois on Jan. 31.

Heath is retiring after 19 years as a vice president of risk management, based most recently out of the Marion regional office.

He has served farm families and rural landowners in Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union and Williamson counties in Southern Illinois.

News from

Mt. Moriah, Salem Lutheran Churches

On Sunday, Jan. 29, the sermon was about Jesus' sermon on the Mount. The pastor shared that "Jesus' words are not for us to point fingers at others with, but to remind ourselves of how we need to treat other people.

"Our walk with Christ begins with humility and

Saturday, Jan. 28.

Shirley Miller of McClure, Ermadell Elkins of Anna and Deanie and Jerry Hinkle of Jonesboro enjoyed lunch at Pizza Hut in Anna last Tuesday.

Joe Schneider of Cape Girardeau visited Tuesday afternoon with Shirley Miller.

Shirley Miller and Elva Scantlin of Harrisburg had lunch last Thursday at Cracker Barrel in Marion. Shirley then visited with Yvonne and Richard Graham of Anna.

Dolores and Jack Reynolds of Reynoldsville and Rodney and Vicki Reynolds of Wolf Lake attended a basketball game at Sesser on Tuesday night. Their granddaughter and great-granddaughter Rylie is a cheerleader at Sesser.

Barb and Edwin Livesay of Anna and Jack and Dolores Reynolds enjoyed eating at McAllister's in Cape Girardeau on Sunday.

Happy birthday to Ernie Rhodes of Jonesboro on Saturday, Feb. 11.

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

Obituaries

Jim L. Cowsert

Jim L. Cowsert, 64, of Goreville, and formerly of Cobden and Ware, died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, at 12:50 p.m. at his home.

He was born on Feb. 12, 1952, in Bixby, Okla., the son of Charles L. Cowsert Sr. and Pearl Pitcher Cowsert.

In 1980, he married Betty Johnson at Shiloh Baptist Church in Cobden. She survives.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Liberty Spurlock, Michelle (Dennis) Wildhagen and Michael (Laura) Wallace; grandchildren Kalyssa Spurlock, Haley Helton, Dallas (Phil Strotman) Helton, Jarrett (Megan) Helton, Caitlyn Wallace, Seth Wallace and Aiden Wallace; and a great-granddaughter, Gracynn S. Helton.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Penny C. Cowsert; a brother and two sisters.

He was a volunteer EMT, firefighter and police officer for the Village of Cobden. He was employed by the Western Auto as well as the IKT stores in Anna for 20 years. He also served as the maintenance supervisor for the Carbondale Rehabilitation and Nursing Center for four years prior to working as a shuttle bus driver for Saluki Express in Carbondale until his illness.

He loved riding motorcycles, spending time with his wife and family as well as his dogs. He was of the Baptist faith.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no visitation or funeral service.

Memorials can be made to the family.

To share a memory or to leave an online message of condolence for his family, visit www.bailey.com.

Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna is in charge of arrangements.

Thomas A. 'Tomy' Bible

Thomas A. "Tomy" Bible, 33, of Anna, died at 10:36 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20, 2017, at his home.

He was born on Sept. 25, 1983, in Carbondale, the son of Mark D. and Vicki Campbell Bible.

He is survived by his son, Drake T. Bible of Anna, son of Tasha Mealer; two special little girls, Bailey and Keara Bible of Anna; his mother, Vicki Bible of Anna; a sister, Nikki (Jason) Earnhart of Springfield; his maternal grandmother, Nadine Campbell of Anna; numerous cousins; other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mark D. Bible; a brother, Cody Bible; his maternal grandfather, Homer Campbell; an uncle, Billy Campbell; and his maternal grandparents, Louis and Patsy Bible.

His family said Tomy was caring and happy go lucky. His passions were his family and sports; he loved watching the Chicago Cubs win the World Series this past year.

Memorial services for Mr. Bible will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with the Rev. Billy Carter officiating. Friends can call after noon on Friday, Feb. 3, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home.

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 Anna is in charge of arrangements.

RENDELMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Helen L. Frick

Helen L. Frick, 83, of Jonesboro, died at 10:15 a.m. Monday, Jan. 30, 2017, at Southeast Missouri Hospital in Cape Girardeau.

She was born on April 30, 1933, in Union County, the daughter of Curtis and Velma Bright Treece.

She married Lester Frick on June 9, 1951, in Jonesboro. He preceded her in death on June 30, 2002.

She is survived by her sister, Lillian Sadler of Belton, Mo.; a brother, Curtis (Dorothy) Treece of Jonesboro; several nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Curtis and Velma Treece; her husband, Lester Frick; a daughter, Marilyn Kay Frick; and three sisters, Ruth Black, Betty Toarmina and Wilma Loveless.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Jonesboro. She enjoyed reading, gardening, baking and decorating cakes.

Funeral services for Mrs. Frick will be at noon Thursday, today, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna. Interment will be in the Jonesboro Cemetery.

Friends can call from 10 a.m. and until the hour of the service at noon Thursday, today, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna.

Memorials can be made to the donor's choice.

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

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

RENDELMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES

Hess News

By Glenn Heisner



60th anniversary

Louise and Bruce Williams celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sunday afternoon at Anna Heights Baptist Church. Photo provided.

Louise and Bruce Williams celebrated their 60th anniversary Sunday afternoon at Anna Heights Baptist Church.

Six of their daughters were there, as well as son Tony from New Hampshire.

Daughter Heather Walker from Huntsville, Ala., wrote a song about her parents meeting in a cucumber patch over 60 years ago. Daughters and granddaughters sang it for all.

Vertis Duckworth, the maid of honor 60 years ago,

was there to help celebrate.

Our son Danny Heisner from Alabama and grandson Justin McClellan from Nashville were up for the event and stayed with us.

There was an estimated 1,000 people at Upward basketball Saturday at Anna Heights.

The annual meeting of Associated Saddle Clubs will be Feb. 4 at Harrisburg. These clubs govern the 9-day trail ride.

Feb. birthdays: Alan Morgan 5th, Jean Kohler 7th, Ernie Rhodes, 10th.





