

# THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

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## News Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area



An owl was keeping an eye on things when it was spotted last Sunday afternoon on a utility line in rural Union County.

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A prayer vigil was reported to have been held Wednesday night, Jan. 6, in front of the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro. It is our understanding that prayers were said for the country...on the day of the riot at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

\*\*\*

The U.S. Geological survey plans to conduct an airborne survey to study the rock layers under parts of Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri starting in mid-January and lasting through the spring. Union County is in the area which will be surveyed. Data generated by the survey will be used to create state-of-the-art maps.

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The Pulaski County Courthouse in Mound City closed for a deep cleaning due to COVID-19. Estimates were that the courthouse would remain closed until Jan. 13.

\*\*\*

January is Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month. The goal of this campaign is to provide fire fighters the necessary tools and guidance to develop life-saving protocols for cancer prevention and to support those with a cancer diagnosis within their departments.

## U.S. Capitol riot brings bipartisan condemnation

### Governor calls for Congress to take action to remove president immediately

By Jerry Nowicki  
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SPRINGFIELD – Hours after rioters seeking to block the certification of President-elect Joe Biden's November election victory first began storming the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, Gov. JB Pritzker called on Congress to impeach and remove sitting President Donald Trump.

The Associated Press reported one woman was shot and killed at the Capitol on Wednesday, and members of Congress were sent fleeing as angry Trump supporters stormed the floor of the U.S. House and Senate. (The death toll later rose to five.)

U.S. Congressman Adam Kinzinger, R-Channahon, called the scene a "coup attempt."

"The current president

incited this coup and encouraged it and did little to protect the Capitol and the Constitution," Kinzinger said in a video posted on his Twitter account. "He is no longer the leader of our party. Our party must reject these treasonous acts."

Pritzker, in a statement, said, "Two weeks is too long for Donald Trump to remain in office, where he can continue to incite more untold violence."

"Because of today's events incited by the President, I had to ask the Illinois State Police and other law enforcement resources, engaged in important life-saving missions, to redeploy to heighten their presence at government buildings and the Capitol in Springfield," Pritzker added.

A small group of 75 to 100 protestors demonstrated peacefully Jan. 6, outside of the Illinois State Capitol, a far cry from the events in

Washington, D.C.

"As the heart of our democracy was under siege and blood was literally being spilled in our most sacred halls, Donald Trump was praising the attackers. There are real questions about what efforts the president made to protect our Congress or what obstructions he committed that has prevented the ending of the siege," Pritzker said in the statement.

(continued on page 2)

## 1,853 cases in county

As of Jan. 11, the Southern Seven Health Department reported a total of 1,853 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

Statewide, the total number of cases has passed 1 million.

The health department reported 33 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Union County on Jan. 11.

The health department reported the following number of newly confirmed cases in the county, by age:

Two under 5. Four in their teens. Eight in their 20s. Seven in their 30s. One in the 40s. Six in their 50s. Two in their 60s. Two in their 70s. One 80-plus.

Total COVID-19 statistics for Union County since the start of the pandemic, as of Jan. 11, follow:

1,853 cases. 1,245 recovered. 583 active cases. 25 deaths had been reported.

Southern Seven Health Department reported a cumulative total of 5,440 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in its service area as of Jan. 11.



## Snowy Thursday afternoon in Union County

Snow was falling early Thursday afternoon, Jan. 7, in the Union County area. The photograph was taken at the railroad crossing on South Main Street in downtown Anna. The National Weather Service office in Paducah was reporting at the time that "bursts of moderate snow and sleet" were in the forecast in some parts of the Southern Illinois area. The weather service was advising motorists to "use extra caution" if they were planning travel from the Southeast Missouri area to Vienna.

## Expansion of popular disc golf course planned

# Cobden American Legion donates \$5,000 to support project

Expansion of Cobden's popular disc golf course is planned.

The project is being made possible thanks to a major donation from a veterans organization in the community.

Cobden American Legion Post No. 259 has made a \$5,000 donation to sup-

port the expansion project.

Representatives of the American Legion post were on hand to present a check to village officials on Monday evening, Jan. 4.

The presentation was made at Cobden Village Hall, just prior to a meeting of the village's board of trustees.

The Cobden Community Park is the home of the disc golf course, which currently features nine holes.

The expansion project will double the current number of holes to 18.

The new nine holes will be placed in locations which wrap around the Cobden School District grounds,

including a softball field.

The goal is to have the new nine holes ready for disc golf tournament which is being planned for the Memorial Day weekend.

Proceeds generated by the tournament will go to the Cobden American Legion post to help support its activities in the community.

Future plans could include other tournaments which would generate funding to support the post's community activities.

Cobden Mayor Paul Z. Tomazzoli voiced his appreciation to the American Legion post for the donation.

Appreciation also was voiced by Union County resident John Wingate, who was on hand for last week's check presentation.

Wingate has led efforts to create disc golf courses at the Cobden Community Park and the Anna City Park.

Cobden's disc golf course formally opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony which was held in the fall of 2019.

Since that time, the course has hosted a number of tournaments, which have attracted players from throughout the Southern Illinois area. The most recent tournament was played in December.

Wingate also voiced his appreciation to the Cobden American Legion post for the donation.

"Without their contribution the expansion would not have been possible," Wingate stated.



## Check presentation

Representatives of the Cobden American Legion post presented a check to village officials on Monday evening, Jan. 4. From left are John Wingate, who has led efforts to develop disc golf courses in Cobden and Anna; Cobden American Legion post representatives Earnie Newton, Harold Blunt, Mark Haddick and Chuck Neal; Cobden Mayor Paul Z. Tomazzoli; and American Legion post representatives Gene Horn and David Stewart.



