

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, December 22, 2016

Anna, Illinois

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\$1.00

Volume 168, Number 1

News Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area.



A special message for the season, and from all of us at the newspaper. Merry Christmas to all. ***

The sounds of Christmas music can be heard again this year on the square in Jonesboro. ***

Santa Claus is planning to make a last-minute stop in Ullin this Friday evening before he begins his Christmas travels. ***

In observance of the Christmas holiday on Sunday, local government offices (and other entities) likely will have altered their hours of operation. You might want to call ahead before planning a visit. ***

Reminder: an annual coat drive and giveaway is underway at Union County Counseling Service in Anna. (continued on page 2)



From Saturday to Sunday...

Temperature falls 59 degrees in county

As Christmas Day approaches, the outlook for snow on the ground for the holiday in Union County and the rest of the region looks pretty slim.

The forecast posted early this week on the website for the National Weather Service office in Paducah was calling for a chance of showers, along with a high temperature near 59 degrees, on Christmas Day, which is Sunday, Dec. 25.

The outlook for mild weather comes as winter "officially" began on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Union County residents experienced mild temperatures last weekend, with high temperatures in the 60s recorded on Saturday.

Those mild readings ended abruptly during the course of the day and into Saturday night and Sunday morning, when temperatures plunged into the teens and single digits as a strong

cold front swept through the region.

"Roller Coaster Ride of Temperatures"

The weather service reported that the region experienced "a roller coaster ride of temperatures" during the period from Dec. 17 through Dec. 19.

High temperatures on Saturday exceeded 70 degrees in many locations in Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky.

The high temperature on Saturday in Union County was 68 degrees.

By Sunday morning, the low temperature had dropped all the way into single digits.

The low on Sunday in Union County was 9 degrees. The mercury dropped to 7 degrees on Monday and 9 degrees on Tuesday.

During the period from Friday through Monday, temperatures in the region changed from 55 to 65 degrees. "This is one of our largest temperature drops

on record," the weather service reported.

In Union County, the temperature changed 59 degrees between Saturday and Sunday morning.

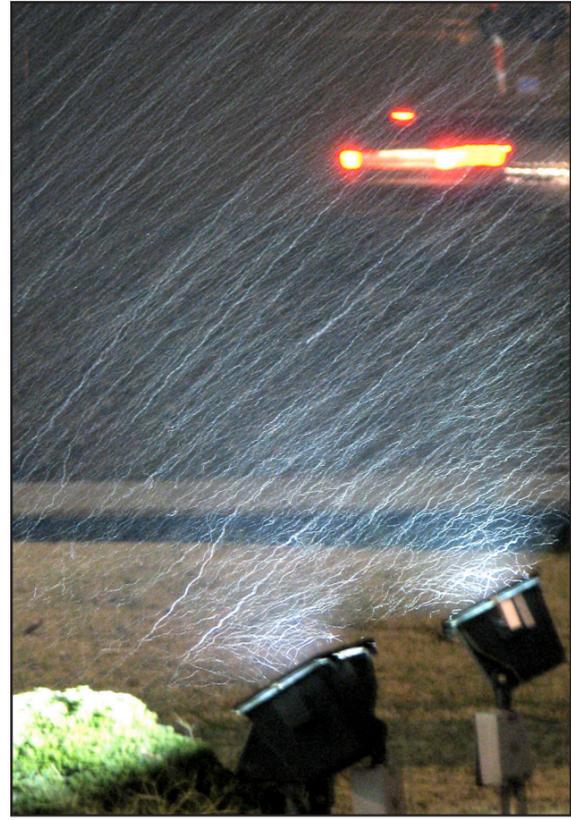
The weather service reported that in looking back on records since 1938, a 59-degree change in the temperature in Paducah from Saturday afternoon through late Sunday evening was tied for the second largest drop from one calendar day to the next.

Only a 61-degree drop recorded on Jan. 25-26, 1943, was greater.

The weather service issued a winter weather advisory for the region, which was in effect from 6 p.m. Saturday through 6 a.m. Sunday. The area saw rain, freezing rain and light snow during the night.

After bitter cold on Sunday and Monday and early Tuesday morning, temperatures began to moderate.

(continued on page 2)



Light snow in Anna

Light snow streaked through the lights in front of the Anna City Hall on Tuesday night, Dec. 13. The Anna area received a light dusting of snow.

State Scholars announced

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission recently announced the names of Illinois high school students who have been named 2017-18 State Scholars for their outstanding academic achievement.

Union County students who have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars are named below by their high school:

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School: Elle Basler, Madisyn Bigler, Mackenzie Boget, Caleb Clover, Ryley Kimmel, Ashley Oliver, Lexa Sharp.

Cobden High School: Makynzie Peterman.

Shawnee High School, Wolf Lake: Nickolas Baltzell, Drew McLane.



Stocking winner shares prize with class

Kenzie Miller, a student at Jonesboro Elementary School, was the winner from her school in an annual Christmas holiday essay contest sponsored by Rusty's Home Center in Anna. The theme of the contest was "What Christmas Means to Me." Winners from local schools each won a large Christmas stocking that was filled with toys. Kenzie decided to share the prizes inside with her classmates. Kenzie and the rest of the students are in Kimberly Dillow's 3rd grade class at the Union County school. Miller said she decided to share the toys because she thought her classmates would like to have a present. The winning essays can be seen on page 1 in Section B of this week's paper. Photo by Lindsey Rae Vaughn.

Spring registration underway at Shawnee

Spring 2017 registration is underway at Shawnee Community College. Spring semester classes are scheduled to begin Jan. 11.

Classes are available at the college's main campus near Ullin and at Shawnee Community College extension centers in Anna, Cairo and Metropolis.

The regular schedule of classes is available at the main campus and each of the extension centers.

The schedule also is available online at www.shawneecc.edu, click "current students," then "course enrollment," and then "course schedules" for the schedule of spring classes.

To register, students must complete four steps. The first step is to complete a student information form.

The next step is to complete placement testing, which is required by all prospective students prior to registering for classes.

Placement testing can be completed at the main campus on Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Testing also is available at any of the extension centers by appointment.

The next step is to request a copy of high school completion to be sent directly to the college's admissions office. Hand-carried copies are not considered official.

The last step is to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor by calling 618-634-3397.

Regular spring classes are scheduled to begin on Jan. 11, 2017.

The last day to register for spring classes is on Jan. 11 at 4 p.m.

The last day to add a regular start class (for currently enrolled students) is Jan. 12 at 4:30 p.m.

The college requests current students needing to sign-up for classes or speak with an advisor to schedule an appointment by calling 618-634-3397.

Extended registration hours are planned on Jan. 5, 9, 10 and 11 until 6:30 p.m. at the main campus and at all of the extension centers. (continued on page 2)



The reason for the season

Clare Bunyan portrayed Mary and Jacob Staley was Joseph during the recent presentation of "A Night in Bethlehem" at the First Baptist Church in Cobden. The event, which was hosted by the Cobden church in early December, has become a Christmas holiday season tradition which gives visitors a sense of what life might have been like at the time of the birth of Jesus, which will be celebrated on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.



THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT
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 112 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 529
 Anna, Illinois 62904-0529

Phone: 618-833-2158
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 Email: www@gazette-democrat.com

Periodical postage paid at Anna, Illinois 62904-0529

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 Geoff Skinner Editor
 Louise J. Hinton Production Manager

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Union County	\$25.00	12 months out of state	\$45.00
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News Notes

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Check it out: a Little Free Library was spotted last weekend in downtown Alto Pass.

Update to previous item: The sale of the former First Christian Church building in Anna was not finalized, as reported in last week's paper. Information about the status of the sale was shared with the paper early this week.

Jonesboro School has made several special holiday season donations. More on this to come.

The Union County Farm Bureau received several awards at the Illinois Farm Bureau's recent annual meeting in Chicago. More on this to come, too.



The arrival of bitter cold last weekend helped to create icily images like this throughout the area.

Need a last-minute Christmas gift? Give a gift subscription to The Gazette-Democrat

A Whitetails Unlimited Union County chapter banquet is planned Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Great Boars of Fire Lodge between Anna and Cobden.

A movie about monarch butterflies is scheduled to be shown Thursday evening, Jan. 12, at the Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center near Cypress.

Susan Belcher won first place in a gingerbread house decorating competition Sunday in Cape Girardeau.

Former residents Amy and Dennis Linson visited in Union County this past weekend. They currently reside in south Florida.

Dave and Bob Fombelle hosted a Christmas party for employees of Great Boars of Fire Sunday evening.



Just dandy: a dandelion was spotted last weekend, in the snow and bitter cold.

Shawnee College registration

(continued from page 1)

The main campus is scheduled to be open Saturday, Jan. 7, from 8 a.m. to noon for spring registration. Admissions, financial aid, testing and the bookstore are scheduled to be open on Jan. 7 as well.

Online spring courses are scheduled to begin on Jan. 23. Registration for those classes closes at 4 p.m. on Jan. 24.

Late start classes are scheduled to begin on Feb. 6, with registration closing at 4 p.m. on Feb. 7.

For information about FAFSA completion, contact the college's financial aid office at 618-634-3200, option number 1, then option number 2.

The first day to charge books in the college's bookstore is Jan. 5. The final day is Feb. 17.

For more information about spring registration, call 618-634-3397 or www.shawneec.edu.

Report from Anna police chief

'Unprecedented' number of armed robberies reported in Anna, Jonesboro

An unprecedented number of armed robberies occurred in Anna and Jonesboro during the last two weeks of November and the first two weeks of December.

The situation was highlighted in a memorandum drafted by Anna Police Chief Michael Hunter.

The memorandum was addressed to Anna Mayor Steve Hartline, the members of the Anna City Council and Anna's city administrator, Steve Guined.

Hunter said he planned to discuss the matter during a regular meeting of the Anna City Council which was planned Tuesday evening, Dec. 20.

Hunter said there have been five incidents, including four in Anna, including two incidents at the Farm Fresh store, and one each at Hardee's and Capaha Bank.

An incident involving an alleged armed robbery and home invasion was reported in Jonesboro.

Anna Police Department officers, along with officials from other law enforcement agencies, "have spent hundreds of man hours investigating these incidents," Hunter stated.

Arrests have been made in connection with four of the five incidents. An investigation continues in connection with the most recent incident at Farm Fresh, which happened on Dec. 13.

The first three robberies

**Weather
Light snow, sleet, mild, bitter cold**

Union County experienced a wide range of weather conditions during the period from Dec. 13 through 20.

Light snow, sleet, freezing rain, mild temperatures and bitter cold all were part of the weather which was seen in the area.

Temperatures ranged from a high of 68 to a low of 7.

Precipitation included a trace of snow on Dec. 13, .05 of an inch of rain on Dec. 16, and a trace of snow, sleet and .16 of an inch of rain on Dec. 17.

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

	H	L
Tuesday, Dec. 13	46	25
Wednesday, Dec. 14	34	19
Thursday, Dec. 15	26	15
Friday, Dec. 16	43	18
Saturday, Dec. 17	68	23
Sunday, Dec. 18	23	9
Monday, Dec. 19	27	7

Big change in temperatures

(continued from page 1)

White Christmas Not Likely

With mild temperatures likely by this weekend, a white Christmas doesn't look likely for the area.

Records show that measurable Christmas Day snowfall has occurred on three occasions, or 4 percent of all of the years on record, with the most recent in 1992.

There have been eight years, or 12 percent of all of those on record, which were classified as a white Christmas - when there was snow depth of 1 inch or greater. The last time was in 2010, with 3 inches of snow on the ground.

The most snow on the ground on Christmas Day was 9 inches, measured in 2004.

High temperatures on Christmas Day in the region generally are in the 30s and 40s.

happened in Anna, between Nov. 17 and Nov. 28.

"During the investigation, I received information from an anonymous source, which was corroborated later with information Assistant Chief/Detective (Bryan) Watkins received.

"After following up on the information we received, Assistant Chief Watkins and I, along with assistance from (the) Union County Sheriff's Department, Jonesboro Police Department and the Illinois State Police, were able to execute an arrest on a male subject in connection with the robberies."

Hunter reported that the robbery/home invasion occurred at a residence in Jonesboro on Dec. 11.

"Anna officers immediately assisted (the) Jonesboro Police Department with their investigation," the Anna police chief reported.

Police were able to identify three suspects. Three

persons have been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

The most recent robbery occurred on Dec. 13 at Farm Fresh in Anna.

The suspect, identified as a white male, entered the store, "inferring a weapon and demanded money." The suspect left the store on foot and fled to the northwest. An investigation into the incident continues.

"I want you and the public to know our department works diligently to keep our community safe and we will continue to do so," Hunter stated.

Anna police also reported that a burglary occurred early last Saturday morning at Medicap. Controlled substances were reported to have been taken after a window was knocked out at the business in east Anna.

Monthly Activity Report

The police chief also issued a monthly report which highlighted the Anna

Police Department's November activities. Statistics from the report follow:

195 calls requiring responses. 95 walk in requests. 52 traffic stops. 12 crashes handled. Two vehicles impounded. Seven motorists assisted.

12 criminal arrests. 23 traffic citations. 31 written warnings. 12 code violations cited. 3,130 miles patrolled. 687 hours worked.

26 cases approved. 12 cases submitted for prosecution. Three cases pending investigation. 11 cases closed.

Assistant Chief/Investigator's Report

Assistant Chief/Investigator (Detective) Bryan Watkins reported that during November, he investigated five criminal complaints.

Of those, five individual incident reports were submitted to the Union County state's attorney's office for prosecution.

Anna Fire Department responds to three calls; no injuries reported

The Anna Fire Department responded to three calls during the period from Tuesday, Dec. 13, through late Saturday, Dec. 17.

No injuries were reported in the aftermath of the fires. The Anna Fire Department was assisted by other area departments on each of the calls.

A fire was reported at 6:10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at a residence at 505 Ralls Lake Ln., east of Anna. The fire occurred in a double-wide manufactured home.

Anna Fire Chief Gary Rider said that the blaze caused extensive damage to the structure.

The fire may have been electrical in nature. The Dongola Fire Department assisted on the call. Firefighters were at the scene for about three hours.

A fire was reported at 6 p.m. Saturday at a two-story brick structure at 113 Lafayette St.

The fire caused extensive damage to the building. The fire may have been electrical in nature and appeared to have started in the attic.

52 arrests reported by sheriff's office

The Union County Sheriff's Office recorded a total of 52 arrests during November.

The statistic was shared in a monthly activity report issued by Union County Sheriff Scott Harvel.

The report for November showed: Three felony arrests. 16 misdemeanor arrests. 30 traffic arrests. Three warrant arrests.

35 cases opened. 11 drug investigations. 32 crash reports. 1,702 911 calls received. 9,198 miles patrolled.

Courthouse holiday schedule set

A Christmas holiday schedule has been set for the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

The courthouse plans to observe Christmas Eve on Friday, Dec. 23.

The courthouse will be open; however only the circuit clerk's office and the probate office are scheduled to be open.

Christmas will be observed on Monday. All offices in the courthouse will be closed.

Firefighters were at the scene for about three and a half hours. The Cobden Fire Department assisted on the call.

The Anna Fire Department then was called out at about midnight Saturday to a blaze involving a vehicle on I-57.

The fire involved a semi tractor trailer which was traveling north to Chicago on the interstate. The vehicle was pulled to the off ramp at the Lick Creek exit along I-57.