Jo Ann McIntire Tutt, Michael Pence Jr. and Sarah Whiteside Pence. Photo provided.



Jo Ann McIntire Tutt and Vice President Michael Pence. Photo provided.

Granddaughter of former Anna resident married to son of vice president

Union County resident Ethelene Lyerla is sharing a special story and pictures from a special wedding.

Ethelene received the accompanying pictures and article from her cousin, Jo Ann McIntire Tutt, formerly of Anna.

Jo Ann went to Indiana to see her granddaughter Sarah Whiteside marry Michael Pence Jr., who is a Marine.

Michael is the son of Vice President Michael Pence.

They were married on Dec. 28 in the Governor's Mansion in Indiana.

The pastor who conducted the service was a young man the couple had met at Purdue University.

After the ceremony, they had a catered buffet with specific food for those who had special diets.

The couple had a very short honeymoon, because the groom had to be back at his Marine station.

They plan to have a special wedding celebration in October for friends and political members.

Jo Ann said she was very thrilled to meet the vice president of the United States. She said he was a very warm and friendly man.

Jo Ann also said that she appreciates her health and good fortune and to have been a part of the special occasion.



Special visitor

Kim Dillow's 3rd grade class at Jonesboro Elementary School recently welcomed a special visitor in their room. Kim Emory from the Anna Baking Company talked to all of the girls in the class about the importance of math in her job. Photo provided.

Lick Creek 4-H Club yeast bread workshop pictures



4-H Meeting, Yeast Bread Workshop

Evelyn Bailey, the Union County CEO facilitator, spoke about career opportunities at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 9, at the Lick Creek 4-H Club. Our club thanks Mrs. Bailey for sharing about various career opportunities and appreciates Erin Dillow for coordinating the guest speaker.

On Saturday, Jan. 23, the annual yeast bread workshop was held at the Anna Nazarene Church fellowship hall at 8 a.m. The club made pizza, cinnamon rolls and other bread.

The next meeting will be held on February 13th at the Union County Extension office at 6:30 p.m.

Achievement Night at Lick Creek 4-H

Monday night, Nov. 14, the Lick Creek 4-H held an achievement night at the Anna Nazarene Church. They had a meal and then the awards were given out for the members who showed up at meetings, talks and demonstrations, projects and officer awards. There were 61 people total, there were 19 4-H members, 32 adults and 10 children.

The club met Dec. 12 at Pizza Hut at 5:30 p.m. then they went caroling and met back at Pizza Hut.

(The story and photographs were shared by Lick Creek 4-H Club reporter Jonathan Mattheis.)

A-J Rotary Club, Shawnee Community College partner to offer matching scholarship

The Anna-Jonesboro Rotary Club, in partnership with Shawnee Community College, is offering a \$1,000 matching scholarship to an eligible Union County high school senior.

Eligibility requirements follow: a student must be graduating in May from a Union County school and plans to enroll at Shawnee Community College by the fall of 2017.

The primary criteria for selection of a scholarship recipient are the student's demonstrated commitment to community service dur-

ing his/her high school and the student's acceptance into Shawnee Community College.

Applications can be obtained from the guidance counselor's office at local schools or by emailing ajrotaryclub@hotmail.com.

Questions regarding the application can be directed to Mary Nash-Swink, A-J Rotary Club scholarship committee chairperson, by calling 833-4511, extension 4359.

All applications will be reviewed and the selection made entirely at the discretion of the scholarship committee of the Anna-Jonesboro Rotary Club.

The deadline for applications is April 14.

The scholarship recipient will be announced by late April.

Winter walks set

Winter walks in the woods are planned on two Saturdays in February at Giant City State Park near Makanda.

The walks are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 11:30 on Feb. 4 and Feb. 18.

The walks will be on trails which range in length from one-third of a mile to 2 miles.

For more information, or to register for the event, contact the visitors center at the park at 618-457-4836.

End Time Series being presented

Irvin Baxter's 13-week End Time Series is being presented at Apostolic Faith Tabernacle in Jonesboro.

The series is being presented at 6 p.m. on Wednesday. The church is located at 955 State Route 127S in Jonesboro.

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THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, February 2, 2017

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Section B

Fair queen Clare Bunyan first runner-up at state pageant

Clare Bunyan, the daughter of Chris and Jill Bunyan of Cobden, was awarded first runner-up at the Illinois State Fair queen pageant.

The pageant is the highlight of the annual Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs convention, which

was Jan. 19-21 in Springfield.

The pageant brought together county fair queens from 72 county fairs throughout Illinois.

Those in attendance at this year's state Fair Convention from Union County included:

Janice Osman, Union County Fair queen pageant director; Linda Warren, pageant assistant; Deb Stroehlein, hairstylist; Chris and Jill Bunyan, Clare's parents.

Also in attendance were Union County Fair Board members Mike Meisen-

heimer, Southern Zone president and wife Marilyn, Dale Moreland, Ron Knupp and wife Linda.

Reception Planned

A reception for Clare is planned at 7 p.m. on Feb. 7.

The reception will be at the Union County Fair office at the Anna City Park.



Clare Bunyan and Janice Osman: waiting for Clare's turn to interview at the state pageant. Photo provided.



A sign in Cobden recognizes Clare Bunyan's achievement.



Clare Bunyan was first runner-up at the Illinois State Fair queen pageant. Photo provided.



Checking in at state: Clare Bunyan with 2016 state fair queen Abby Foster. Photo provided.



Clare Bunyan signs an autograph for a future fair queen. Photo provided.



Clare Bunyan, with her parents, Chris and Jill Bunyan. Photo provided.

Illinois leader in green building

The U.S. Green Building Council, USGBC, reports that Illinois continues to lead the nation in LEED green building.

The 2016 national rankings placed Illinois third on the annual list, making Illinois one of only two states to remain in the top 10 since the list began in 2010.

The annual list highlights states throughout the country that made significant strides in sustainable building design, construction and transformation over the past year.

Illinois had a total of 151 LEED-certified projects representing 2.82 gross square feet of certified space per resident in 2016.

According to USGBC's 2015 Green Building Economic Impact Study, LEED construction is projected to support 413,000 total jobs in Illinois and have a total impact on GDP of \$36.13 billion from 2015-2018.

Vigil planned

A Peace Coalition of Southern Illinois/FOR Monthly Vigil for Peace and Justice is scheduled Saturday, Feb. 4, from noon to 1 p.m. at the corner of Illinois Avenue and Main Street in Carbondale.

The vigil will carry on the themes from recent women's marches.

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Cobden High School Homecoming 2017

Cobden High School celebrated its homecoming Jan. 17-20. The theme centered on Suzanne Collin's young adult book series, "The Hunger Games." Spirit week included twin day, pajama day, district day and Appleknocker day. On Friday, students faced each other in a "battle of the classes," which resulted in a senior class win.

Cobden held its homecoming coronation on Friday, Jan. 20. The high school Appleknocker boys basketball teams faced Thompsonville High School, leading to a JV victory and a varsity loss. Select photos by Amber Skelton.



Homecoming court. From left to right, Jamison Cowart, Landon Britt, Kalena Bostian, Dane Inman, Madison Burns, Hayden Young, Raul Palmerin, Elizabeth Hindman, Robert Phillippe, Sydney Windings, Juan Miranda, Emily Reese, Dylan Duty, Adeline Aspen, Chandler West and Maddie Bundren.



Cobden boys basketball junior varsity game.



Cobden boys basketball junior varsity game.



2017 homecoming queen Elizabeth Hindman and 2017 homecoming king Robert Phillippe.



Cobden boys basketball varsity game.



Pajama day. Photo provided.



Appleknocker pride day. Photo provided.



Class competitions. Photo provided.



Hunger Games district day. Photo provided.



Hunger Games district day. Photo provided.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

Music for the Sunday, Jan. 29, worship service was led by Larry Fuller and Randy Wright and accompanied by Johnathon Cauble.

The offertory was provided by Joseph Brooks. Robert Smith, Logan Wiseman, Matt Macy and Curly Ralls served as ushers.

The morning message, "Disoriented: A Church In Captivity," was brought by Pastor McBride from Revelations.

The message shared that "we are in a dangerous place spiritually when we come to regard the lack of God's presence and the

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On Sunday, Jan. 29, the pastor's message, "Believing the Savior at Work," was based on scripture from Colossians. This was a continuation of his series, "Colossians: Christ Before All Else."

Music was directed by associate pastor of worship Paul Lemon. Both the worship choir and Debbie York provided special music.

Sunday School class at the River to River Assisted Living family room is planned Thursday, today, at 9:45 a.m.

A school ministry meeting is set Friday, Feb. 3, at 9 a.m.

Anniversaries: Ron and Linda Sadler, married 18 years on Feb. 2; on Feb. 2, Marc and Amy Sheffer celebrate 15 years of marriage.

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

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

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

News from

Trinity Lutheran Church, Anna

The pastor's sermon for Jan. 29 was titled "Called Us Out of Conflict" and was based on scripture from 1 Corinthians.

The message shared that "Christ has called us out of conflict to be what we could never be on our own. Our sinful human pride needs to be smashed by the Holy Spirit and replaced with a joyful, loving humility in Christ."

Sunday's service was a fifth Sunday of the month. Trinity Lutheran has begun using The Lutheran Hymnal with Holy Communion on those months with a fifth Sunday. Participants are invited to bring a copy of the old hymnal on those Sundays.

There is a Saturday service at 5:30 p.m. with Holy Communion and the Divine Spoken Word service. Sunday's Bible study at 9:15 a.m. continues in the study of Romans.

Sunday's service at 10:30 a.m. will be Divine Service, with Holy Communion being celebrated.

Gospel singing set in Villa Ridge

A gospel singing is planned Saturday, Feb. 4, at Shiloh Baptist Church in Villa Ridge.

Singing is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Billy Carter and Friends and the Gloryroad Travelers from Mounds will be featured.

resulting captivity of the church as 'normal.' The good news is that when God's people are in captivity, He desires that we be free and so prepares us for deliverance."

Ushers for the Sunday evening service were Bryan Morrison, Leonard Sadler, Terry Wiseman Sr. and Brad Clayborne.

Singspiration was held with Jack and Nina Shepard, Harley and Madison Schnaare, Dylan Dunston, Bryan Morrison, Abby Barlow, Jessica Elkins, Joyce Mayer, Johnathon Cauble and Randy Wright participating along with the congregation.

The church extends sympathy to Curt Lyerla in the loss of his brother, Herschel Lyerla.

Feb. 15 is the NMI chili cookoff with the men of the church participating and the ladies bringing something that complements the chili, such as soup, corn chips, cheese or a dessert.

Birthdays: Jack Shepard, Jan. 30; Donald May, Feb. 1; Lottie Smith, Zachary O'Neal, Rosa Parks, Feb. 2; Dora Johnson, Sherry Schnaare, Feb. 4.

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. with classes for all ages. Worship services are Sunday at 10:35 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

News from

Camp Ground Church and Community

The sermon Sunday, Jan. 29, was titled "Living Care Free" with scripture from 1 Peter.

The message shared that, "depending on one's relationship with Christ, persons generally react to stress in one of three ways: careless/clueless, too careful, or care-free.

"The careless have allowed their spiritual lives to drift away from God; the too careful allow worry about mundane things to interrupt their trust in God; and the care-free have reached the point that they totally trust Him to care for them."

Rev. Vance closed with the challenge to the congregation to live their lives care-free in Christ.

Receiving the offering Sunday were Tanner Roach and Rodney Miller.

The elder for February is Karen Vaughn.

Erin Stute's birthday was the 31st.

The congregation was glad to have some of the sick back in services Sunday; yet others were under the weather and absent. Camp Ground wishes all a speedy recovery.

The congregation sends sympathy to the family of Bobby Tucker Jr., whose burial was in Camp Ground Cemetery last Friday. His

father and many of his paternal relatives were part of the Camp Ground congregation for many years.

Representatives of the Cherokee Nation and the USFS visited the Camp Ground cemetery this past week in an effort to better understand the "lay of the land" in relation to the events that transpired there during the 1838-1839 Trail of Tears so that it could be shared with the nation back in Oklahoma.