The fire caused a total loss to a trailer which was being used to haul auto

parts. The driver was able to unhitch the truck from the trailer.

The vehicle belonged to Royal Express in Laredo, Texas. The damaged unit was towed from the scene by Wright's.

The fire may have involved a rear axle bearing on the trailer which overheated.

The Dongola Fire Department assisted on the call to the interested.

Firefighters had to cope with falling temperatures, snow and ice during both of the calls on Saturday.

What Is The Value Of A Community Newspaper?

What is the value of a community newspaper?

What does it bring to that community that no other institution can provide?

The local newspaper is a basic institution in any community, like the post office, the schools and the churches.

The local community newspaper, whether it be a 2,000 circulation weekly or a 50,000 circulation daily, serves to keep people connected to their community, by telling them what's happening with their neighbors, as well as the institution serving the community.

The publication of obituaries, birth announcements, weddings and other significant events in our lives remind us of poet John Donne's words, "no man is an island."

Community newspapers alert members of the community to problems needing attention.

The community newspaper facilitates the exchange of ideas and opinions through its editorial page and letters to the editor.

There are so many things of value community newspapers provide: the recording of local history and helping to maintain a healthy local economy through effective advertising for local businesses are just a few areas of value.

The community newspaper's value to its community is unquestioned.

— from Publishers Auxiliary, a publication of the National Newspaper Association

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Special holiday season event

Anna's emergency services vehicles stopped in front of the Walmart store after they had transported children to go shopping on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Shop with Cop/Firefighter

Holiday tradition continues in county

The Christmas season for some 100 children, and their families was made brighter thanks to a special program involving area firefighters and law enforcement personnel.

Shop with a Cop/Firefighter Christmas season activities were held for children from throughout the Union County area.

For each of the special events, children were identified by local schools to participate.

Anna firefighters and police were joined by children for dinner and shopping on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, Dec. 6-7. A total of 42 children participated.

On Dec. 6, the children gathered at the Anna fire

station for a dinner which was provided by Casey's. On Dec. 7, dinner was served at Pizza Hut.

After dinner each evening, it was off to the Walmart supercenter in Anna for some Christmas shopping. Children could shop for themselves and for their families.

The children were taken to Walmart in emergency services vehicles, complete with lights flashing and sirens sounding in the cold winter night.

Along with the firefighters and police officers, the event involved Brandon Bierstedt and softball players from Shawnee Community College.

Financial support for the

Anna program included a grant from Walmart, donations (including one from the City of Anna), donations and a pancake breakfast fund-raiser. A local locksmith also helps to support the program.

Cobden's program was held last Thursday evening. About 18 children met at Cobden Village Hall for dinner from Little Caesar's. The children then went shopping at Walmart in Anna.

Donations and a fund-raising pancake breakfast help to support the Cobden program.

Nearly 40 children took part in Jonesboro's program, which also involved the Ware-Wolf Lake Fire

Protection District and Shawnee School students.

Dinner provided by Casey's was planned Wednesday evening, Dec. 21, followed by shopping at Walmart.

Organizers also were hoping to be able to provide food baskets for families. Walmart employees also worked to provide children with stockings.

Distribution Day for coats scheduled

The 2016 WIBH New Coats, New Hope Campaign ended in early December.

The campaign raised more than \$6,700 to purchase over 350 new, winter coats for kids in Southern Illinois.

A Community Coat Distribution Day is planned at the Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center in Anna.

The Distribution Day is for families in need of coats and is planned on Dec. 28 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Coats will be available to boys and girls sizes 3 to 16 while supplies last.

No appointment is necessary. No paperwork is required to receive a free coat.

For more information about the campaign, contact Shawna Rhine at WIBH Radio in Anna at 833-9424 or the advocacy center at 833-7470.

Jobless rate 5.6 percent

The Illinois Department of Employment Security, IDES, reports that the state's unemployment rate in November remained at 5.6 percent.

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,700 jobs, based on preliminary data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and IDES.

October job growth was revised up to show an increase of 3,400 jobs, rather than the preliminary figure of 2,200 jobs.

Despite the upward revision, job growth remains below the national average, with Illinois 29,600 jobs short of its peak employment level reached in September 2000.

Grant funding will boost development

Southern Illinois small business development and entrepreneurship efforts will get a substantial boost courtesy of a \$159,312 grant awarded to Southern Illinois University Carbon-

dale's Southern Illinois Research Park last week by the Delta Regional Authority. The grant will fund the "Growing Southern Illinois: Strengthening the Regional Entrepreneurship Ecosystem" project, assisting startup and expanding small businesses with high growth potential by providing services on three levels, according to Kyle Harfst, executive director of economic development at SIU.

The funding will enable the research park to help businesses grow through mentoring, management and assisting with access to capital.

In conjunction with the grant, plans call for creation of an Entrepreneur in Residence program, which will essentially connect local entrepreneurs with seasoned business professionals from the field who will serve as expert advisers, role models, mentors and coaches.

A project director will facilitate those connections, matching people with similar business interests via workshops, meet-and-greet sessions and other activities. "We will be creating a network of experienced professionals, including many SIU alumni, to help

with this project. They will share their war stories, expertise and advice with newer entrepreneurs," Harfst said.

The program, which will include other components, will begin in early 2017 and the total investment in growing the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem is \$199,249.

That includes SIU's contribution in the form of managerial support from the economic development team.

The funding comes through the Delta Regional Authority States' Economic Development Assistance Program.

The program is the organization's federal funding program, which provides assistance to a variety of public and transportation infrastructure, workforce development, health-access and small business and entrepreneurship projects in the 252 counties and parishes within eight states covered by the Delta Region.

The SIU Research Park is SIU's non-profit corporation that promotes technology and knowledge-based enterprise development throughout the region.

For more information about the park and the many services it provides, including the new program, visit www.researchpark.siu.edu, email harfst@siu.edu or call 618-453-3427.

State police conducting special night patrols

Illinois State Police District 22 has been conducting nighttime enforcement patrols in Union County during December.

Plans for the patrols were announced in a news release from Lt. Michael Alvey, the interim commander of District 22.

Alvey said that the nighttime patrols allow the state police "to focus on preventing, detecting and taking enforcement action in response to impaired driving and occupant restraint violations."

Efforts particularly are focused between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

"The number of unrestrained drivers killed in traffic crashes is significantly higher at nighttime and combined with impaired driving means even more traffic deaths during

these critical hours," Alvey stated.

He said that officers will strictly enforce violations which include driving under the influence, safety belt and child restraint use, speeding, distracted driving and all Illinois Vehicle Code and Criminal Violations.

"Alcohol and drug impairment is a factor in more than 30 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in Illinois," Alvey stated. "Over half of all fatal crashes in Illinois occur at night."

He said that the nighttime patrols allow "officers to work even harder at removing dangerous impaired drivers from the road and making sure everyone is buckled up."

The project is funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Missouri man sentenced

Union County State's Attorney Tyler R. Edmonds reported Dec. 15 that Travis A. Williams, 40, of Charleston, Mo., has been sentenced to three years in the Illinois Department of Corrections on one count of aggravated driving a vehicle while under the influence, DUI, which is a Class 2 felony.

Williams will also serve a two-year period of mandatory supervised release, formerly known as parole.

Williams was arrested

for DUI by Illinois State Police on Dec. 16, 2015, following a traffic stop on interstate I-57 southbound, at milepost 38 in Union County.

The DUI charge was elevated based on Williams having committed a violation of a subsection of Section 11-501 or a similar provision for the fourth time.

The case was prosecuted by assistant state's attorney Daniel Klingemann.



Students learn about nutrition

Chartwells provides Jonesboro Grade School Students with nutritious breakfasts and lunches. Chartwells' mission is to build sharp minds and strong bodies with a healthful, balanced approach to school dining. Chartwells shares their knowledge of the life-enhancing benefits of good nutrition with students, families and communities. Jonesboro Grade School students from Miss Peggy's class, Head Start, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten recently learned about the benefits of calcium in their diets. Chartwells also provided the students with activity sheets, stickers and yogurt and pudding snacks. Photo provided.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S BANKING HOURS:

We hope that you enjoy the holidays with your family. In order for our staff to do the same, we will have special banking hours for Christmas and New Year's. The bank will be closed Saturday, December 24th through Monday, December 26th, and Saturday, December 31st through Monday, January 2nd. Friday hours for both holidays will remain the same.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Sports

A-J wrestling team goes 3-1 at Benton; earns state recognition

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School wrestling team competed in the Benton Duals Saturday, Dec. 10.

The Wildcats finished 3-1 overall with wins over Fairfield 61-18, East Alton Wood River 57-18 and Paducah Tilghman 72-6. The lone loss for A-J was a 44-35 decision to Tolono Unity.

In the Tolono Unity loss, A-J had to forfeit two weight classes and didn't have its starting 120 and 170 pound weight class wrestlers competing.

In the Paducah match, Aiden Frick in the 120-pound weight class, was lost for the season with a posterior dislocation of the elbow.

"Aiden is a big loss for us," A-J wrestling coach Eric Massey said.

The Wildcat wrestling team received an honorable mention state ranking in the Go Earn It Wrestling Apparel Class 1A team rankings posted on Illinois Matmen.

Cobden set to appear at Sesser-Valier

The Cobden High School boys' basketball team is scheduled to compete in the Sesser-Valier Holiday Tournament Dec. 26-29.

Woodlawn is the tournament's top-seeded team.

Other teams competing are Waltonville, Goreville, Odin, Marissa-Coulterville, Zeigler-Royalton, Chester, Century, Christopher, New Athens, Steelville, Thompsonville, Galatia and the host Red Devils.

Cobden opens tourney play at 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 26, against Waltonville.

A win will advance the Appleknockers to a 10:30 a.m. game on Tuesday, Dec. 27, against the winner of Goreville-Odin.

A loss will put Cobden against the loser of that game on 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Century scores win over Shawnee

Century built a big lead on its way to a 69-29 win over host Shawnee in South Egyptian Conference high school boys' basketball action Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Kannen Wills scored 15 points to lead the Redskins. Dawson Johnson added 8 points, Zack Phelps 3, Nick Baltzell 2 and Ryan Schaefer 1.

Shawnee plays Friday at Christian Agape in Marion.

"We are state ranked for the first time since 2011, when (A-J assistant) coach Chase Hargrave's team, under head coach Rick Bittle, went 22-2," Massey said.

In individual state rankings, A-J's Nick Jimenez,

A-J girls score big win over Pinckneyville

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School girls' basketball team did something its hasn't accomplished in a while on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

"It's been at least six years since we've beaten Pinckneyville," A-J coach Matt Denny said. "They're a solid team."

Host A-J held on for a 36-33 win over the Lady Panthers.

The Lady Wildcats built a 14-11 first quarter lead and were ahead 23-17 at the half. A-J led 33-27 headed into the final quarter and was outscored 6-3 in the come-from-behind bid.

Elle Basler sealed the win with 1.3 seconds remaining when she made back-to-back free throws. Basler had 14 points and 6 rebounds to lead A-J.

Angel Helm added 6 points and 6 rebounds. Jasmín Foster had 5 points and 2 rebounds.

Connar Hadley had 4

points and 6 rebounds. Lexa Sharp had 4 points and a rebound. Hunter Denny had 3 points and a rebound.

Du Quoin 35, A-J 33: The visiting Lady Wildcats led until the final quarter in the conference loss Thursday, Dec. 15.

A-J led 10-2 after one quarter and 21-12 at the half. The Lady Wildcats were ahead 29-22 headed into the final period. The Lady Indians came on to outscore A-J 13-4 in the final frame to eke out the win.

"We had a shot at the buzzer and missed it," Denny said.

Only three A-J players were able to get in the scoring column.

Helm led the way with 17 points and 9 rebounds. Basler added 10 points and 5 rebounds and Foster 6 points and 3 rebounds.

A-J, 6-4 overall, plays Thursday, today, at home against Carterville in a rescheduled game.

Wildcats outscored by Massac, Carterville

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School boys' basketball team lost twice in recent action.

Massac County 51, A-J 41: The visiting Wildcats fell behind early in the Southern Illinois River-to-River Conference Mississippi Division loss Saturday, Dec. 17.

A-J trailed 10-9 after one quarter and 20-15 at the half. The Patriots were ahead 37-23 going into the final period.

Sheldon McGrath had 15 points and 4 rebounds to lead the Wildcats.

Jacob Zimmerman had 5 points and 2 rebounds. Ross Pinnon had 3 points and a rebound.

Izzy Markovic had 2 points and 11 rebounds. Logan Sawyer had 2 points and 3 rebounds.

A-J was 8 of 17 in shot attempts from the floor, 6 of 21 from 3-point range and 7 of 14 from the free throw line.

The Patriots were 13 of 30 in shot attempts from the

floor, 4 of 17 from 3-point range and 11 of 24 from the charity stripe.

Carterville 45, A-J 40: The visiting Wildcats let a first half lead slip away in the loss Friday, Dec. 16.

A-J led 10-8 after one quarter and 17-14 at the half. The Lions came back to take a 33-30 lead into the final quarter and outscored the Wildcats 12-10 in the last frame.

Parr had 18 points and 8 rebounds to lead A-J. McGrath added 9 points and 6 rebounds.

Sawyer had 4 points and 3 rebounds. Zimmerman had 3 points and 2 rebounds.

Carson Reynolds and Jade Gillis had 3 points and a rebound apiece.

A-J, 4-5, is scheduled to play Friday at home against Pinckneyville.



Contest winners

Winners of the local Elks Hoop Shoot competition included Landon Brown, Henry Hoehner, Kansas Craig, Jayci Needling, Jada Qualls, Noah Cavins, Zach Henry, Dawson Trammel, Danielle Dunaway, Mackenna Prout, Peyton Samuels, Ethan Carver, Caleb Nicholson, Noah Treece, Marlee Smith, Brooklyn Hogue and Brodie Denny. Photo provided.

A-J Elks Lodge announces Hoop Shoot contest winners

Anna-Jonesboro Elks Lodge No. 1641 has announced the winners of a local Elks Hoop Shoot competition.

Three boys and three girls, ages 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13 won the first round of competition in the Elks Hoop Shoot free throw contest, which was held at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School.

Each local school held a preliminary contest to determine the winners to represent their school.

Each contestant has 25 shots at the hoop. The boy and girl in each age group with the best scores advance through four tiers of competition to qualify for the national finals, which are planned in Chicago on April 22, 2017.

First, second and third place trophies were awarded to three boys and three girls in each of the three categories: ages 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13.

The six first place champions now advance to the district finals, which are planned at A-JCHS on Jan. 14, 2017 at 11 a.m.

They will compete against other winners from the Elks South District Lodges, which include Murphysboro, Cairo, Marion, Du Quoin, Harrisburg, Heroin, Benton, Carbondale,

Meridian tops Cobden

Visiting Meridian pulled ahead in the first quarter on its way to a 49-34 win over host Cobden in South Egyptian Conference high school boys' basketball Tuesday, Dec. 13.

John Russell had 11 points and 7 rebounds to lead the Appleknockers.

Clayton Eck had 7 points and 7 rebounds. Austin Lewey had 7 points and 4 rebounds.

Dylan Lewey had 4 points and 2 rebounds. Hayden Young had 3 points and 3 rebounds.