Looking ahead, Camp Ground plans to have Heritage Sunday/February fellowship meal on Feb. 12 following the morning worship service. Those attending are invited to come via horse and wagon, to wear clothing and bring food reminiscent of the early 1800s.

The community is welcome and invited to come in modern vehicle, wear 2017 clothing, and bring any covered dish. The main thing is to join in worship that day.

Lara Crane was the guest of honor at a baby shower Sunday afternoon in the fellowship hall. She was the recipient of many cute and useful gifts.

Services at Camp Ground are Sunday School at 10 a.m. followed by worship service at 11 a.m.

News from

Walnut Grove Church

For the last two Sundays, Rev. Ray Long has been the guest preacher at Walnut Grove. On Sunday, Jan. 22, the special music was "God's Choir in the Sky."

The service was interspersed with happy baby comments and laughter from Katelyn Ellet. Children are always welcome and encouraged to attend services and Sunday School.

Prayers have been requested for the Rev. Robert Fear and his wife Jeannette, the Mauer family, Kathy Wills and Gary and Sandy Hartline.

Rev. Long read scripture from Luke and reminded the congregation that "if we don't let Jesus serve us, we cannot serve him or serve others in the way that God intends for us to do."

On Sunday, Jan. 29, David Cook lit the candles on the altar and the special music was "Not My Will."

The scripture was from Jeremiah. Rev. Long asked the congregation to think about "why we are here in church, and what is the Lord asking of us? He is asking us to transform the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ for all people, despite our differences and our personal feelings. Look to Jesus as an example of how to bring all types of people together with love and caring."

The next ladies lunch

will be Feb. 3 at 11:30 a.m. at Goddard's Barn and Grill in Anna.

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

News from

First Baptist Church, Cobden

Pastor Ed Falgout's message on Sunday, Jan. 29, titled "Worldview 102," was based on scripture from Genesis. He spoke about "the reality of the record, the introduction of the enemy and the church's victory over the enemy."

The BMen plan to sponsor a banquet Saturday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m.

The youth plan to gather for a Super Bowl party on Feb. 5.

The BMen plan to meet for breakfast and devotion February 6. The children's ministry plans to begin a study of Luke 7.

The Woman 2 Woman group plans to meet Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. for a Valentine's Day craft.

Bible study is at 9 a.m. on Sunday. Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. A Sunday evening service and youth group meeting are planned at 6 p.m.

On Wednesdays, a meal is served at 5:30 p.m. Bible study is at 6:30 p.m.

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MELT YOUR TROUBLES AWAY



There's a car under here somewhere! A surprise winter storm can bury your "wheels" and keep you from getting where you need to go...until the sun comes out and melts the snow away. Some days, our troubles keep piling up on us until we feel like we're immobilized under a foot of snow and can't make a move. We're trapped by our circumstances. But, like the sun, the warmth and love of God can melt our troubles away. Have faith, visit your house of worship this week and let God's light shine on you.

Daily Devotional Reading

John 10:1-21	John 10:22-42	John 14:1-14	John 14:15-31	John 15:1-17	John 15:18-16:15	John 16:16-33
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Shawnee High School Homecoming 2017

Shawnee celebrated its homecoming week starting with a theme-filled spirit week Jan. 17-20. Themes included character day, hippie day, class color day and spirit day. Class competitions were held on Friday. The students participated in the following contests: best class door, best class banner, individual spirit stick winner, class spirit stick winner, plop the potato, balloon race and making a Cheetos mask. On Saturday, Jan. 20, the high school basketball teams faced Dongola. The Lady Reds lost 51-54 and the Redskins won 60-63. Sean Copeland was honored as Shawnee's Best and the high school cheer-leading squad performed between games. Select photos by Tiffiny Dillow for The Gazette-Democrat.



Homecoming candidates Molly Lewis, Zack Phelps, Kindra Baltzell, Madi Ellet, Noah Law, Abbey Livesay and Aaron Newell. Wyatt Hassebrock is not pictured. Photo provided.



Koby McLane, number 4.



2017 homecoming queen Molly Lewis and king Zach Phelps.



Shawnee High School cheerleaders.



Abbey Livesay, number 32.



Character day. Photo provided.



Spirit day. Photo provided.



Class competitions. Photo provided.



Hippie day. Photo provided.

Illinois Supreme Court appoints area attorney to fill judicial vacancy

Chief Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier and the Illinois Supreme Court have announced the appointment of Carbondale attorney Carey C. Gill as an at-large circuit judge in the First Judicial Circuit in Southern Illinois.

Ms. Gill was appointed to fill the vacancy created when Judge James R. Moore was elected to the Fifth District Appellate Court in the November 2016 general election.

Gill's appointment takes effect on Feb. 17 and concludes on Dec. 3, 2018, when the vacancy will be filled by the winner of the November 2018 general election.

"I am thankful to Chief Justice Karmeier and the Supreme Court for appointing me to the Circuit Court," Gill said in a news release.

"I am honored to have this opportunity and recognize the great responsibility to both the profession and the community associated with serving on the bench."

Chief Justice Karmeier recommended the appointment to the full court following a review of applicants by a six-person screening committee.

Members of the screening committee included the Hon. Stephen Spomer, retired justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, Fifth District; Tandra Kay Cain, Johnson County state's attorney; the Hon. Terry Foster, retired judge and attorney at Kruger, Henry & Hunter in Metropolis; attorney Kara Lynn Jones of Feirich, Mager, Green & Ryan, Carbondale; attorney Michael Oshel of the Harrisburg law firm Oshel Law P.C.; and attorney William F. Sherwood of Southern Illinois Healthcare.

"Ms. Gill has established an outstanding reputation in the local legal community," Karmeier said.

"Her good judgment, personal integrity, commitment to the community and demonstrated intelligence and ability make her an outstanding addition to this state's judiciary."

Gill has practiced with the Carbondale firm of Barrett, Twomey, Broom, Hughes, & Hoke, LLP since 2001.

Her practice areas include real estate, contracts, business, probate and estate planning, eminent domain and general civil litigation.