The following Union County Banks will be observing the following hours during the Christmas Holiday:

Anna State Bank - Anna
Saturday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve - Closed
Monday, Dec. 26 - Closed

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Monday, Dec. 26 - Closed

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Student council members

Anna Junior High School Student Council members who participated in the project are, in the first row, from left, Kamden Richardson, Blake Mays and Bryce Henry. In the second row are Noah Treece, Olivia Capel, Karyann Carter, Halle Menees, Alli Bigler, John David Bigler and Scott Glasco. In the third row are Keri Rendleman, Jake Merriman, Caleb Mays and Tyler Cunningham. Photo provided.



Preparing bags of food

Students organized and prepared bags of food to go to needy families. Photo provided.

Anna Junior High School students help to provide food to families in need

The Anna Junior High School Student Council participated in a special project during the Christmas season to provide food for families of students who need better nutrition. The task was a part of the Weekend Backpack program supported by the student council. The student council group shopped with funds provided by the Hands of Faith Women of Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church in Anna.

The Hands Of Faith group conducted a project in cooperation with Thrivent Financial Agency to raise funds for the benevolent community project. The students organized and prepared bags of food to go to needy families at Christmas time. The project also provided a ham to accompany each gift. The students voiced their appreciation to be able to "live generously" (noted on their t-shirts) to share with families in need.



Local artist

Local artist Paulette Aronson was honored at a recent Southern Illinois University College of Art and Design event. Photo provided.

Union County artist honored at SIU Art Over Easy event

By Amber Skelton
A local artist and former educator was awarded a gold prize win in the alumni category at the Art Over Easy 12 fundraiser for Southern Illinois University's College of Art and Design on Dec. 2. Paulette Aronson of Cobden had submitted a piece called "Where Wind Moves." Art Over Easy was a ticketed event that included live and silent auctions of art that has been donated by students, faculty, alumni and community-based artists. A juror selected bronze, silver and gold award winners in each category. Aronson has been participating in the competition for all of its 12 years. Previously she worked as a teacher with

Anna Junior High School, where she encouraged her students to enter their art work in competitions. Over her 34 years of teaching, she also brought her students to events and shows that the school of art and design would organize. "I tried to pass on some of what I love to my students." Aronson has been creating art ever since she was a child, for over 60 years. "I still remember sitting under a table with string and boxes making things. I don't know a time when I have not made art." Aronson said that she is currently working with luminosity. Her award-winning piece changes based on how the light hits the piece.

Cobden girls score victories over Joppa, Zeigler-Royalton

The Cobden High School girls' basketball team posted a 2-2 record in recent action. **Century 50, Cobden 37:** Host Cobden let an early lead slip away in the South Egyptian Conference loss Monday, Dec. 12. Meredith Flamm scored 18 points to lead Cobden. Maddie Shoemate added 13 points and Alaina Hartline 6. **Cobden 50, Joppa 42:** Alaina Hartline scored 22 points to lead host Cobden to the conference win Friday, Dec. 9. Flamm added 20 points for the Appleknockers. Jenna Hartline had 6 points and Mackynzie Peterman 2.

Egyptian 38, Cobden 37: Flamm scored 21 points to lead the visiting Appleknockers in the conference loss Thursday, Dec. 8. Alaina Hartline added 11 points for Cobden and Jenna Hartline 5. **Cobden 47, Zeigler-Royalton 29:** Alaina Hartline led the way with 16 points in the non-conference win for host Cobden Wednesday, Dec. 7. Jenna Hartline added 15 points, Flamm 11, Shoemate 3 and Peterman 2. Cobden, 4-6, is scheduled to play Thursday, today, at Agape Christian in Marion and Friday at Shawnee.

A-J seeded number 8 at Eldorado Tournament

The Anna Jonesboro Community High School boys' basketball team is seeded number 8 at the Eldorado Holiday Tournament, which is scheduled Dec. 26-28. Herrin is the top-seeded team, followed by Fairfield, Eldorado, Harrisburg, Carmi, Edwards County, Massac County and the Wildcats. Other teams entered are Union County, Ky., Carrier Mills, Hamilton County, Gallatin County, Norris City-Omaha-Enfield, Hardin County and Vienna. A-J opens tournament play at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 26, against Union County, Ky.

A win will put the Wildcats in a winners' bracket game at 1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, against the winner between Herrin-Carrier Mills. A loss and A-J will play at 4:45 p.m. Tuesday against the loser of that game.

Goreville 77, Cobden 67

Cobden let a first quarter lead slip away in a 77-67 loss to visiting Goreville in South Egyptian Conference high school boys' basketball Monday, Dec. 19. The Appleknockers led 21-15 after one quarter. The Blackcats pulled ahead 42-37 at the half and led 59-54 going into the final period. John Russell scored 23 points, including four 3-pointers, to lead Cobden. Austin Lewey added 16 points, Clayton Eck 10, Dylan Duty 6, Joe Brumleve and Dylan Lewey 4 each and Hayden Young 2. Cobden, 4-7 overall, plays in the Sesser-Valier Holiday Tournament next week.

Lady 'Cats score OT win over Sparta

The host Anna-Jonesboro Community High School girls' basketball team outscored Sparta 12-8 in overtime on the way to a 62-58 win in Southern Illinois River-to-River Conference Mississippi Division action Monday, Dec. 19.

The Lady Wildcats struggled at the free throw line, hitting a dismal 15 of 34 for the game and 13 of 28 in the fourth quarter and overtime.

Goreville 53, Cobden 47

Host Cobden couldn't hold a first half lead in a 53-47 loss to Goreville in South Egyptian Conference high school girls' basketball Monday, Dec. 19. The Appleknockers led 27-20 at the half. The Lady Blackcats made a 17-5 scoring run in the third quarter to build a 37-32 lead headed into the final frame. Alaina Hartline scored 24 points to lead the Appleknockers. Meredith Flamm added 20 points, Jenna Hartline 2 and Grace Rhodes 1. Cobden, which fell to 5-7 overall, is scheduled to play again at Johnston City on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

"We didn't shoot well from the free throw line," A-J coach Matt Denny said. "But it was a good win, we just have to learn to take care of the ball at the end."

Angel Helm led the way with 19 points and 7 rebounds. Elle Basler had 19 points and 5 rebounds. Lexi Smith had 7 points and 4 rebounds. Lexa Sharp had 7 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and 2 rebounds. Jasmin Foster had 6 points and 4 rebounds. Connor Hadley had 4 points and 2 rebounds. A-J, 7-4 and 3-2 in the conference, plays again Thursday, today, at home against Carterville.

Dongola Tournament scheduled

The Dongola High School boys' basketball holiday tournament is scheduled Dec. 29-30. The schedule for Thursday, Dec. 29, includes: 1 p.m. Dongola vs. Elverado; 2:30 p.m. Pope County vs. Joppa; 5 p.m. Elverado vs. Pope County; and 6:30 p.m. Joppa vs. Dongola. The schedule for Friday, Dec. 30, includes: 5 p.m. Pope County vs. Dongola; and 6:30 p.m. Elverado vs. Joppa. Host Dongola is the defending tournament champion.

Saluki Sports Update

By Fred Huff
We're getting closer now every day...yes, Christmas, by far more important, this weekend and the start of Missouri Valley Conference play next week.

The Salukis are at Bradley for the opener Thursday, Dec. 29, prior to their home opener the following Sunday, Jan. 1, against Drake. Fortunately for Coach Barry Hinson's on-and-off group, the opening pair may be ideal for the Salukis. It could be, although Bradley is somewhat of an unknown quality, a perfect way for SIU to start off what we consider to be the "serious part" of the 2016-17 basketball season.

Only way for the schedule to be more perfect for the Salukis would be if the meeting with Drake was on the road and the Bradley game in the friendly confines of the SIU Arena.

And, speaking of scheduling, you might want to make a note now on Feb. 11, a 3 p.m. home game against Evansville. Not totally for the game action, but what's scheduled as secondary entertainment.

SIU will be honoring the 1967 Salukis - coaches, players and others - that weekend while recognizing the 50th anniversary of the NIT championship team.

If you've been involved in sports much of your life, one can't avoid having some ups and downs along the way.

The Salukis winning the NIT title that year happens to be No. 1 in our book and we're thankful to SIU officials for including us along with the 14 or 15 others invited back to renew

friendships and memories. Head coach Jack Hartman unfortunately is deceased, but his assistants, George Iubelt, Jim Smelser and Joe Ramsey, hopefully will all be returning. Along with the players: Walt Frazier, Dick Garrett, Ralph Johnson, Roger Bechtold, Ed Zastrow, Craig Taylor, Willie Griffin, Rich Buechner, Creston Whitaker and Bobby Jackson; student manager Tim Lindgren; student trainer Kent Biggerstaff, and me, who reunites two weeks in New York City as one of life "working" highlights.

The key happenings obviously were SIU's walloping of "home-town favorite" St. Peter's, the hard-fought wins over Duke and Rutgers and the victory over Marquette in the championship games.

Actually the last three games in the old Madison Square Garden were battles. The Salukis had to come from behind in the second half of all three. That's where Iubelt was a master in his halftime talks to the team. He was the defensive coach and the Salukis shut every opponent down in the second half while managing to score enough to win, 72-63, 79-70 and 71-56.

Space doesn't allow us to go into detail, but there were so many "little things" that actually, years later, were true majors that we'll never forget.

An example: The team was lodged across the street from the Garden, at Lowe's Midtown Inn. We were there for two weeks and so, too, was a guy by the name of Cassius Clay. It's best not to get me started.

Shawnee girls have rough patch in recent action

The Shawnee High School girls' basketball team has had a rough patch in recent action.

Cobden 34, Shawnee 29: The visiting Lady Reds couldn't hold a first half lead in the loss Friday, Dec. 16.

Abbey Livesay had 19 points to lead Shawnee. Kylie Holloway added 4 points and Autumn McMahan, Kirsten Pitts and Madi Ellet 2 apiece.

Elverado 40, Shawnee 36: The host Lady Reds let another first half lead slip away in the loss Thursday, Dec. 15.

Ellet scored 13 points to lead Shawnee. Livesay added 10 points, McMahan 8, Pitts 3 and Holloway 2.

Egyptian 51, Shawnee 36: Madi Ellet had 12 points to lead the visiting Lady Reds in the South Egyptian

Conference loss Monday, Dec. 12. Abbey Livesay and Autumn McMahan had 8 points apiece for the Lady Reds. Katie Charles had 4 points, followed by Kylie Holloway and Kirsten Pitts with 2 each.

Meridian 61, Shawnee 28: The host Lady Bobcats built a 15-0 first quarter lead on their way to the win Thursday, Dec. 8.

Livesay had 8 points to lead Shawnee. Pitts added 6 points, McMahan and Ellet 5 apiece, Holloway 3 and Charles 1.

Elverado 37, Shawnee 26: McMahan and Ellet scored 11 points apiece to lead the visiting Lady Reds in the loss Monday, Dec. 5. Charles added 4 points for Shawnee.

Shawnee, 0-10, is scheduled to play again Jan. 5 at Agape Christian of Marion.

Phillips' Auto Wash Gift Card Stocking Stuffer Available thru December 24 Receive a token for one dryer use for every \$10 spent on a gift card. (Buy a \$40.00 card and receive 4 tokens) PLEASE SEE ATTENDANT TO PURCHASE A CARD. 49-1G

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FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CITIZENS COMMUNITY BANK, Plaintiff, vs. ADAM SCHROEDER, et al., Defendants. Case No. 2016-CH-10

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered by the court in the above entitled cause and pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c), the property hereinafter described will be sold to the highest bidder.

1. For information regarding the real estate, contact the undersigned attorney.

2. The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is: 940 Brown Section Road, Cobden, Illinois 62920.

3. The property is improved with a mobile home which is not included in the sale.

4. The real estate will not be open to inspection prior to sale.

5. The time and place of the sale will be January 11, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., at the front door of the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, Illinois.

6. The real estate will be sold to the highest bidder with cash in hand.

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

Respectfully submitted, Hanna & Volmert, LLC

By Deborah J. Volmert, #06216538
530 Fullerton Road, Suite A
P.O. Box 464
Belleville, Illinois
62222-0464
(618) 277-7670

Attorneys for Citizens Community Bank
52-2g

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preference, limitation, or discrimination."

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HELP WANTED: Independent Living Services is hiring DSP's for evening, weekend and midnight shifts--full and part-time available. Prefer DSP certified, but will train. Apply in person at ILS, 170 Lick Creek Road, Anna, IL.

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. 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.

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HELP WANTED: Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81 is accepting applications for the following vacancy:

• Principal's Secretary
Interested applicants should pick up an application or print one from our website at www.aj81.net and return to Anna-Jonesboro CHSD #81, Attn: Brett Detering, Principal, 608 S. Main St., Anna, IL 62906. Please contact the Principal's Office at (618)-833-8502 for more information. The deadline for applying is January 5, 2017.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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,

vs. 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 January 11, 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, Illinois.

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

Lorraine Moreland
Clerk of the Circuit Court

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52-2g

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CITIZENS COMMUNITY BANK, Plaintiff,

vs. ADAM SCHROEDER, et al., Defendants. Case No. 2016-CH-10

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered by the court in the above entitled cause and pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c), the property hereinafter described will be sold to the highest bidder.

1. For information regarding the real estate, contact the undersigned attorney.

2. The common address and other common description, if any, of the real estate is: 940 Brown Section Road, Cobden, Illinois 62920.

3. The legal description of the real estate is:

Parcel 1, Tract 1:

A parcel of land being a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a stone found at the Southwest corner of said Quarter-Quarter Section; thence N 00°-57'-32" E, 672.42 feet along the West line of said Quarter-Quarter Section to an iron rod found; thence S 88°-56'-19" E, 410.41 feet to an iron rod set, this being the point of beginning; thence along new lines the following two (2) calls: thence N 01°-15'-16" E, 345.84 feet to an iron rod set; thence S 88°-55'-47"

Request for Mowing Bids

Proposals are requested for the mowing and trimming of Southern Illinois Cooperatives's (SIEC) twelve (12) substation properties, Massac County facilities and Massac Office property for one year (2017). Work includes mowing and trimming outside of fenced areas at substation properties, mowing and trimming at our two (2) Massac County facilities and, when requested, Massac County property. Properties are divided into three (3) groups consisting of "Massac Group", "North Group" and "South Group." Descriptions and addresses of each location can be found at www.siec.org or call the Cooperative at the number listed below.

Bid packages can be picked up at SIEC, 7420 U.S. Highway 51 South, Dongola, IL, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Cooperative requires the successful bidder to provide and maintain public liability insurance, including but not limited to insurance on vehicles utilized in this job and property damage coverage. The Cooperative also requires the successful bidder to provide and maintain workmen's compensation insurance coverage on any individual who performs the mowing and trimming, including an individual who may be the sole owner/operator of the business.

Bids must be received by noon on Friday, January 13, 2017. Please direct any questions to Bree Hileman, Assistant Director of HR & Administrative Services, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at 618-827-3555.

52&1GAVP
CD

E, 251.92 feet to an iron rod set; thence S 01°-15'-16" W, 345.80 feet to an iron rod found; thence N 88°-56'-19" W, 251.92 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel to contain 2.00 acres, more or less. Said parcel being subject to all rights-of-way and easements, recorded or otherwise. Per plat of survey prepared by Billy J. Abernathy, Illinois Land Surveyor No. 3536, recorded June 9, 2006, in Record Book 277 at Page 118 in the Recorder's Office of Union County, Illinois.