She has also served as a special assistant attorney general for the State of Illinois since 2005.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree in government, graduating summa cum laude, from Monmouth College in 1998 and her juris doctor, also summa cum laude, from the Southern Illinois University School of Law in 2001.

Gill is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association's, ISBA, Board of Governors and the ISBA Assembly. She was president of the Jackson County Bar Association from 2005 to 2006.

Her charitable activities include serving as Cancer Institute Gala co-chairperson for Southern Illinois Healthcare and as a pro bono legal adviser for Gum Drops NFP. She served on the board of directors for Puka School Inc. from 2012 to 2015.

The First Judicial Circuit is comprised of the Southern Illinois counties of Alexander, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union and Williamson.

International Festival events planned at SIU

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, which has welcomed students from around the world since 1947, plans to celebrate its students and their diversity during International Festival 2017.

"Unity in Diversity" is the theme of this year's celebration. SIU is home to students from more than 100 nations and many will join together to carry their countries' flags during the International Parade of Flags at 10 a.m. on Feb. 6.

Some of the participating students will wear traditional homeland attire as they parade from Woody Hall

to the SIU Student Center's International Lounge.

An International Food Fair will give participants the chance to sample cuisine from around the world.

The fair is planned from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 8 in the SIU Student Center ballrooms.

The menu will feature a wide variety of foods and drinks prepared by students from many countries. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tickets are just 50 cents each and diners can purchase items ala carte or as complete meals with the number of tickets required varying.

Food fair tickets will be available in advance from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays Feb. 1-7 at the student center business office windows, located on the second floor. Tickets will also be sold in advance from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 6-7 near the north escalators on the first floor of the student center. Tickets will be available at the door as well.

A cultural show at 7 p.m. on Feb. 10 in the student center ballrooms is scheduled to wrap up the festival. SIU students from across the globe will spotlight their countries and cultures through performances of song, dance, short plays, martial arts demonstrations and various other acts. The family friendly show is free and open to the public.

More information can be found online at www.studentcenter.siu.edu/internationalfest and also is available by calling 618-453-5714.

Baroque Festival planned at SIU

A Baroque Festival performance is planned Saturday, Feb. 4, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Baptist Foundation on the SIUC campus.

The Kingsbury Ensemble and countertenor Terry Barber will be featured.

The performance is funded in part by the SIUC fine arts activity fee. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children and free to all SIU students and staff.



Girl Scouts take CPR class

In January, Union County Hospital in Anna offered an American Heart Association certified adult, child and infant CPR class to Girl Scout Troop 8552. The course was instructed by Joellen Reichert through Shawnee Community College. The class was comprised of eight 8th grade girls. The girls who took the class included, from left, Olivia Capel, Cierra Thorn, Hannah Miller, Olivia Bowen, Jaley Watkins, Annalee Keller, Libby Smith and Jessie Riley. Participants learned how to perform adult, child and infant CPR, the Heimlich maneuver (now called the abdominal thrust) for adults, children and infants, as well as how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Union County Hospital offered and funded the class as a form of community outreach and education for "hands only" CPR. Photo provided.

Television Listing

THURSDAY

Time	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6:30 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball Teams TBA (Live) (HD)	Seinfeld	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Undercover Good Luck	Young Pope Tonight	(5:15) "Godsend" (04)	★★★ "The Hateful Eight" (15) Group encounters betrayal and deception. (HD)
7:30 PM	Grey's Anatomy (HD)	Big Bang Superior (HD)	Hell's Kitchen (HD)	Superstore Powerless	2 Broke Girls (HD)	2 Broke Girls (HD)	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Stuck Mid. Good Luck	★★★ "Now You See Me 2" (16) Impossible heist. (HD)	"The Gathering" Plagued by visions.	
8:30 PM	Scandal "Hardball" (HD)	Mom (HD) Pieces (HD)	My Kitchen Rules (HD)	Chicago Med (HD)	30 for 30 "This Was the XFL" (HD)	Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Liv Maddie	"The Ring" (02) Naomi Watts. A deadly videotape.		Homeland (HD)
9:30 PM	Get Away with Murder	Training Day (HD)	Local Programs	The Blacklist	Chris Berman: He Did Go	Big Bang	Colony "Panopticon" (HD)	BUNK'D	Real Sports - Gumbel	"Stir of Echoes" Images haunt man.	
10:30 PM	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter with Scott	Conan (HD)	(02) Law & Order: SVU	Jessie Naïve nanny. (HD)	(15) Becoming Warren Buffett (HD)		Gigolos
11:30 PM	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night		2 Broke Conan (HD)	(02) Law & Order: SVU	Girl World	Best Frnds	"Vampire"	Homeland (HD)

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

FRIDAY

Time	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6:30 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA Countdown (Live)	Seinfeld	Mod Family	"Monsters University"	"Ride Along"	(5:05) "Rockn Rolla" (08)	The Affair (HD)
7:30 PM	Man Stand. Dr. Ken	MacGyver "Fish Scaler"	Rosewood (HD)	Grimm Farnished wesen.	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Boston Celtics (Live) (HD)	"The Lego Movie" (14) World-saving quest. (HD)	Mod Family	Stuck Mid. "Movie"	"Deadpool" (16) Man adopts antihero alter ego. (HD)	"Popstar: Never Stop"	Failed popstar. TRUMPED: Inside the Great Political Upset
8:30 PM	Shark Tank (HD)	Hawaii Five-0 (HD)	Sleepy Hollow (HD)	Emerald City (HD)	(15) "Blended" (14, Comedy) Two families must share same suite.	Big Bang	Mod Family	"Despicable Me" (10) Next big heist.	Real Time w/ Bill Maher	"The Rocker" Drummer seeks fame.	
9:30 PM	(01) 20/20 (HD)	Blue Bloods "In and Out"	Local Programs Local info.	Dateline NBC (HD)	NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Portland Trail Blazers (Live)	Big Bang	Mod Family	Stuck Mid.	The Young Pope (HD)	★★★ "Doctor Detroit" Teacher is a pimp.	The Affair (HD)
10:30 PM	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (Live)	"Pacifier"	Mod Family	Liv Maddie	Real Time w/ Bill Maher	"Enforcer"	TRUMPED: Inside
11:30 PM	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night				Liv Maddie			