Parcel 1, Tract 2:

A perpetual, non-exclusive easement for roadway and all utilities for the benefit of Tract 1 above described, being a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter and a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 27, all in Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Said easement being 10 feet each side of the following described centerline: Commencing at a stone found at the Southwest corner of said Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence N 52°-48'-49" W, 81.21 feet to the intersection of the centerline of Brown Section Road and the centerline of an existing drive, this being the Southern terminus of said easement and the point of beginning; thence along the centerline of said existing drive the following six (6) calls: Thence along a curve to the left with chord bearing N 19°-11'-12" E 106.31 feet, a radius of 130.00 feet, and an arc length of 109.52 feet to a point; thence N 03°-36'-04" W, 96.08 feet to a point; thence N 13°-27'-19" E, 199.77 feet to a point; thence along a curve to the right with chord bearing N 39°-42'-37" E 172.28 feet, a radius of 230.00 feet, and an arc length of 176.59 feet to a point; thence N 61°-18'-33" E, 195.47 feet to a point; thence N 51°-43'-04" E, 1.70 feet to a point in the South line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 27, all in Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Said easement being 10 feet each side of the following described centerline: Commencing at a stone found at the Southwest corner of said Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence N 52°-48'-49" W, 81.21 feet to the intersection of the centerline of Brown Section Road and the centerline of an existing drive, this being the Southern terminus of said easement and the point of beginning; thence along the centerline of said existing drive the following six (6) calls: Thence along a curve to the left with chord bearing N 19°-11'-12" E 106.31 feet, a radius of 130.00 feet, and an arc length of 109.52 feet to a point; thence N 03°-36'-04" W, 96.08 feet to a point; thence N 13°-27'-19" E, 199.77 feet to a point; thence along a curve to the right with chord bearing N 39°-42'-37" E 172.28 feet, a radius of 230.00 feet, and an arc length of 176.59 feet to a point; thence N 61°-18'-33" E, 195.47 feet to a point; thence N 51°-43'-04" E, 1.70 feet to a point in the South line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 27, all in Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian; thence North 86°-07'-52" West along the North line of said Section 27 a distance of 665.80 feet to the point of beginning; thence South 4°-03'-11" West a distance of 672.31 feet; thence North 86°-08'-24" West a distance of 662.33 feet to the West line of the Northwest Quarter of the said Northwest Quarter; thence North 3°-45'-27" East along the said West line a distance of 672.42 feet to the Northwest corner of the said Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence South 86°-07'-52" East along the North line of said Section 27 a distance of 665.80 feet to the point of beginning; the tract containing 10.25 acres, more or less, situated in Union County, Illinois. Per survey by Charles L. Garner, Illinois Land Surveyor No. 2316, dated April 20, 1982. Excepting however half of all oil and mineral rights, and being subject to a 20 foot wide easement across the Southeast corner of the herein described tract.

(Legal descriptions for Tract 2 and Tract 3 easements prepared by Billy J. Abernathy, Illinois Land Surveyor No. 3536, of Shawnee Survey & Consulting, Inc., Vienna, IL.)

Parcel 2, Tract 1:

A part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian; thence North 86°-07'-52" West along the North line of said Section 27 a distance of 665.80 feet to the point of beginning; thence South 4°-03'-11" West a distance of 672.31 feet; thence North 86°-08'-24" West a distance of 662.33 feet to the West line of the Northwest Quarter of the said Northwest Quarter; thence North 3°-45'-27" East along the said West line a distance of 672.42 feet to the Northwest corner of the said Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence South 86°-07'-52" East along the North line of said Section 27 a distance of 665.80 feet to the point of beginning; the tract containing 10.25 acres, more or less, situated in Union County, Illinois. Per survey by Charles L. Garner, Illinois Land Surveyor No. 2316, dated April 20, 1982. Excepting however half of all oil and mineral rights, and being subject to a 20 foot wide easement across the Southeast corner of the herein described tract.

Parcel 2, Tract 2:

A perpetual, non-exclusive easement for roadway and all utilities, for the benefit of Tract 1 above described, being a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 27, all in Township 11

South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Said easement being 10 feet each side of the following described centerline: Commencing at a stone found at the Southwest corner of said Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence N 52°-48'-49" W, 81.21 feet to the intersection of the centerline of Brown Section Road and the centerline of an existing drive, this being the Southern terminus of said easement and the point of beginning; thence along the centerline of said existing drive the following six (6) calls: Thence along a curve to the left with chord bearing N 19°-11'-12" E 106.31 feet, a radius of 130.00 feet, and an arc length of 109.52 feet to a point; thence N 03°-36'-04" W, 96.08 feet to a point; thence N 13°-27'-19" E, 199.77 feet to a point; thence along a curve to the right with chord bearing N 39°-42'-37" E 172.28 feet, a radius of 230.00 feet, and an arc length of 176.59 feet to a point; thence N 61°-18'-33" E, 195.47 feet to a point; thence N 51°-43'-04" E, 1.70 feet to a point in the South line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, this being the Northern terminus of said easement. Said Easement to contain 0.35 acres, more or less. Said easement being subject to the existing right-of-way of Brown Section Road and all other rights-of-way and easements recorded or otherwise. All situated in the County of Union, State of Illinois.

(Legal descriptions for Tract 2 and Tract 3 easements prepared by Billy J. Abernathy, Illinois Land Surveyor No. 3536, of Shawnee Survey & Consulting, Inc., Vienna, IL.)

Excepting therefrom the following described tract:

A parcel of land being a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian. Said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a stone found at the Southwest corner of said Quarter-Quarter section; thence N 00°-57'-32" E, 672.42 feet along the West line of said Quarter-Quarter section to an iron rod found; thence S 88°-56'-19" E, 410.41 feet to an iron rod set, this being the point of beginning; thence along new lines the following two (2) calls: Thence N 01°-15'-16" E, 345.84 feet to an iron rod set; thence S 88°-55'-47" E, 251.92 feet to an iron rod set; thence S 01°-15'-16" W, 345.80 feet to an iron rod found; thence N 88°-56'-19" W, 251.92 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel to contain 2.00 acres, more or less. Said parcel being subject to all rights-of-way and easements, re-

corded or otherwise. Per plat of survey prepared by Billy J. Abernathy, Illinois Land Surveyor No. 3536, recorded June 9, 2006, in Record Book 277 at Page 118 in the Recorder's Office of Union County, Illinois.

The parcel numbers are: 07-27-05-591-B and 07-27-05-591-B1.

4. The property is improved with a mobile home which is not included in the sale.

5. The real estate will not be open to inspection prior to sale.

6. The time and place of the sale will be January 11, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., at the front door of the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, Illinois.

7. The real estate will be sold to the highest bidder with cash in hand.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Hanna & Volmert, LLC
By Deborah J. Volmert,
#06216538
530 Fullerton Road,
Suite A
P.O. Box 464
Belleville, Illinois
62222-0464
(618) 277-7670
Attorneys for Citizens
Community Bank
52-2g

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

ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK, an Illinois Banking Corporation, Plaintiff,

vs

CHAD E. MOWERY, KATHRYN E. MOWERY, UNKNOWN OWNERS And NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.
Case No.: 2016-CH-33

PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given

to you, Chad E. Mowery, Kathryn E. Mowery, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants in the above entitled suit, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, by the said Plaintiff against you and other defendants to foreclose a certain Mortgage covering the following described premises, to-wit:

Lot Number Seven (7) in Rolling Hills Subdivision, pursuant to that certain plat filed for record at Book 7, page 43, in the Recorder's Office of Union County, Illinois, situated in Union County, Illinois.

TRACT II:
A PARCEL OF LAND BEING A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 29 AND PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 28, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN. SAID PARCEL IS PART OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED AND RECORDED IN BOOK 122, PAGE 128 IN THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE NAME OF WILLIS L. BELCHER, MARIE E. BELCHER, JOHN W. BELCHER, AND SUSAN E. BELCHER, DATED JUNE 20, 1974. SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT AN IRON ROD SET AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER AND THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD; THENCE ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) CALLS: THENCE N 15°02'55" W, 559.87 FEET TO AN IRON ROD FOUND; THENCE ALONG A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH CHORD BEARING N 15°31'41" W 43.35 FEET, A RADIUS OF 2764.82 FEET, AND AN ARC LENGTH OF 43.45 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET, THIS BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE ALONG NEW LINES THE FOLLOWING THREE (3) CALLS: THENCE N 88°45'48" W, 194.55 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE N 21°21'41" W, 152.32 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE N 32°12'46" W, 152.32 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET; THENCE N 37°38'19" W, 36.82 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 11 IN ROLLING HILLS SUBDIVISION; THENCE 59°51'00", 226.94 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 11 TO AN IRON ROD SET IN SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) CALLS: THENCE ALONG A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH CHORD BEARING S 25°04'31" E 41.50 FEET, A RADIUS OF 1809.86 FEET, AND AN ARC LENGTH OF 41.50 FEET TO AN IRON ROD FOUND; THENCE ALONG A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH CHORD BEARING S 20°10'52" E 405.37 FEET, A RADIUS OF 2764.82 FEET, AND AN ARC LENGTH OF 405.73 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID PARCEL TO CONTAIN 1.798 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PER SURVEY BY BILLY J. ABERNATHY, IL PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR NO. 3536, DATED 10/17/2005.

SAID PARCEL BEING SUBJECT TO ALL RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND EASEMENTS, RECORDED OR OTHERWISE. ALL SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

All in accordance with a Plat of Survey dated October 17, 2005 and recorded October 25, 2005 in Record Book 268, page 991, as Doc. No. 2787, and further indexed at Plat Book 11,

page 327, made by Billy J. Abernathy-IL Professional Land Surveyor No. 3536, in the Union County Recorder's Office, situated in the County of Union and State of Illinois.

and for other relief, that summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that said suit is still pending.

Now, therefore, unless you, the said Defendants Chad E. Mowery, Kathryn E. Mowery and Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, file your answer to the Complaint in the suit, or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, in the County Courthouse in the City of Jonesboro, Illinois, on or before **January 15, 2017 (30 days after publication)**, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Tiffany Busby
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Prepared by:
JOHN R. SCHNEIDER
JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C.
212 North Main Street
Capre Girardeau, MO
63701
Tel: (573)-335-3300
Fax: (573)-335-1978
52-2g

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

IN THE INTEREST OF: DEVON DITTO, A Minor.
NO. 2016-JA-26

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO 705 ILCS 405/3-18

JEREMIAH DITTO, and to **ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

TAKE NOTICE that on Monday, October 17, 2016, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Tyler R. Edmonds, Union County State's Attorney, by his Assistant State's Attorney, Heather Heaslett in the Circuit Court of Union County entitled, "IN the interest of DEVON DITTO, a minor," and that in Judge Charles Cavanaugh's courtroom at Union County Courthouse, 309 West Market Street, Jonesboro, Illinois on Thursday, the 19th day of January, 2017, at the hour of 1:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a youth in care under that Act. The court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, (and if the petition prays for the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption) and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption of the minor.

NOW, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Tiffany Busby
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Dated: December 19, 2016
lg

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

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

NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Oran Jack Lamer, of Anna, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 15, 2016, to Kathy Ginther, 8113 Hwy 38, Caledonia, WI 62249, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N.

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

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

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before June 22, 2017, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: December 15, 2016.

KATHY GINTHER

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

ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED NETWORK

ONLINE AUCTION ABSOLUTE Arcade Aworld Greenville, IL Ends December 27th Pac-Man, Centipede, Guitar Hero, Air Hockey, Big Buck Hunter & MANY MORE! AntonymsOnlineAuctions.com

New Year's Day Gun Auction January 1st 9:00am. 950Firearms inc/Colt, Win. S&W, Browning, Military, Antique to NIB 2601 Lake Land Blvd. Mattoon, IL Bauer Auction Service, LLC. See complete sale bill & 6,000 photos at www.bauerauction.com

State of Illinois Surplus Property Online Auction Equipment, watches, boats, vehicles, knives, jewelry and much more iBid.illinois.gov

ONLINE AUCTION ABSOLUTE Streuter's Garage Okawville, IL Ends January 4th GM tools, memorabilia, signs, parts, tires, tools, Snap-On tool box, rims, mirrors, hubcaps MORE! AntonymsOnlineAuctions.com

Diagnosed with Mesothelioma or Asbestos Lung Cancer? If so, you and your family may be entitled to a substantial financial award. We can help you get cash quick! Call 24/7: 844-577-2347

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Obituaries

Paul Edward Simpkins

Paul Edward Simpkins, 77, of Anna, died at 12:28 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016, at home.

He was born on Dec. 25, 1938, in Chicago, the son of William Issac and Lelia Lewis Simpkins.

He married Margaret "Monnie" Snell on Sept. 1, 1962, in Ware.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Monnie Simpkins of Anna; a son, Ken (Lisa) Simpkins of Lick Creek; a daughter, Paula (Preston) Hall of Cobden; one grandson, Colin Hall; three nieces, Kathy Knox, Fawn Harris and Lynn Graves; other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Mary Helen Deering and Gladys Gowin; and two brothers, Norman C. Simpkins and William Thomas Simpkins.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1957 to 1963. He was a member of the Anna Heights Baptist Church. He was retired from the Olin Brass Mill, where he worked for over 42 years as a quality control inspector. He enjoyed fishing and working outdoors in his yard. During his later years, he and Monnie enjoyed traveling and taking cruises.

Funeral services for Mr. Simpkins were at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, at Anna Heights Baptist Church, with Pastor Larry Rhodes and Pastor Darryl Williams officiating.

Interment was in the Mound City National Cemetery. Military rites were conducted by area veterans and the Navy funeral honor detail.

Memorials can be made to Celtic Hospice.

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

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

RENDELMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES



Marie Clayton

Marie Clayton, 76, of Anna, died at 4:57 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016, at Union County Nursing Home in Anna.

She was born on Feb. 20, 1940, near Anna, the daughter of Fred and Elma Hankla Burnley.

She married Jerrie T. Clayton on Dec. 12, 1959.

She worshipped at Camp Ground Cumberland Presbyterian Church. She enjoyed playing the piano, gardening and sewing. She was retired from the Florsheim Shoe Factory in Anna.

Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Jerrie Clayton; a daughter, Ramona (Richard) Ralls; two granddaughters, Heather (Dusty) Hileman and Jessican Ralls; a great-granddaughter, Gracie Marie Hileman; her twin sister, Maudie (Wayne) Miller; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Services for Mrs. Clayton were at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at Crain Funeral Home, Anna-Jonesboro, with the Rev. Larry Miller officiating. Interment was in the Camp Ground Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to the Camp Ground Cemetery.

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

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

Crain
Funeral home



Reynoldsville News

by Sue Eudy

Sue and Steve Eudy visited Saturday morning with Wilburn Gibbs at River to River in Anna.

Sue and Steve Eudy and Venita and Robert Lingle, all of Anna, enjoyed eating at JR's in Jonesboro Friday morning.

Happy birthday wishes to our former neighbor, Carolyn Harvel of Jonesboro, on Saturday, Dec. 24.

Last Tuesday Shirley Miller and Penny Hill of McClure enjoyed lunch at Firehouse Subs in Cape Girardeau.

Deanie Hinkle of Jonesboro visited Thursday with Shirley Miller. Penny Hill visited on Friday and Richard and Yvonne Graham of Anna visited on Saturday.

Dolores and Jack Reynolds and Jackie and Jay Jennings, all of Reynoldsville, and Hunter and Gracie Wilson of Cape Girardeau,

attended the Christmas program at New Hope Baptist Church last Sunday. Brylie Nash and Kyndal Oxford of Anna were in the program.

Dolores and Jack Reynolds, Jackie and Jay Jennings, Joseph Kelley of Jonesboro and Rodney and Vicki Reynolds of Wolf Lake attended the Christmas program last week at Shawnee Grade School. Luke and Adyson Choate of Grand Tower and River Kelley of Jonesboro were in the program.

Wishing all of our readers of The Gazette-Democrat a very Merry Christmas and please remember the reason for the season.

There will be a short service and program at 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day at Reynoldsville Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Jamie Bridgeman is pastor. All are welcome.

News from

First Christian Church, Anna

"Love Was When," with scripture from Luke, was the title of the sermon preached Sunday, Dec. 18, by Senior Minister Dee Armes.

The message shared that "Love was when God became a man. Love was when Jesus walked in history. Lovingly He brought a new life that's free. Love was God nailed to bleed and die to reach and love one

such as I." Birthdays: Sue Spellman on Dec. 19, Ken Matthias and Jessica Wettig-Miles on Dec. 20 and Rhonda Rush on Dec. 23.

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

Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m., with a worship service at 10:30 a.m.



An afternoon at the picnic grounds

The Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro were quiet during a recent visit on a sunny, but cool, December afternoon. Visitors can walk around a pond which is located on the picnic grounds.

✝
"The Preaching Pen"
✝

The Spirit of Christmas

I truly enjoy Christmas. The Christmas season is known as a time of giving. Friends, relatives, and loved ones exchange gifts. Some churches give baskets of food and gifts to the poor and needy. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 10:35).

All this is fine, but why don't we demonstrate this spirit at all times? Do our friends and family deserve such a display of our love only once a year? Are there poor people among us only once a year? Jesus Christ Himself went about doing good (Acts 10:38). His generosity knew no seasonal limitations, it was His disposition of life. The spirit of giving characterizes the entire Christian life.

Secondly, this time of year is characterized by a spirit of receiving. We all like to receive gifts, for it proves others love us and are thinking of us.

We receive gifts daily - gifts from God that show His love for us (Ps. 68:19). When we receive them, we receive Him. Do we appreciate them? Do we show it in our prayers and in our lives? We must give thanks in our prayers, as we ask for God's favors (Phil. 4:6). Let us not be like the Israelites, who manifested an attitude of ingratitude, murmuring, and complaining (Numbers 11:1-15). I Cor. 10:10: "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer." Let us receive our gifts with gratitude.

Finally, we see a spirit of forgiveness. Things that would cause petty quarrels at other times of the year are lightly cast aside, such as bumping into one another, minor wrecks - "fender benders," and family estrangement.

Isn't this a fine spirit? This is a fundamental doctrine of Christianity, why then should it be lacking at other times? Matt. 18:21-22: "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." Repentance is a condition that must be present for true forgiveness to be granted (Luke 17:3), but we can manifest a forgiving attitude that doesn't hold a grudge or stay mad - even in the absence of repentance. That's part of the spirit we see at this time of year, and should see all year. That's another aspect of the "Christmas spirit"

I so much enjoy. We at the Anna church of Christ wish you a Merry Christmas and invite you to visit us whenever you can.

✝

R.W. McAlister, Minister
Anna church of Christ

✝

Thank you for your support of the 2016 New Coats, New Hope Campaign.



Your donations totaling \$7,500 helped purchase over 400 new coats to be given to Southern Illinois kids this winter.

OPERATION WARM



A community distribution day will be held on December 28, from 1:00-3:00 P.M. at Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center in Anna.

Children wearing sizes 3-16 will receive a free coat while supplies last. For more details, call WIBH at 833-9424.

This campaign is proudly sponsored by: Anna-Jonesboro National Bank, Union County Sheriff Scott Harvel, State's

Attorney Tyler Edmonds, From the Heart Flowers & Gifts, River to River Residential Community, Spanish Oaks Center, Seafood Specialties, Postal Pal, Capaha Bank and Anna Baking Company, Coad Chevrolet, Buick, Ford, 5 Star Auto Wash, New Wave Communications, Anna Tire & Auto Center/Cobden Auto Repair, Farmer's Daughter Boutique, Goddard's Barn & Grill, Wright Bros. Body Shop & Rod's Towing, Shawnee Community College, Adam's Construction and Swafford Pediatrics.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas!

from

RENDELMAN & HILEMAN
FUNERAL HOMES AND MONUMENTS
Anna • Jonesboro • Cobden • Alto Pass
(618) 833-2131 or (618) 833-8222

Merry Christmas



All of us at The Gazette-Democrat
and Reppert's Office Supplies & Furniture
join in wishing everyone
a very Merry Christmas

Best wishes for a joyous,
happy and blessed holiday season.

In the first row are, from left, Debra Penrod, Amber Skelton, Lindsey Vaughn, Chelsea Hill, Sabrina Mayberry, Cody Bartolomucci, Susan Belcher, Jerry Reppert, Jeff Aden and Rick Campbell.

In the second row are Gary Rendleman, Lonnie Hinton, Mike Ford, Vickie Moore, Sue Eudy, Patricia Taylor, Casey Moore, Katy Newman, Donna Treece, Melinda Dillow, Angel Kaufman, Ron Gorst, Peggy Ledbetter, Geof Skinner, Michelle Hancock, Ermal Sorrels and Jamie Wilkins.

Those who could not be present for the picture included Woody Almon, Mike Estel, Jerry Gunn, Tom Hill, Preston Dallas, Tyra Johnson, John Brimm, Brian Clemons Sr. and Timothy Koch.

Caring for holiday poinsettias

It is hard to think of the holidays without conjuring up images of red poinsettias and a snowy landscape. These beautiful plants are easy to care for, with a few simple tips.

"There is no need for people to experience difficulties with their poinsettia plants," says University of Illinois Extension educator Kim Ellson.

Ellson shared some tips on how to ensure that a poinsettia looks its very best this season and well into the new year.

Purchase a healthy, high-quality plant.

Make sure the cyathia remain tight and have not opened. The cyathia are the green buds in the centers of the flowers, surrounded by the colorful red bracts.

They eventually open into tiny yellow flowers.

White and healthy roots are a great indicator of good plant health.

Wrap plants before transporting them home.

Avoid cold drafts; poinsettias are highly sensitive to direct drafts and suffer damage easily.

Let plants go completely dry between waterings, without stressing plants.

Poinsettias are prone to suffer from over watering as they have sensitive root systems that easily rot out.

Always water thoroughly.

If possible, select a cool area in your home. Avoid heating ducts or placing plants in overly warm areas during the holiday season.

This will ensure vibrant, colorful bracts.

There is no need to fertilize your poinsettia during the holidays; save the fertilizer for March.

Monitor the plant for pests such as whiteflies by checking the undersides of the leaves. Treat early before infestations become unwieldy.

"These basic guidelines should help ensure you get the very most out of your poinsettia this holiday, and enjoy a colorful season," Ellson says.

Workshop for young artists set

Young artists in the area are invited to join students from the School of Art and Design at Southern Illinois University Carbondale to share a passion for creating and learning about art in the Saturday Young Artist Workshop, which is set to begin Jan. 8.

The program brings together future art educators and area students to explore and create art on a theme. The theme this spring is "Making Art: Having Fun."

Workshops are in Allyn Building. Sessions are set for Jan. 8, and Feb. 4, 11 and 25. The workshop series concludes with an art show, planned from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on March 4.

Registration is \$40 for one student, \$70 for two in the same family and \$95 for three in the same family.

Contact the SIU School of Art and Design at 618-453-4315 or adoffice@siu.edu for more information.

Individuals with disabilities are welcome. Call 618-453-5738 to request accommodations.

This year, give a gift subscription to The Gazette-Democrat.



60th anniversary celebrated
Peggy and Ron Bittle celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Saturday evening at Hedman Vineyards & Winery in Alto Pass with friends. Standing are Jan Smith, Linda LaFoon, Frank LaFoon, Alice Kerns, Bruce Agne, Susan Hase, Susan Belcher and Jerry L. Reppert. Peggy and Ron are seated.

Daniel Chapman DAR chapter gathers for Christmas dinner

By Dixie Terry
The Daniel Chapman Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution met on Dec. 5 for the chapter's annual Christmas potluck dinner.

The gathering was in the community room at the Vienna Carnegie Library in Vienna.

The call to order was presented by regent Juanita Broyles and chaplain Bonnie Hogue.

The Pledge of Allegiance, the American's Creed and the Preamble to the Constitution followed. A prayer blessing for the meal then was said.

After the meal and social hour, Kaleigh Minton was welcomed as a new member following an induction ceremony by membership chairperson Ruth Brown and chaplain Hogue. Minton was presented a DAR pin by Broyles and a gift bag by chairperson Brown.

National defense chairperson Alice Thodoropoulos gave a report on the Army/Navy football game scheduled on Dec. 10 and included its ceremonies, the rivalry and the traditions that will be repeated for the 117th year.

Registrar Marilyn Meisenheimer provided a voting to approve three prospective members and one associate member.

All four were unanimously approved and in-

clude Kim Buchanan, Clara Nell Butler and Debbie Fraedrichs, all new members, and Diane Martin, a member of the Louisiana Purchase DAR in Missouri, who is now an associate member of Daniel Chapman.

Marlene Rivero of Grand Chain, who provided the program, was introduced by Jeanne Boglino.

Rivero is well known in the area as an historical reenactor and chose to be Ann Stokes for the evening. Stokes was a freed black woman who became a nurse on the hospital ship Red Rover, which was anchored on the Ohio River bank at Mound City during the Civil War.

The ship was run by the Sisters of Charity of the

Holy Cross, a group of nuns from Indiana, who cared for the Civil War soldiers.

Rivero shared the experiences Stokes had on the hospital ship. She was trained to assist surgeons in frequent amputations and treating such as, the common ailment of trench foot.

"I could not read or write, so I had to remember everything they told me," Rivero said, in her role as Stokes.

The program was seen by members, their husbands and prospective members.

Hostesses for the evening were Julia Mowery, Virginia Street and Bonnie Hogue.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled to be a chapter officer and committee workshop on Jan. 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the community room of Carnegie Library in Vienna.



Induction ceremony
The Daniel Chapman Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution welcomed a new member on Dec. 5. From left are chaplain Bonnie Hogue, new member Kaleigh Minton, regent Juanita Broyles and membership chairperson Ruth Brown. Photo provided.

Shop Locally promotion grand prize winner named



Congratulations
Megan McClellan, left, of Anna-Jonesboro National Bank congratulates Susan Yates, who was the grand prize winner in the Shop Locally holiday season promotion.

A grand prize winner was chosen last weekend in the 2016 Christmas holiday season's Shop Locally promotion.

Susan Yates was selected as the winner of the \$500 grand prize.

Through the special promotion, area residents were encouraged to Shop Locally for the holiday season.

While shopping, they also had an opportunity to enter a chance to win prizes.

Drawings for \$100 prizes were held on four Saturday mornings: Nov. 19, Nov. 26, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 at Anna-Jonesboro National Bank.

The drawing for the grand prize, which was a minimum of \$500, was held Saturday morning, Dec. 17, at the bank.

Anna-Jonesboro National Bank was joined in sponsoring the Shop Locally promotion by Associated Lumber, Save a Lot, Jim & Dot's Shoe Store & Western Wear, From the Heart Flowers and Gifts, Anna Tire & Auto Center

and Cobden Auto Repair, Great Boars of Fire and Blue Boar and A-J One Stop.

The grand prize winner chose to use her winnings at Save A Lot, Jim & Dot's Shoe Store & Western Wear and the Blue Boar.

News from First Baptist Church, Cobden

Pastor Ed Falgout's message on Sunday morning was titled "Christmas in the Old Testament."

He spoke about "the continuity, history, supernatural reality and the purpose of the Gospel."

The youth praise team, Banded, provided special music.

Morgan Pulliam and Titus Dover were baptized. Drake Campbell came forward during the morning worship service.

The church plans to have a candlelight Christmas Eve service at 8 p.m. and a Christmas Day morning worship service (no Sunday School) at 10 a.m.

Count your blessings.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

We count you.
Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your life.
Merry Christmas.

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, December 22, 2016

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Section B

Local students share what Christmas means to them

A Union County holiday season tradition continued this year.

Rusty's Home Center in Anna invited area 3rd grade students to share their thoughts about "What Christmas Means to Me."

Winning entries were chosen, and the winning students each received giant Christmas stockings.

This year's winning entries follow:

Olivia Eddleman, Anna School District No. 37

Christmas is my favorite time of year because everyone is spreading joy, happiness, peace and love.

I like receiving gifts but I love giving gifts. My mom and I enjoy listening to Christmas music.

Christmas means so much to me and my family, and we would let my nanny sing a carol before we eat Christmas dinner.

We draw two names out of a bowl and the two names we draw out are the two family members we buy Christmas gifts for.

Before my dad, mom, brother and me buy Christmas gifts for our family, we buy for a child in need.

We have a big hill at our house and every year, my cousins and I bring sleds and we do races, tricks, and games down the hill.

We have grate fun and at the end of the day we are laughing so much we fall down.

Almost every night of the twelve days of Christmas, we get together and have fun. Our family would never trade time with our family for something else, and we love each other very much.

Before we open our gifts or start our gift exchange, we think about how Jesus gave his life for us, and after Christmas, we share our

new things and play.

Most of all we hope everyone has the best Christmas ever possible. Everyone should believe in Christmas magic, and that is what Christmas means to me.

Ana Olvera, Cobden Elementary School

I think it's time to give. No I don't mean presents, what I mean by give is to share your happiness and love for the holiday with others.

I am not going to lie I do like opening presents. But, what I think even if you don't have money to buy presents you can always make them a homemade card, which is always the best present you can give.

Truly what Christmas was about is Jesus being born. But it's always nice to spend good time with your family.

Me and my family go to church and celebrate when Jesus was born and we worship him and pray for him.

This time of year people don't have money so the best, best present is to have your family together for the holidays. And that's what Christmas truly means to me.

Lauren Jackson, Dongola Elementary School

There's only a few days until my favorite holiday is here. I get very excited this time of year. My favorite holiday is Chrstmas. It is special.

I have already seen Santa, and told him what I want for Chrstmas. He always brings me something special on Chrstmas Eve. Santa and his reindeer make Chrstmas fun.

Chrstmas is a time for us to see friends and family. Sometime Chrstmas is the only time I get to see some family. We get to eat

yummy food together and drink hot chocolate.

The most special thing about Christmas is Jesus. Without Him we wouldn't have Christmas because it's His birthday. He brought hope and joy to the world. Santa brings us presents because the wisemen brought Jesus presents. I think Jesus is the best thing about Christmas.

Kenzie Miller, Jonesboro Elementary School

Christmas to me is not just about getting it is about giving to others and the only reason we get presents is because Jesus was born.

I love spending time with my family lots of people come to my house for Christmas my Grandma comes, Grampa, ant, ankle, and cousins come to.