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

SATURDAY

Time	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6:30 PM	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Halftime Shows (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	College Bball "Teams TBA"	2 Broke (HD) Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU "911"	Stuck Mid. Liv Maddie	"Catch Me If You Can"	"K-PAX" Delusional man.	The Affair (HD)
7:30 PM	NBA Court	Ransom Crisis negotiator.	6th Annual NFL Honors (1) (HD)	Dateline NBC investigative features and profiles. (HD)	(15) College Basketball "Teams TBA" (Live) (HD)	Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU "Venom"	Undercover Bizaardvark	"The Huntsman: Winter's War" (16) Evil queens. (HD)	"The Martian" (15) Matt Damon. Astronaut must survive on Mars. (HD)	The Affair Feeling guilty. The Affair (HD)
8:30 PM	NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at New York Knicks (Live) (HD)	NCIS "Love Boat" (HD)	48 Hours	Saturday Night Live (HD)	Outside "Football Forever"	Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Princess tries to break icy spell. (HD)	The Young Pope (HD)	(25) "The Astronaut Farmer" (07) (HD)	"Don Jon" (13) Young man's pursuit. (HD)
9:30 PM	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local programming information.	Local Programs Local info.	Hell's Kitchen (HD)	Local	Frontal (HD)	Colony "Panopticon" (HD)	Bizaardvark BUNK'D (HD)	"The Huntsman: Winter's War" (16) Evil queens. (HD)	★★★ "Popstar: Never Stop"	Homeland "The Covenant"
10:30 PM	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Night Live Sketch comedy.	SportsCenter (HD)	Suits "The Painting" (HD)	Suits "The Painting" (HD)	Liv Maddie			
11:30 PM	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night				Liv Maddie			

FEBRUARY 4, 2017

SUNDAY

Time	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6:30 PM	Funniest Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	(5:30) Super Bowl LI New England Patriots vs Atlanta Falcons (Live) (HD)	"Safe Haven" (13) A woman falls in love with a widower.	ESPN Films 30 for 30 "Phi Siam Jama" (HD)	"Shrek" A princess' secret.	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Stuck Mid. Liv Maddie	"The Huntsman: Winter's War" (16) Evil queens. (HD)	"The Simpsons Movie"	"The Hurt Locker" (09) (R)
7:30 PM	Funniest Home Videos (HD)	NCIS "Shell Game" (HD)	(01) APB "Hard Reset"	★★★ "Ride Along" (14) Ice Cube. Absurd ride along. (HD)	30 for 30 "Hit It Hard" (HD)	★★★ "Shrek 2" (04, Fantasy) Ogre meets his in-laws. (HD)	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	★★★ "Bad Hair Day" (15) Stolen necklaces.	The Young Pope (HD)	★★★ "The Intern" (15) Older man takes position as intern.	Homeland "Fair Game" (HD)
8:30 PM	Shark Tank (HD)	NCIS: New Orleans	Post Game 24: Legacy Counter-terror.	Local Programs Local info.	Special (HD) NFL Primetime (HD)	"Shrek" (07) Mike Myers. Search for a king.	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Undercover	The Young Pope (HD)	"The Club" (01) A club owner returns to a life of crime.	TRUMPED: Inside the Great Political Upset
9:30 PM	Shark Tank Faux flower.	NCIS: L. A. (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Dateline NBC (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	"Shrek" A princess' secret.	Mod Family	Bizaardvark	★★★ "Crimson Peak" (15, Horror) Mysterious home. (HD)	★★★ "Popstar: Never Stop"	Homeland "The Covenant"
10:30 PM	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter with Scott		Mod Family	BUNK'D (HD)	Girl World	★★★ "Magic Mike XXL" (15)	"Crash" (05, Drama) (HD)
11:30 PM	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night			Mod Family	Best Frnds			

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

MONDAY

Time	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6:30 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball LSU vs Kentucky (Live) (HD)	Family Guy (HD)	Mod Family	Undercover Good Luck	★★★ "10,000"	"Life or Smiting" (02)	(5:45) "Brokeback Mountain"
7:30 PM	The Bachelor Pursuit of love. (HD)	Kevin Wait Man Plan	24: Legacy (HD)	The Celebrity Apprentice "Bon Voyage" (HD)	Family Guy Am. Dad	Family Guy American Dad! Intership.	Mod Family	WWE Monday Night Raw (Live) (HD)	Stuck Mid. Good Luck	"Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" (01) (HD)	60 Minutes Sports (HD)
8:30 PM	Fresh Off	Bull (HD)	(01) APB "Hard Reset"	Chicago Fire (HD)	College Basketball Michigan State vs Michigan (Live)	Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Liv Maddie	The Young Pope (HD)	(45) "The Bone Collector" (99) Cop pursues killer. (17) (HD)	★★★ "Secret in Their Eyes" (15) Daughter murdered.
9:30 PM	Quantico "ZRTORCH"	Scorpion "Sharknado"	Local Programs Local info.	Timeless Linbergh flight.	SportsCenter (HD)	Family Guy	Mod Family	BUNK'D	"Solitary Inside Red Onion" (17) (HD)	★★★ "Trainwreck" (15) Anti-monogamy.	"Crash" (05, Drama) (HD)
10:30 PM	Local	Local	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter with Scott	Conan (HD)	(05) Friday Night Tynes	Jessie (HD)	"The Nice Guys" Huge conspiracy. (R)		
11:30 PM	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Late Night		Conan (HD)	CSI: Crime "Who & What"	Girl World	Best Frnds		

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

TUESDAY

Time	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6:30 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball LSU vs Kentucky (Live) (HD)	Seinfeld	Mod Family	Undercover Good Luck	Real Time Tonight	"Grumpy Old Men" (93)	"Ridgemont High" (82)
7:30 PM	The Middle	NCIS "Nonstop" (HD)	New Girl	The Wall (HD)	Big Bang	Seinfeld	Mod Family	Good Luck	"The Huntsman: Winter's War" (16) Evil queens.	"Stuck on You" (03) Matt Damon. Conjoined twins.	Inside the NFL (HD)
8:30 PM	Housewife	Bull (HD)	(01) Bones (HD)	This Is Us (HD)	College Basketball Michigan State vs Michigan (Live)	Big Bang	WWE SmackDown (Live) (HD)	Liv Maddie	Liv Maddie	★★★ "Unfaithful" (02) Richard Gere. A woman's affair.	60 Minutes Sports (HD)
9:30 PM	Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.	NCIS: New Orleans	Local Programs Local info.	Chicago P.D. (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Big Bang	Mod Family	BUNK'D	★★★ "The Transporter" (02, Action) (HD)	"Popstar: Never Stop"	Failed popstar. Inside the NFL (HD)
10:30 PM	Local	Local	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter with Scott	Conan (HD)	(05) Friday Night Tynes	Jessie (HD)	"The Nice Guys" Huge conspiracy. (R)		
11:30 PM	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Late Night		Conan (HD)	Imposters	Girl World	Best Frnds		

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

WEDNESDAY

Time	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6:30 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA Countdown (Live)	Seinfeld	"Red 2" Nuclear device.	Undercover Good Luck	"Joy" (15)	"Marian Child" (07) (HD)	Running for His Life
7:30 PM	Goldbergs	Hunted (HD)	Lethal Weapon (HD)	Blindspot (HD)	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers at New York Knicks (Live)	Big Bang	"John Wick" Kingpin's son kills ex-hit man's pup. (R)	Stuck Mid. Good Luck	★★★ "Catch Me If You Can" (02) A master con-man. (PG-13) (HD)	"The Martian" (15) Matt Damon. Astronaut must survive on Mars.	★★★ "The Original Kings of Comedy" (00) (R) (HD)
8:30 PM	Mod Family	Criminal Minds (HD)	Star Rally gone wrong.	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Big Bang	Mod Family	Liv Maddie	★★★ "Furious 7" (15) Vin Diesel. Crews seek revenge.	"The Transporter" (02, Action) (HD)	★★★ "Rambo" (08) (HD)
9:30 PM	Match Game (HD)	Code Black (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Chicago P.D. (HD)	NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Golden State Warriors (Live) (HD)	Big Bang	Suits Rachel's letter. (HD)	BUNK'D	(25) The Young Pope		Homeland (HD)
10:30 PM	Local	Local	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter with Scott	Conan (HD)	Mod Family	Jessie (HD)	"The Nice Guys" Huge conspiracy. (R)		
11:30 PM	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Late Night		Conan (HD)	Mod Family	Girl World	Best Frnds	"The Boss"	"The Ring"

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Opinion and Commentary

January 16-20 Four County Seats

By John Davis

In my youth when I bragged about some small accomplishment with a new endeavor my mother would say; "A new broom sweeps clean, we will see how it wears over time."

With her admonishment in mind I cautiously report that I am making satisfactory progress in meeting my 2017 resolution to be more physically active.

In the first week of my "Southern Illinois Communities Walking Tours," I walked in four interesting towns and easily met my 10,000 steps per day objective. So far, so good.

During the week of January 16-20, I walked in the Tower Square Plaza area of Marion, toured the courthouse square and the surrounding neighborhoods of Vienna, strolled through the downtown area of Murphysboro and visited the neighborhoods bordering the Pinckneyville courthouse.

Each town was unique and had several interesting things to see. There were many similarities in each of the places I walked. The streets and sidewalks were clean and well maintained. Each community had a public library. Each town serves as their county seat and, as such, has a courthouse. The people were friendly. But the most pleasant thing I found was that I never felt unsafe. In this violent world in which we live it is good to know that there are places you can still safely walk.

In this column I report on my walk in the Tower Square Plaza area of Marion.

I found several interesting structures in that part of town, the newest of which is The Hub. It is a 64,000 square-foot state-of-the-art recreation/aquatic center that opened in 2015. It is located on the site of the old Marion Hospital.

Not far to the east of The Hub stands Marion's signature structure, The Clock Tower. It is in the middle of a turnaround formed by the intersection of Main and Market streets. The old Williamson County Courthouse was located on this spot until it was demolished in 1972. A new courthouse was rebuilt on the location of the old Washington School just northwest of the square. The Clock Tower was built, in part, with bricks from the old courthouse that was constructed in 1889. The Clock Tower is 93 feet tall, the same height as the building it replaced.

The area surrounding the Tower is called the Tower Square Plaza. At the southwest corner of the plaza stands the Marion Cultural and Civic Center. The Civic Center opened in 2004 and is situated on the location of the old Orpheum Playhouse, a vaudeville/movie theater that opened in January of 1922.

South of the Civic Center on Market Street sits the Marion Carnegie Library. It opened to the public in 1916. The Sarelida Cline home had previously occupied the lot. The City of Marion purchased the Cline property in 1914 and in 1915, with a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, built the current structure.

There are many other places I visited in the Tower Plaza Area: the Williamson County Historical Society Museum, The Little Egypt Art Association, The Marion Post Office, being just a few. I found historic churches, great places to eat and drink and places to shop in the area.

Space in this column does not permit further details of my walk in Marion or walks in the other communities listed above. I will provide those details in future columns and on my blog, "Musings from the GGA."

A reminder to those that would like me to walk your town and serve as my tour guide, send me an email. My email address is saluki1000@icloud.com.

(Editor's note: John Davis is retired after a career in education. He made a New Year's resolution to be more physically active. As a way to keep that resolution, he plans to go on walking tours of Southern Illinois communities.)

Letters to the editor

The Gazette-Democrat welcomes letters to the editor. Any letter which is submitted to the paper must be signed by the person who wrote the letter. We ask that letters be of local interest and must be as brief as possible.

Each letter must include an address and phone number for the person who wrote the letter. This information is needed so the identity of the person who wrote the letter can be verified. Letters which do not include this information will not be used.

The deadline to submit a letter to the editor is noon on Thursday. Letters which are submitted after the deadline will be held for the following week.

The newspaper reserves the right to edit all letters. Please limit the length of letters to 300 or fewer words. The newspaper reserves the right to reject letters which are deemed inappropriate for any reason. Personal attacks are not allowed.