But my favorite part about it is every year we get at least three extra presents and we don't say who they are from and we send them to Saint Jude and to a foster home and people that don't have any mony to by toys and clothing.

And who needs all those presents when you have all of your family members and toys you should be thankful for the things you already have.

But if I win the big stocking full of toys I will pass out one to every boddy in the class because it is not fair that they wrote all that and they don't get a present.

I love Christmas so much I hope you have a admazing Christmas what is your favorite part about Christmas!

Calie Pinnon, Lick Creek Elementary School

Merry Christmas. Hi, I am going to tell you what Christmas means to me. I am now going to tell you my favorite things about Christmas. I like Jesus, family, and traditions.



Shawnee

winner

Braxton Owen from Shawnee Elementary School won the stocking for Rusty's Home Center essay contest. Photo provided.

Now I am going to tell you about Jesus.

I love Jesus because Jesus died for our sins and our lives. I am very thankful for Him even if I don't act like it.

Speaking of Jesus, I love the story of when He was born and of the reason that we put the star on the tree. Jesus is the most important part of Christmas to my family and I.

Now I am going to talk about family.

My family makes me feel like I have everything and that no one can get me away from them.

It is so fun because every year we go to my grandparents' house and I get to see my cousins and hang out with my cousin Zoey.

Last year my family played a game called something like Pie Face. I never got pied.

Now I will tell you about tradition.

I will now tell you my family tradition.

Every year my family



Stocking winners

Rusty's Home Center in Anna sponsored its annual essay contest for 3rd grade students in Union County. The students wrote about "What Christmas Means to Me." The winners each received a huge stocking full of toys. Winners are, in the first row, from left, Kenzie Miller, Jonesboro Elementary School and Calie Pinnon, Lick Creek Elementary School. In the second row are Olivia Eddleman, Anna School District No. 37; Ana Olvera, Cobden Elementary School; and Lauren Jackson, Dongola Elementary School. Photo by Lindsey Rae Vaughn.

goes to my Grandma Sherry's house. Last year Zoey and I sat in the back of my dad's truck and told each other secrets and talked.

Usually, Lydia my cousin play's with Zoey's sisters Reese and Ragan. I every once and a while go with my other cousins Mariah, Hailey and Lizzy.

We all like to tie a rope to a tree in the back yard and climb. Well at least I try to climb but usually I fall.

This year I want to bring my Karaoke Machine. Last year I did. This year I think that we will play Speak Up with the grownups.

Well I hope that you liked my story. thank you for taking your time to read it. Again this is what Christmas means to me...

Jesus, family and tradition. Merry Christmas to all.

Braxton Owen, Shawnee Elementary School

It means to celebrat Jesus's birthday each year and be thankful for what you got. Be nice to other people.

In December I like to play in the snow and make snow ice cream with my mom.

I like to get presents. I love Santa, Jesus, and God. Anyone that don't believe in Santa you are wrong because he is real.

Christmas is special because I get to go to a different place each year.

This year I'm going to my Uncle Robet's house.

That's what Christmas means to me.

Holiday season facts, figures

This festive season, or simply the holidays, is a time for gathering and celebrating with family and friends, gift giving, reflection and thanks.

To commemorate this time of year, the U.S. Census Bureau presents the following holiday-related facts and figures from its collection of statistics.

Rush to the Stores
\$23.8 billion

The estimated retail sales by the nation's department stores (including leased departments) in December 2015, which was a decrease of \$0.4 of a billion in retail sales from December of the previous year.

14.3 percent

The estimated percentage of total 2015 sales for department stores (including leased departments) in December. For bookstores, the estimated percentage was 12.4 percent.

23.7 percent

The estimated increase in the end-of-month inventories by the nation's department stores (excluding leased departments) between August and November 2015.

\$55.7 billion

The estimated value of retail sales by electronic shopping and mail-order houses in December 2015: the highest estimated total for any month last year.

\$27.1 billion

The fourth quarter 2015 after-tax profits for all retail trade corporations with assets of \$50.0 million and over, up from \$18.3 billion in the third quarter of 2015.

Christmas Tree Decorations

\$1.1 billion

The value of U.S. imports of Christmas tree ornaments from China between January and September 2016. Imports from China led the way with 92.0 percent of the total imports of Christmas tree ornaments.

\$346.0 million

The value of U.S. imports of Christmas tree lights from China between January and September 2016. Christmas tree lights imported from China accounted for 87.0 percent of the total imports for that product.

Where Toys Are Made
560

The number of locations

produced dolls, toys and games in 2014, an increase of 15 locations from 2013 (545); they employed 6,215 workers in the pay period including March 12, a decrease of 323 employees from 2013 (6,538). California led the nation with 93 establishments.

Holiday Names

Some names of places associated with the holiday season consist of a dozen places named Holly, including Mount Holly, N.C. (population 14,176), and Holly Springs, Miss. (7,610).

There is Snowflake, Ariz. (5,666); Santa Claus, Ind. (2,474); North Pole, Alaska (2,189); Noel, Mo. (1,824); and, if you know about reindeer, Dasher, Ga. (963) and Rudolph, Wis. (432). There is also Unity, N.H. (1,603), and Peace, N.D. (28).

23.6 million

The estimated number of young domestic turkeys hatched during September of this year in the United States, up 21.0 percent from September 2015.

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Christmas 1966 in Union County

Fifty years ago this week, The Gazette-Democrat published its 1966 Christmas Greeting Issue.

The December 22, 1966, issue of the paper featured 32 pages, and four sections.

"This is the Christmas Greeting Issue and many, many business people and organizations in this area have taken this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and thank you for your past and continued patronage," a story on page one of the December 22 issue shared.

News about holiday season activities were featured in that week's issue of the paper, along with many other stories and photographs.

Readers received a special alert, just prior to Christmas:

"WARNING TO LATE SHOPPERS"

"With the exception of today, Thursday, Dec. 22, there are only two more shopping days until Christmas. The local stores will remain open until 8:00 on Thursday and Friday and close on Saturday at 5:00 p.m."

Late shoppers also were advised that: "Through the courtesy of the Mayor and City Council of Anna, free parking was made available to shoppers in Anna this past week. The meters have been covered with white bags with the greetings of the Council and Mayor imprinted on them."

Churches in Union County were making plans for special Christmas services.

The newspaper reported that many churches in Union County would be observing the birth of Christ with special services on Saturday, Dec. 24, and on Sunday morning, Dec. 25.

Another news item reported that "through the efforts of the Union County Auxiliary the Union County Nursing Home and Hospital have been beautifully decorated."

This week, we take a look back at some of the

news in Union County from 50 years ago, along with some of the many advertisements which appeared in the 1966 Christmas Greeting Issue of The Gazette-Democrat.

A Family Who Served

The lead story on page one of the paper was about Mr. and Mrs. Milo Erwin, a local couple who had eight sons - and all eight had served, or were serving, their country in the nation's armed forces during a period in history which included four wars.

"The story of the Erwin family is very interesting and the Erwins have been asked to publish the story many times," the paper reported.

The family's service began with the father, Milo, who served with the U.S. Navy in World War I on convoy duty in the Atlantic.

Three of the sons served during World War II. One of the sons served with occupation forces in Germany after World War II. One son served during the Korean Conflict. Two sons served during the Viet Nam War.

"The people of Union County have reason to be justifiably proud of this family who have given their sons to the service of their country in four wars, World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Viet Nam War," the story concluded.

The December 22 issue also featured a listing of names and addresses of men from Union County who were serving in Viet Nam at the time. More than two dozen names were featured.

The article which accompanied the listing of the names of those who were serving extended the "best wishes and prayers of the entire community at this Christmas season of 1966."

Some of the other news which appeared in The Gazette-Democrat just days prior to the Christmas holiday follow:

Wilson Memorial Service

The response to invitations and the reports of persons selling tickets to the 38th Woodrow Wilson Service and dinner which will be held in the American Legion Community Center at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 28, indicates that an overflow crowd will be in attendance.

As previously released by the press, Representative Adlai E. Stevenson III and Treasurer elect of the State of Illinois will be the featured speaker.

County Board

At their regular meeting held Monday, Dec. 19, the Union County Board of Commissioners set salaries for new county officers.

Ned Foley was appointed as the head of the county board to replace Jesse Aldridge.

50-Year Pin Presented

Fred Stilley, the Worshipful Master of Anna Lodge No. 520 A.F. & A.M. presented G.R. Corlis a 50 year jewel and a gold card at the Anna National Bank on Saturday, Dec. 17.

The article noted that the Anna Lodge would be celebrating its centennial year during 1967.

Local Weather

On the last day of fall, Dec. 21, 1967, the temperature was a low of 30 with a cloudless sky. Doesn't seem like Christmas weather in Union County with temperatures ranging in the fifties and sixties for the most part of last week.

Teen Town Party

Anna-Jonesboro Teen Town will hold its 9th annual all-night New Year's Eve party for Teen Town members and their guests Saturday, Dec. 31.

The party, sponsored by parents, will start at 8 p.m. and continue until 4 a.m.

The "Daze-Knights" will provide music for the evening.

The New Years record, which hangs above the juke box, will be sold to the highest bidder.

News from A-JCHS

News from Anna-Jonesboro Community High School was featured in a column called "A-J Scratches." The column appeared regularly in the paper.

One item in the Scratches noted that a "non religious Christmas carol survey was taken about three weeks before Christmas at A-J. Some students were asked what their favorite non-religious Christmas carol was and Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas' won by three votes."

Teachers at the school were reported to have been "playing Santa Claus and handing out little bundles of joy in the form of semester exams."

The advanced typing and shorthand class at the school recently received two new electric typewriters and dictaphones.

To all the girls in the Home Economics department, on Tuesday, Dec. 13, Mrs. Lucy Kampstra presented three holiday gift wrapping demonstrations.

Cobden High School

The Cobden News reported that Christmas Spirit had taken over Cobden High School: "The rooms have been decorated with red and green construction paper and the windows have been painted with many Christmas scenes."

The school's annual Christmas program, directed by Mrs. Willa Reeves

and Mrs. Kathern Newton will be this Thursday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. The theme this year is "Christmas Is A Time For Giving."

Saturday evening, Dec. 17, a Christmas dinner party and dance was given by four Cobden Teenage Recreation Board members. Following dinner, the group played games and danced.

Tournament Winner

The Cobden Eagles defeated the Shawnee Braves Friday night to win the Jonesboro Invitational Tournament.

Shawnee took second place honors with Jonesboro taking third place and Lick Creek, fourth.

(continued on page 3)



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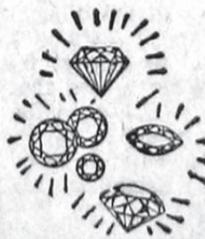
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Rejoice

Rejoice! Rejoice! The Savior of mankind is born again to all the peoples of the world. May the kindness, charity and good will of Christmastime be yours.



BEAN JEWELERS
Eloise and Oel

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

Music for the Sunday, Dec. 18, morning worship service was led by Randy Wright and accompanied by Johnathon Cauble. The reading and lighting of the Advent candle were done by Jason and Kathy Cook. The offertory was provided by Johnathon Cauble. Curt Lyerla, Phil Ray, Terry Wiseman Jr. and Bryan Morrison served as ushers. A Nativity Shadow drama was presented by the children's church under the direction of Jack and Nina Shepard, Lottie Smith and

Wendy Wiseman. Richard, Pastor's McBride's friend, prayed and shared that "Advent is the season of reflection. We should always turn to God through faith. We should trust and have faith in God's will. We are children of the father. We are eternally cherished and infinity loved." Music for the Sunday evening worship service was led by Randy Wright, accompanied by Johnathon Cauble. The offertory was provided by Patti Mulback. Ushers for the evening

service were Curt Lyerla, Jacob Wright, Dorris Johnson and Robert Smith. A special song, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," was provided by Jessica Elkins. The evening message, "Carols "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," was brought by Pastor McBride from Matthew. The message shared that "when God is about to ask us to do something difficult the immediate message is I am with you. Look back over your lifetime and sometimes God is easier to see in the rear-view mirror than He is in the moment. The promise of yesterday is the great hope for tomorrow. But as we remember that rear view mirror and where God was we must also look in the moment or otherwise we will miss that God will always be before us." The Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service has been canceled. On Dec. 25, there will be no Sunday School; a worship service is planned at 10:35 a.m.; and the 6 p.m. service is canceled. Birthdays: Michelle Tal-

News from

Camp Ground Church and Community

On Sunday, Dec. 18, the Advent reading and lighting of the love candle were by Brittany Roach. The love candle poster was held by Tanner Roach. Sunday's sermon was titled "Oh, the Places He Comes to," with the scripture selection that told of the birth of Christ from Luke. The message shared that "Christ did not come to the rich and famous. He came to the dull, dark, despised, dirty and desperate of places and people. He came to make the mundane wonderful, shed light in the darkness, to love the despised, clean the dirt from our lives and help us through even the most desperate times in our lives." Receiving the offering Sunday were Aldi and Vondra Gerard, assisted by their father Tony. The elder for December is David Miller. Celebrating birthdays this past week have been Lane Crane on Dec. 18; and Sandy Boaz and Billy Williams on Dec. 21. The church family was saddened at the death of long-time congregant Marie Clayton, and extends sympathy to her husband Jerrie, daughter Ramona and Richard Ralls, granddaughters Heather and Dusty Hileman and Jes-

sica Ralls, and great-granddaughter Gracie, all of the Camp Ground community. The church provided a meal in the fellowship hall for the Clayton family Sunday afternoon following the funeral services. Sunday, Dec. 25, Camp Ground will have morning worship beginning at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School is cancelled. The congregation of Camp Ground Cumberland Presbyterian Church wish the staff and readers of this column a very Merry Christmas.

Birthdays: Michelle Tal-

News from

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Anna

A special Advent and Christmas program featuring the children was presented on the fourth Sunday of Advent at Mt. Moriah at 9 a.m. and again at Salem at 10:30 a.m. Youth read the Christmas story from the scriptures and the costumed children sang Christmas songs accompanied by the adult choirs and a guitar trio. Prayers were offered for those in need of healing: Glenna Tripp, Daniel Sedden, Ann Shaw, Jack Johnson, Shirley Earnhart, Hadley Ashby, Linda Clark, Urs Becker, Todd Breiner, Pat Martin, Mort Wright, Joe Frick, Carolyn Frick, Elizabeth Corbit, Pam Wheaton, Shawn Knupp, Silas Jones, Linda Mayo, John Snyder, Dave Kirley and Jackie Roach. The congregation celebrated the life of Nora Ardelle Long, who was born on Dec. 5, 2016. Her parents are David and Sarah Long and her grandparents are Willard and Mary Cunningham. The Share and Care Tree in the narthex is being decorated with donated hats, gloves, scarves and/or socks for families in need. Appreciation was voiced to those who have brought food items to help meet the needs of local families. Poinsettias are being ordered to grace the sanctu-

ary for Christmas Eve. For more information, contact the church office. Christmas Eve services are planned on Dec. 24 at Salem in Jonesboro at 6:30

p.m. and at Mt. Moriah in Anna at 9 p.m. with Holy Communion. There will be one Christmas Day service at Salem at 9 a.m.



Children's program
A combined Salem and Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church children's Christmas program was presented at Salem Lutheran Church in Jonesboro on Dec. 18. Photo provided.