Political campaigning is accepted as paid advertising only; letters used for campaign purposes will not be published.

Letters can be submitted in several ways. Letters can be mailed to the paper; send them to The Gazette-Democrat, P.O. Box 529, Anna, Illinois 62906. Letters can be sent by fax at 618-833-5813. Letters also can be emailed to news@annanews.com.

Please read this. . .

by Geof Skinner

At least the sun was shining on Monday...

Call this one a look back at the winter weekend of my discontent.

Before we go down that road, let me take a moment or two of your valuable time to reflect on what seems to have been a senseless, unexplainable act which was brought to your writer's attention.

A call came in late Wednesday morning from a fellow traveler on The Journey Through Life. The caller was concerned, make that angry and upset. Seems that somebody appeared to have shot two deer and left the remains laying alongside the road near where the caller lived.

The incident made no sense to the caller. Doesn't make much sense to me either. Such behavior seems hard to understand. I'm pretty sure it won't be the last time we hear about such a thing, and that's just kind of sad.

Back to the first paragraph in this week's colyum, which is going to be somewhat short and sweet. That's mainly 'cause my brain, which doesn't always function on the fastest of tracks, was even slower at the start of a new work week.

One night last week, I think it may have been on Wednesday, yours truly started feeling a little bit under the weather. Didn't give it much thought. Figured it might have had something to do with the lack of sun-

shine we've had since, oh, about Christmas.

Nope. Apparently feeling just a little bit under the weather was simply the first step involving whatever this malady might have been. Quite honestly, by last Friday evening, I thought the situation had pretty much run its course. Fooled me.

Initially, I didn't feel all that bad. The weekend made up for that. To make a long story short, I pretty much spent Saturday and Sunday under a stack of blankets. I didn't feel like doing much of anything. Not even reading a good book. Sleep pretty much seemed like the best thing to do. In between sneezing. And sneezing. And sneezing again. And again. Ugh.

Monday morning arrived, right on schedule, as it seems to do. I stumbled through the usual morning ritual. Somehow, I even managed to successfully motor to Ullin, and back again.

Back at The Paragraph Factory, another traveler on the Journey Through Life observed that I didn't look like I felt all that great...and that I appeared to be a bit grumpy. Right on both observations.

At least Monday was a bright and sunny day, which always makes people feel a little bit better. I think.

(P.S. It was brought to my attention that there is "no picture this week." That shortcoming would be related to the lost weekend.)

Page from the Past

From the files of The Gazette-Democrat
50 Years Ago, February 2, 1967

The new Cobden Grade School is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy in the near future. Construction of the new building was begun in February of 1966 at a cost of approximately \$340,000.

The combined bands and choruses of Dongola, Shawnee, Cobden and Anna-Jonesboro High Schools will present a concert at the Cobden High School Gymnasium Monday, Feb. 6, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

According to the local Selective Service Office, the draft call for February is seven men from Union County. They will be inducted into the Armed Forces on Monday, February 27.

In comparison to the weather in other parts of the state, Union County has enjoyed a comparatively springlike atmosphere this past week. A robin was sighted on Sunday morning and crocuses are budding out.

The Carroll P. Foster Auxiliary to Post 3455 honored the past presidents of the Auxiliary Tuesday night, Jan. 31, with a steak dinner at the post home.

Throughout the year of 1967, the Anna Masonic Lodge plans many events to be held in their Centennial Year.

At a 7:30 p.m. meeting Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Anna City Hall, the new Retail Merchants Committee of the Chamber of Commerce redefined the week day closing hours of Anna's stores.

The annual Wolf Lake Midget Basketball Tournament will get underway next week, when the 5th and 6th grade basketball players meet in the Wolf Lake gymnasium to vie for the title of Midget Champion.

The annual Parent-Teacher Association of the Davie School will hold its annual fund raising dinner on Thursday, Feb. 9.

From the Gale news: Residents of Gale and nearby areas have, for the past week, witnessed the sight of an unidentified flying object. Both Friday and Saturday nights, at about the same hour, it has been seen in practically the same spot, bearing southwest over the Mississippi River.

From the Nubbin Ridge news: We have enjoyed the past week with spring-like weather.



Taking a break

A cardinal paused for a break in bare branches of a bush on a recent winter afternoon in Union County.

Film industry generated estimated \$499 million in spending in state in 2016

The film industry generated \$499 million in estimated spending in Illinois in 2016.

The Illinois FILM Office reported that it worked with 345 television, commercial and film projects that generated 13,377 non-extra job hires over the course of 2016.

In addition, Chicago recently was named as the number five best place to live and work as a moviemaker in North America by MovieMaker Magazine. This is the third year in a row that Chicago has made the top-ten list.

"The film industry here in Illinois continues to grow stronger," Illinois FILM Office director Christine Dudley said in a news release.

"Our focus on attracting innovative and diverse projects has led to an unprecedented half a billion dollars in qualified Illinois production spending. My hope is that we continue to build upon these last two years of success to show everyone that there is no better place to film than Illinois."

A strong talent pool of cast and crew members, diverse shooting locations and a competitive incentive program attracted a wide variety of projects to film in Illinois in 2016.

Primetime hits "Empire" (FOX), "Chicago Fire" "Chicago PD" and "Chicago Med" (NBC) returned to the lineup.

NBC also green lit the pilot for the fourth installment in the Chicago franchise, "Chicago Justice." The series was picked up for a full season which began production filming in September 2016.

Online media services also increased their presence in Illinois with the production of original content episodic series: Easy (Netflix), Sensa 8 (Netflix) and Patriot (Amazon).

Illinois is the only state in the country to set a diversity standard for production hiring of women and minority crew members.

The Illinois FILM Office promotes the state as a location for film, television and advertising productions, providing assistance with everything from location scouting, hiring cast and crew to working with local unions and guilds.

The office also administers the state's film tax credit, which has been integral in growing a competitive film industry in Illinois.

The 30 percent tax credit is awarded to productions for money spent on Illinois goods and services, including wages paid to Illinois residents.

The goal of the Tax Credit Act is to grow, sustain and provide economic and job opportunities for local vendors, crew and filmmakers.

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