Combined choirs
The combined Salem and Mt. Moriah children's and adult choirs, accompanied by piano, organ and a guitar trio, performed during the Christmas program at Mt. Moriah in Anna on Dec. 18. Photo provided.

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

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It's the season of gift giving...to friends, to family, to strangers. We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving. A loving gift may be material or something as simple as a smile, a hug or a listening ear. God's gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, was the greatest gift of love and sacrifice; when we accept God's gift we have everything, without it we are the poorest of the poor. Thank God for His wondrous gift; praise Him as you worship this season of joy.

Daily Devotional Reading

Mark	Matthew	Matthew	Luke	Luke	Luke	Luke
1:1-13	1:1-17	1:18-25	1:1-25	1:26-56	1:57-80	2:1-20

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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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.



Christmas Stroll at Harrison-Bruce Historical Village at John A. Logan College at Carterville was Dec. 11. The only man shown is dressed as an Indian. Most of the ladies rented outfits from a costume business. Marie Samuel, third from the right, is wearing a costume which was made by a lady who sews costumes for plays in Elizabethtown. Plays are outdoors with fake storefronts and a western theme with gunfights.



Crocheted children's blankets were donated to Child Advocacy Center and Children's Medical Resource Network by the Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club. Pictured Mary Light; Kendra Eads, who works at Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center; Martha Ann Webb and Jane Bauer of the Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club.



Mary Light, Jane Bauer, teacher Karen Collier and Martha Ann Webb are with a donation which was presented for the Plentiful Packs program at Anna Junior High School by the Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club.

Merry Christmas

Wishing everyone a very blessed Christmas as we celebrate Jesus' birthday Sun.

Congratulations

The A-J Wildcat bowling teams (boys and girls) won their match at Metropolitan against Massac County High School.

Thank You

Scott Bennett reported the Anna Fire Department has responded to multiple structure fires in the past few weeks and took time to take over 40 Anna school students shopping for Christmas along with Anna PD.

Birthday Celebration

Shirley Spurlock's children honored her with a birthday party Dec. 3.

Shirley had a wonderful time, several friends stopped by and had some punch and goodies with them.

Shirley's three children were there: Lisa and Dave Houseman, Kevin Spurlock and daughter Jenna also Brenda Mayberry and daughter Sarah.

They had a beautiful cake from Anna Bakery. The cake and all of the decorations went with the theme of Shirley's favorite book and movie, "Gone With The Wind."

Several friends from United Missionary Baptist Church, including their pastor Rev. Paul Tirey and his wife Pam were there.

Shirley said she had a great time and thanks to all for celebrating with her.

St. Louis Trip

Norm and Barb Bauer recently visited in St. Louis with Lou and Debra Bauer.

It was their pleasure to help "baby sit" for their great-grandson, 2-month old Owen Louis Bauer while his parents, Chris and Katy Bauer were out of town.

Uncle Matt Bauer took a turn at baby sitting while the Norm Bauers and the Lou Bauers attended the stage presentation of the Ambassadors of Harmony Barbershop Show, A Christmas Remembered.

Thanks

A special thanks to Betty Eagle and Mary Treece for giving me credit when they renewed their subscription to The Gazette-Democrat.

Wedding Congratulations

Halie Pearl got married to Tanner Starling on Dec. 3. Halie's mother Darla wanted to wish them a big congratulations.

Congratulations

Amanda Jean Kall and Mark Norris were married Feb. 27 in St. Louis. Amanda parents are Linda and Dennis Kall. Linda says she just now got the wedding pictures.

New Store Owners

Congratulations to Lee Hackney and Susan White-mountain on their recent purchase of the stores on South Main Street.

Susan plans to open The Gathering Place, a resource Center for Union County genealogy and family research where the former Hase Pharmacy was. Lee's plans are to open a ceramic store. They will lease the other building.

Right now they have their store open with all kinds of goodies left from the former store. I got some yard flags, Minnie Mouse figures, Christmas stockings and much more. Cards are 50 cents. Check it out.

New windows also went in the store and are beautifully decorated for Christmas.

Shop with A Cop/Firemen

Once again Shop with a Cop/Firemen was held on Dec. 6-7. The kids met at the fire station on the first

night and Pizza Hut the second night and were taken to Walmart by fire trucks and police cars. Once at Walmart they shopped with firemen and policemen.

Those who helped out were Anna PD and Anna FD as well as Walmart associates, Pizza Hut, Lori Isom from Casey's, District 37 employees and Brandon Bierstedt with the Shawnee College softball players.

Thank you to all who donate to this special event. Any donations can be sent to the Anna Police Department.

Deer

I had a message on my phone from a lady that told me she really liked reading my Anna news but she sure didn't like me writing about dead animals.

I thought and thought all night about that because I just had no clue when I ever wrote anything like that. Next morning I thought I am going to read my news again. Well it dawned on me what she was talking about.

First thing I saw was the deer picture. I'm really sorry if you don't like seeing a picture of someone that is really proud of getting their first deer. I couldn't shoot one myself but if there were not people who did we would be overtaken by deer and not even be able to drive our cars.

My son-in-law when he sees one says there goes supper. A lot of people like to eat deer just like other people like to eat cows, chickens and pigs.

I eat meat but if I ever think of what it is I can't hardly finish it but we need protein to survive.

I personally want to thank all the hunters for standing or sitting in the deer stands in the rain and sometimes freezing weather.

Many people have wrecked or totaled their cars because of deer's jumping into them. They really have to be thinned out.

Surprise

When I got up Sat. I went out to pick things up that had blown over with all the winds we had. I noticed a present by my door.

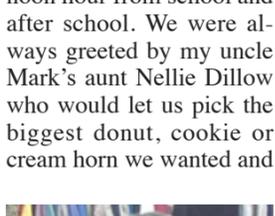
It was from Rev. Jim and Irene Stamp. I had guessed that is who it was from before I ever looked at the card. I find surprises on my front porch all the time from Irene. She is such a sweet lady.

This present was a complete village, with homes, school, bakery, hotel and people. The homes reminded me of the street I grew up on and our home, the school Lincoln where I went to school and my dad was a teacher and principal there.

Dad always got a big real Christmas tree that he put in the hall at school and decorated it with our family Christmas ornaments.

On Christmas break he would carry it home and that was our tree for Christmas. I would sit and just stare at that beautiful tree.

The hotel reminded me of the Anna Hotel. The bakery Davis Pastry where the kids would go on their noon hour from school and after school. We were always greeted by my uncle Mark's aunt Nellie Dillow who would let us pick the biggest donut, cookie or cream horn we wanted and



Karee and Mona Lisa at Mona Lisa's recent birthday party: Mona Lisa was a rescue dog and is now very happy to be the mascot for PAWS.

always made us feel so special.

The little people reminded me of my parents and myself. Funny how that little village reminded me of so many things from my childhood. Thanks Irene and Jim for the nice surprise.

Christmas Wish

Amie and John McLaughlin took some Christmas cookies to John and Margret Cook.

Amie asked them if they had any luck getting their roof fixed. Margret told Amie not to worry she had written a letter to Santa and it was going to be taken care of.

Amie has tried to get them help everywhere. If there are any roofers out there that need a tax break this would be a great way to get one.

Birthdays

Dec. 17 Geraldine Davis, Norma Lee Hackney, 23 Fred Clutts, 25 Jesus Christ our Savior.

Lost Cat

Linda and Dennis Kall have lost their cat Sly. He is a large cat probably 16 pounds, orange and fluffy. He has green eyes and notches in his ears.

Please call 618-614-8470 or 618-697-6611 if you find Sly. Sly is liked a family member and is missed very much.

Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club

The Anna Jonesboro Women's Club will meet Jan. 2 at 11:30 a.m. at Anna Pizza Hut.

The theme will be education with the program by Lillian Milam. Devotion by Barbara Bauer. Current events by Debbie Rossberg.

Christmas Musical

Brian Caraker played Dr. Timothy Cratchit in the Christmas musical titled "God Bless Us Everyone" at the Marion Civic Center last weekend.

VFW

Friday is C.W. Karaoke from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, the post will be closed at 4 p.m. to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

Tickets are being sold for a shotgun to be given away New Year's Eve.

There will be a steak dinner New Year's Eve. Call and make your reservations soon: \$12 for a single and \$25 for a couple.

United Methodist Church, Anna

Sunday morning the lighting of the advent wreath was by Rev. Carl Johnston.

Barbara House led the music. The prelude was by Leah Goins, a piano solo Carol of the Bells.



Shirley Spurlock celebrated her birthday on Dec. 3.



Children at the United Methodist Church in Anna nativity March to the Manger on Sunday morning.

Several gave testimony of how prayers had healed people in their lives. Prayers were said for those sick.

Special music, Bring A Torch Jeanette Isabella, was by a quintet of Carla Anderson, Amanda Boreup, Teri Goldsberry, Marcy Morris and Muriel Zachary.

The Rev. Carl Johnston's sermon was The Christmas Story, with scripture from Matthew.

The procession of nativity followed and the children were dressed as Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, animals and the three Wise Men for the March to the Manger while the choir sang Breath of Heaven with a solo by Amanda Boreup.

The congregation brought their gifts to the manger while singing of fertility Christmas carols.

Christmas Eve candlelight service will be at 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24. Communion will be served. Everyone is invited to attend.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25, there will be a morning service at 10 a.m. to celebrate the coming of our Lord into the world. There will be no Sunday School or after church fellowship Sunday.

The church received a thank you from Marilyn Belcher for all the cards, phone calls and love that the church family has shared with her this last year. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas. A thank you card and Christmas

wish was also received from Juanita Wolfey.

Loaves and Fishes community meal was ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans and a holiday salad.

Community Dinners

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

A free community meal at Salem Lutheran Church is on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Get Well List

Wayne Skoglund, Jon Pengress, Jack Lewellyn, Roger and Lana Ka Glasco, Billy Hutcheson, George Griffin, Anna Ferneti, Jackson Boyd, Turner family, Sarah Russell Mann, Terry Jackson, Betty Tutt, Connie Wills, Sheilah Whittington, Sondra Bradford, Carrie Gibson, Elizabeth Corbit, Robert Andrews.

Military Prayer List

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

P.A.S.T. Heritage House

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A Christmas open house with a quilt display by Barbara Jahn was presented Sunday afternoon at the PAST house in Jonesboro. Mary Ann Chenoweth took these pictures to make a collage for Barbara Jahn to remember them by.



Children at the United Methodist Church in Anna nativity March to the Manger on Sunday morning.



Band performs at Christmas program

Dongola School presented its annual Christmas program and art show on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Students in elementary school, junior high school and high school performed to a packed house in the high school gymnasium. The band performed festive holiday music. The program was directed by Rebecca Gray. Photo by Lindsey Rae Vaughn.

Extension plans to offer small farms webinars

Even in the dead of winter, it's possible to learn how to raise strawberries, microgreens and cut flowers.

"Your fields and gardens may be snowed over, but it is the perfect time to develop your skills in small farming and local food production," says Andy Larson, a University of Illinois Extension local food systems and small farms educator.

University of Illinois Extension once again plans to host a small farms winter webinar series featuring practical, lunch-hour presentations on small farm enterprises and strategies.

Those who want to participate can log in every Thursday at noon, from Jan. 19 through March 30.

"Because farm life is seldom convenient during the colder months, it's nice to have these down-to-earth learning opportunities available right at your fingertips. No gloves or long Johns required," says Larson, who will be providing

a lesson on growing hobby farms into businesses.

"Winter is great for planning your next growing season, so let's talk about ways you can improve or diversify your small farm."

The winter webinar series is scheduled to include presentations on buying quality hay, rejuvenating old fruit trees, mite problems in honeybees, planning windbreaks, mulching vegetables, soil management in high tunnels and new food safety rules.

Each hour-long webinar will be presented by an

Extension educator. Webinars will also be recorded and archived for future viewing.

Registration is free. Sign up for one or all webinars is available at <http://go.aces.illinois.edu/winterwebinars2017>.

Registrants will be sent a webinar reminder, log-on instructions and instructions on how to access the archived recording.

Those who do not have broadband internet capable of streaming video can call a local Extension office to see if live viewing will be available.

Pierce first president to place Christmas tree in White House

People may put up a Christmas tree every year, but few are aware of their history and significance.

University of Illinois Extension educator Ron Wolford shares some information about the history of the Christmas tree.

In 1856, Franklin Pierce, the 14th president of the United States, was the first president to place a Christmas tree in the White House.

Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882. Christmas tree lights were first mass-produced in 1890.

The tradition of an official Chicago Christmas tree was initiated in 1913 when one was lit by Mayor Carter H. Harrison in Grant Park.

From 1887 to 1933, a fishing schooner called the "Christmas Ship" would tie up at the Clark Street Bridge in Chicago and sell Michigan spruce trees to Chicagoans.

Since 1971, the Province of Nova Scotia in Canada has presented the Boston Christmas tree to the people of Boston. The tree is a gift of thanks for relief supplies received from Boston after

the explosion of a ship in Halifax, Nova Scotia Harbor. Part of the city was leveled, killing and injuring thousands.

In 1979, the national Christmas tree was not lit, except for the top ornament. This was done to honor American hostages in Iran.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states and Canada.

The average growing time for a Christmas tree is seven years.

Between 25 million and 30 million live Christmas trees are sold in the United States each year.

Approximately 350 million Christmas trees are growing on tree farms in the United States.

Food drive successful

Shawnee Community College focuses on giving back to the community, especially around the holiday season.

Shawnee Community College's Social Work Club and Phi Theta Kappa teamed up in a food drive, which collected more than 150 canned goods to be donated to local food pantries.

Holiday closings set

Illinois Secretary of State offices and facilities open Monday to Friday are scheduled to be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of Christmas.

Facilities open Tuesday to Saturday are scheduled to be closed Saturday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 27.

All Monday through Friday driver services facilities are scheduled to be open for business on Tuesday, Dec. 27. Tuesday through Saturday facilities are scheduled to be open Wednesday, Dec. 28.

Emersyn Crabtree born on Dec. 5

Emersyn Ruth Crabtree was born at 4:54 p.m. on Dec. 5, 2016, at Saint Francis Medical Center's Family BirthPlace in Cape Girardeau.

Emersyn weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 18 1/2 inches long.

Emersyn's parents are Megan and Caleb Crabtree of Anna. She has one brother.

Paternal grandparents are Lyn and Paula Crabtree of Anna.

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THURSDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local	College Football '2016 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl' Idaho Vandals vs Colorado State Rams	2 Broke	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Liv Maddie	"Midnight"	"Search Party" (16) (HD)	Shameless (HD)
7 PM :30	Charlie Brown Christmas	Big Bang Indoors	Hell's Kitchen (HD)	(20) Thursday Night Football New York Giants at Philadelphia Eagles (Live) (HD)	College Football '2016 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl' Ohio Bobcats vs Troy Trojans (Live) (HD)	2 Broke	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	★½ "Home Alone: The Holiday Heist"	"My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" (16)	★★½ "What Happens in Vegas" (08) Strangers marry.	★★★ "The Passion of the Christ" (04) The crucifixion.
8 PM :30	Great American Baking (HD)	(01) Mom Pieces (HD)	(59) Hell's Kitchen (HD)	Local Programs	SportsCenter (HD)	Big Bang	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	BUNKD	"Joy" (15) Woman founds large business dynasty.	"American Pie" (99) Lessons in love.	The Affair Block Island.
9 PM :30	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Big Bang	Falling Water (HD)	Bizaardvark	"Risky Drinking" (16) Alcohol abuse.	★★★ "Training" (15) Anti-mogamy.	Gigolos
10 PM :30	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Local	(05) Tonight (HD)	Conan (HD)	(04) Law & Order: SVU	Best Fmnds	"Risky Drinking" (16) Alcohol abuse.	★★★ "Training" (15) Anti-mogamy.	Gigolos
11 PM :30	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	(05) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Billy On	Shooter "Killing Zone"	Girl World	Austri/Ally		(05) Shameless (HD)

DECEMBER 22, 2016

FRIDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Football (Live)	Seinfeld	Mod Family	(05) Duck	"Balls Fury"	"Victor Frankenstein"	(5:00) "The Gift" (15) (R)
7 PM :30	Man Stand. Dr. Ken	A Home for the Holidays	Taraji's White Hot (HD)	Grinch (HD)	College Football '2016 Dollar General Bowl' Hawaii Rainbow Warriors vs Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders	Big Bang	Mod Family	LEGO	"Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" (07, Fantasy) (HD)	"Scram 3" (00) Neve Campbell. Killer returns.	The Affair Block Island.
8 PM :30	Shark Tank (HD)	Hawaii Five-0 "Waiala"	Sleepy Hollow (HD)	"Dolly Parton's Christmas of Many Colors" (16)	Local	Big Bang	Mod Family	"Frozen" (13) Breaking icy spell. (HD)	"In the Heart of the Sea" (15) Essex disaster. (HD)	★★★ "The Hateful Eight" (15) Group encounters betrayal and deception. (HD)	
9 PM :30	(01) 20/20 (HD)	Blue Bloods (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Big Bang	Mod Family	Liv Maddie	"Krampus" (15) Krampus unleashed.	★★★ "Resident Evil" (02) Zombie battle.	Shameless (HD)
10 PM :30	Local	Local	Local Programs	(35) Tonight (HD)	Search	Frontal (HD)	Mod Family	Girl World	"Ocean"		
11 PM :30	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Late Night	People (HD)	Search	NCIS: L. A. "Free Ride"	Girl World			
11 PM :30	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night	People (HD)	People (HD)		Austri/Ally			

DECEMBER 23, 2016

SATURDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	NFL (Live) OT (Live)	Local Programs Local info.	SportsCenter (HD)	Surprise! Instant Carol	(08) NCIS "Newborn King"	Undercover BUNKD (HD)	(4:30) "Cast Away" (00)	"Speed Racer" (08) Race car driver. (HD)	Shameless Sobriety control.
7 PM :30	Prep (HD)	Scorpion High-tech crises.	Bones Journalist Killed. (HD)	★★★★ "It's a Wonderful Life" (47, Holiday) A man discovers the value of his life. (NR)	College Football '2016 Hawaii Bowl' Hawaii Rainbow Warriors vs Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders	"A Christmas Story" (83) A boy wants a BB gun. (HD)	(09) NCIS Surprise visit.	Best Fmnds	★★★ "Hail, Caesar!" (16) Studio problems. (PG-13) (HD)	★★★ "The Simpsons Movie" (07) (HD)	Shameless A new scheme.
8 PM :30	CMA Country Christmas celebration. (HD)	48 Hours	Lethal Weapon (HD)	Local	NBA Basketball Minnesota at Dallas Cowboys (Live) (HD)	"A Christmas Story" (83) A boy wants a BB gun. (HD)	(52) NCIS Bizaardvark	Bizaardvark	"The Martian" (15) Matt Damon. Astronaut must survive on Mars. (HD)	"Jurassic World" (15) Dinosaur theme park gone awry.	Madonna: Rebel Heart Tour Famed pop career.
9 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local	Hell's Kitchen Rebalance.	Local	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers at Los Angeles Lakers (Live) (HD)	"A Christmas Story" (83)	NCIS "Spinning Wheel"	Undercover MECH-X4	"The Proposal" (09) A boss marries to avoid deportation.	"Vacation" (02) Walley World.	"Casino Royale" (06, Thriller) Daniel Craig. High stakes.
10 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	(35) CBS Christmas Eve	Local Programs Local info.	(29) Christmas Eve Mass Midnight mass.	SportsCenter (HD)	"A Christmas Story" (83)	Mod Family	Mod Family	"Full Court Miracle" (03)	"Caesar!"	
11 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	(35) Local	Local Programs Local info.	Late Night	People (HD)	People (HD)	Mod Family	Mod Family			

DECEMBER 24, 2016

SUNDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	NBA (Live)	60 Minutes (HD)	Bob's Brgr	Football America (Live) (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	"A Christmas Story" (83)	(5:30) "Tyler Perry's Maecia's Witness Protection" (12)	Liv Maddie	"National"	"The Longest Ride" (15)	The Affair A terrifying event.
7 PM :30	"Beauty and the Beast" (91) A monster's captive. (HD)	I Love Lucy Christmas (HD)	Son of Zom	Sunday Night Football Denver Broncos at Kansas City Chiefs (Live) (HD)	NBA Basketball Minnesota at Dallas Cowboys (Live) (HD)	"Transformers" (07, Action) Shia LaBeouf. Robots bring ancient battle to Earth. (HD)	"Tyler Perry's A Maecia Christmas" (13)	Liv Maddie	(25) "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" (16)	"The Water Diviner" (14) Man looks for sons in Turkey.	The Affair (HD)
8 PM :30	CMA Country Christmas celebration. (HD)	48 Hours	Family Guy Last Man	Local Programs Local info.	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers at Los Angeles Lakers (Live) (HD)	"A Christmas Story" (83)	NCIS "Spinning Wheel"	Girl World	★★★ "Hail, Caesar!" (16) Studio problems. (PG-13) (HD)	"A Beautiful Mind" (02, Drama) Ill mathematician. (HD)	The Affair Block Island.
9 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local	Hell's Kitchen Rebalance.	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	"A Christmas Story" (83)	Mod Family	Mod Family	"The Proposal" (09) A boss marries to avoid deportation.	"Any Given Sunday" (99) Football player hassles coach.	"Southpaw" (15) Boxer gets help to revive career. (HD)
10 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	(35) CBS Christmas Eve	Local Programs Local info.	(29) Christmas Eve Mass Midnight mass.	SportsCenter (HD)	"A Christmas Story" (83)	Mod Family	Mod Family	"Full Court Miracle" (03)	"Caesar!"	"Casino Royale" (06, Thriller) Daniel Craig. High stakes.
11 PM :30	Local Programs Local info.	(35) Local	Local Programs Local info.	Late Night	People (HD)	People (HD)	Mod Family	Mod Family			Shameless A new scheme.

DECEMBER 25, 2016

MONDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	Monday Countdown (Live)	Wrecked	Mod Family	BUNKD	"Allegiant"	"Run All Night" (15) (HD)	(5:00) "The Gift" (15) (R)
7 PM :30	New Year, Charlie Brown	Kevin Wait Man Plan	Gotham Sister search.	Hairspray Live! Dancing dreams. (HD)	(15) Monday Night Football Detroit Lions at Dallas Cowboys (Live) (HD)	Wrecked	WWE Monday Night Raw (Live) (HD)	BUNKD	First Look	"Michael Jackson's Journey" (16)	"Michael Jackson's Journey" (16)
8 PM :30	"Rudolph" Missing baby.	Kevin Wait Man Plan	(01) Lucifer "Lady Parts"	Local	Local	(18) People	Wrecked	BUNKD	"Joy" (15) Woman founds large business dynasty.	"Phone Booth" (02) Hostage in booth.	(35) "The Hateful Eight" (15) Group encounters betrayal and deception. (HD)
9 PM :30	Great American Baking	Scorpion "Fish Filer" (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Local	(20) SportsCenter with Scott Van Pelt (HD)	(12) People	Wrecked	Undercover	Best Fmnds	P Holmes Insightful look	"Southpaw" (15) Boxer gets help to revive career. (HD)
10 PM :30	Local	Local	Local Programs Local info.	(35) Tonight (HD)	Local	(12) People	(06) Search	Liv Maddie	Stuck Mid.	(25) "Traders" (16) Fight to the death.	Shameless A new scheme.
11 PM :30	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Late Night	People (HD)	People (HD)	People (HD)	Mod Family	Mod Family		
11 PM :30	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night	People (HD)	People (HD)	People (HD)	Austri/Ally	"Outta Compton" (15)	"Yuma" (R)	

DECEMBER 26, 2016

TUESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Football Minnesota vs Washington State (Live) (HD)	People (HD)	NCIS "Dead Air" (HD)	Walk Prank	"Everest" (15) "Butte to survive winter storm.	"Witch Hunter" (15) (HD)	"Casino Royale" (06)
7 PM :30	The Middle	NCIS "Sister City, Part 1"	Brooklyn New Girl	The Wall (HD)	(15) People	(24) Search	WWE SmackDown (Live) (HD)	Walk Prank	"Diary of a Wimpy Kid" (16) Middle school.	"Jurassic World" (15) Chris Pratt. Dino theme park.	The Affair Block Island.
8 PM :30	Fresh Off O'Neals	Kennedy Center Honors Martha Argerich. (HD)	Bones Serial killer case.	This Is Us "Pilot" (HD)	(18) People	(45) Search	Wrecked	Walk Prank	(10) "Eddie the Eagle" (16) Un derdog competes.	★★★ "The Water" (06) In the NFL (HD)	Inside the NFL (HD)
9 PM :30	O'Neals	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs Local info.	Local	Chicago Fire (HD)	(12) Search	Shooter "Danger Close"	Undercover	Best Fmnds	Boxing's Best of 2016	Tony Roberts: Motocross
10 PM :30	Local	Local	Local Programs Local info.	(35) Tonight (HD)	College Football '2016 Motel 6 Cactus Bowl' Texas A&M vs Kansas State (Live) (HD)	(39) Search	(06) Search	Liv Maddie	Stuck Mid.	(50) "1 Spy" (02) A stolen airplane. (HD)	Inside the NFL (HD)
11 PM :30	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Late Night	Local	(33) Search	Search	Mod Family	Law & Order: SVU '911"	"Brilliant"	"Casino Royale" (06)
11 PM :30	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night	People (HD)	People (HD)	People (HD)	Austri/Ally			

DECEMBER 27, 2016

WEDNESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Football West Virginia vs Miami (Live) (HD)	Search	NCIS "Crescent City" (HD)	Undercover	"Big Fat Greek 2" (16)	(5:20) "Krampus" (15)	Homeland "Achilles Heel"
7 PM :30	Goldbergs	Undercover Boss (HD)	Pregame	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	College Football '2016 AdvocaCare V100 Texas A&M vs Kansas State (Live) (HD)	(57) Search	NCIS Copycat killer. (HD)	Undercover	★★★ "Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules" (11)	(10) ★★ "Hail, Caesar!" (16) Studio problems. (HD)	★★★ "Crismon Tide" (95) On the brink of war. (R) (HD)
8 PM :30	Mod Family black-ish	MacGyver "Wrench" (HD)	College Football '2016 Foster Farms Bowl' Indiana Hoosiers vs Utah Utes (Live) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU (HD)	Chicago P.D. (HD)	(18) Search	NCIS "Page Not Found"	Undercover	Best Fmnds	Fight Game	Homeland "The Vest" (HD)
9 PM :30	Match Game (HD)	Criminal Minds (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	Local	Local	A. Tribeca	NCIS "Alleged" (HD)	Liv Maddie	Real Sports - Gumbel	"American Gangster" (07) Detective pursues drug kingpin. (HD)	Homeland "Marine One" Carrie's state.
10 PM :30	Local	Local	Local Programs Local info.	(35) Tonight (HD)	Local	A. Tribeca	Mod Family	Stuck Mid.	Boxing's Best of 2016	"Carnal"	"Forsaken"
11 PM :30	(35) Jimmy Kimmel (HD)	(35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Late Night	Sports (HD)	A. Tribeca	Mod Family	Girl World			
11 PM :30	Nightline	(37) Corden	Local Programs	Late Night	Sports (HD)	A. Tribeca	Mod Family	Austri/Ally			

DECEMBER 28, 2016

Opinion and Commentary



Christmas nativity

A nativity set was seen at the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Anna.

Reflecting on the season

As the celebration of Christmas draws near, we take this opportunity to reflect on the message of the season as shared in the Gospel of Luke:

Now at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census, the first, took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered.

So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and traveled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night.

The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.

"Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

"And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favor."

Merry Christmas

Letter to the editor

A special gift

To the editor,

Each day, I watch as staff members at the Choate Center come to work with the goal of offering more than the duties of a job, but a little bit of family for some people who truly have no other family. My coworkers bring in food, clothing or treats and often spend extra time to bring comfort and joy to those they care for.

It was with true joy to me on Dec. 8 when a friend from our community met me at the center with a substantial gift, saying, "Christ took care of the most meek and vulnerable, and this is for you to use for the people you serve, because we know of none more meek and vulnerable." I asked my friend if I could offer a receipt for the gift, to which she smiled and replied: "This is from God."

Before she left, she offered to pray. She prayed for our patients, our residents, our staff and our families. She thanked God for all that he provides. As the tears rolled down my face, I thanked God for people like her.

Thank you for your kindness, your generosity and your prayers.

Sincerely, Chris Wells, Business Administrator, Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center, Anna

Please read this. . .

by Geof Skinner

Merry Christmas

Just as promised, this week you get to see some of my favorite critter pics from 2016. I've been saving up all kinds of photographs for the past 12 months. I had something like a million images, but these were some of my favorites. Hope you enjoy them. Next week, you'll get to see some of my favorite squirrel pictures. Stay tuned. Oh, I hope you have a very happy Christmas.



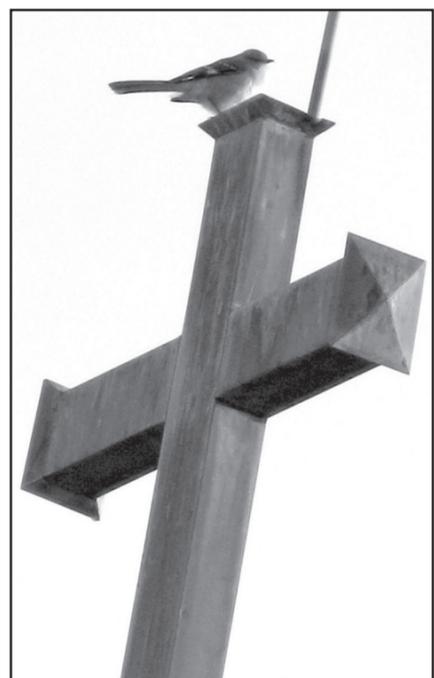
April 8: Kitty was taking a nap and didn't even notice when the picture was taken.



June 22: A woodchuck, AKA a groundhog, peeked through some grass, and then disappeared



January 17: Technically, Fredbird is not a critter, at least not in the true sense of the word. He's really friendly, though.



April 13: A bird, way up high, atop a church steeple, caught my eye, and was kind enough to stay long enough for a picture.



February 16: A cardinal (not Fredbird) comes in for a landing.



June 22: A face that only a mother could love...this snapping turtle was discovered in a rather unexpected place, and was kind enough to pose for a whole bunch of pictures.