# State surpasses 1 million COVID-19 cases

By Grace Barbic  
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SPRINGFIELD—Illinois has reported more than 1 million cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.

“In a pandemic that has contained far too many tragic milestones, today’s marking of one million cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in Illinois deserves particular recognition,” Gov. J.B. Pritzker said in a news release.

The state reported 8,757 newly confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 Thursday, Jan. 7, for a statewide total of just over 1 million cases.

An additional 177 deaths were reported for a total of 17,272 since the pandemic began.

Hospitalization rates remained nearly identical to previous days, with a slight drop in hospitalizations and ICU patients, and a nearly consistent number of patients on ventilators.

As of Wednesday night, Jan. 6, 3,921 COVID-19 patients were reported hospitalized, a decrease of

seven from the day prior. There were 783 patients in intensive care unit beds, a decrease of 74 from the day prior, and 450 on ventilators, one less than the day prior.

The seven-day rolling average case positivity rate increased slightly to 8.5 percent on Jan. 7, compared to the prior day report of 8.4 percent.

The governor’s office also announced a statewide mask mandate has been extended through a subsequent emergency rule that was filed Monday, Jan. 4, and will be in effect for an additional 150 days.

As of Tuesday night, Jan. 5, approximately 344,525 total doses of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines had been delivered to Illinois, excluding the city of Chicago.

Federal supply issues have resulted in delivery reductions, according to the governor. The state is receiving approximately 120,000 doses per week, 60,000 each of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

From this lower than expected number of vaccine doses, Pritzker said the

federal government pulls an allotment of doses from each delivery to put towards its long-term care vaccination program.

Approximately 114,075 doses from Illinois’ latest allotment, outside the city of Chicago, have been set aside for this purpose.

The long-term care vaccination program is being facilitated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in partnership with CVS, Walgreens and Managed Health Care Associates Inc. to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccination services for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

About 850,000 residents are eligible for the first phase of vaccinations currently underway, which includes health care workers and long-term care facility residents.

Illinois as a whole had administered approximately 207,106 total vaccine doses through Jan. 7, including the first round of second doses for recipients who received the first dose in mid-December.

That number also included vaccinations through

the federal long-term care vaccination program.

Pritzker noted the program’s partners started vaccinating in Illinois on Dec. 28, nearly two weeks after the state’s first delivery of vaccinations.

“Now that vaccine distribution has begun, we can see the light at the end of this difficult time – let’s do everything we can to ensure all of our neighbors are able to be there as we cross that finish line, healthy as well,” Pritzker said.

“With that goal in mind, I encourage all Illinoisans to choose to receive the protections of the COVID-19 vaccine when it’s your turn in line.”

The next eligible group for vaccinations after the current phase will include non-health care frontline essential workers and residents age 65 years or older. *Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

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## U.S. Capitol riot

(continued from page 1)

Trump, in a video statement released on the afternoon of Jan. 6, urged the rioters to go home while still incorrectly maintaining the election was “stolen” by Democrats. Trump has filed several lawsuits alleging voter fraud, repeatedly being rejected by judges for lack of evidence.

Trump also praised the rioters in the video statement, calling them “very special” and telling them he loved them.

On Twitter, the social media platform began removing some of the president’s tweets after he criticized Vice President Mike Pence for not being more proactive in blocking the results of the November election. Wednesday evening, Twitter placed a 12-hour block on his account, noting it would continue until certain tweets deemed a threat to public safety were removed.

Several Republican members of Congress planned to object to Biden’s certification Wednesday before it was waylaid by the rioters.

But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the joint session would reconvene on the night of Jan. 6 to certify Biden’s election victory. (The joint session did reconvene and Biden’s election victory was certified.)

“There is no doubt in my mind that his efforts to encourage a coup represent high treason to this democracy, our Constitution and all Americans,” Pritzker said in his statement.

“He poses a danger to

our nation. He must be impeached and removed from office immediately. And every person in a position of public trust, elected or otherwise, who enabled the systematic dismantling of our democratic norms and failed to speak up or take action bears some responsibility for the culmination of four years of spreading bile.”

Legislative Republicans in the state also rebuked the events in Washington.

“The events unfolding at the United States Capitol today, and the inflammatory remarks by members of the Republican Party, are a disgrace to the core values and beliefs of our great nation,” House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, said in a statement.

“These actions do not represent our Republican Party, and are against everything we stand for as Americans. I am sickened and deeply saddened by what I have witnessed today. Any public officials who condone these actions have no place in the Republican party or in our democracy.”

Dan McConchie, Senate minority leader designate, also issued a statement.

“The horrible violence at our nation’s Capitol is a disgrace to all Americans,” McConchie said.

“This violence does not reflect the United States that generations of Americans have fought so hard to build. I stand with members of all parties in condemning these un-American acts of violence and treachery, and will do my part here in Illinois to repair the devastating divide that has been created in our country.”

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, and House Speaker Michael Madigan, D-Chicago, also issued statements condemning the rioters.

“The peaceful transition of power is a hallmark of our great democracy,” Harmon said.

“To disrupt that transition is an affront to the very fabric of the United States of America. The U.S. Capitol has stood strong in the face of attacks by confederates and terrorists. We will survive today’s sad acts to once again be a beacon of hope, change and equality for the world.”

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

## State veterans affairs director resigns

By Sarah Mansur  
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SPRINGFIELD—Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs director Linda Chapa LaVia resigned Monday, more than two months after an outbreak was first reported at the LaSalle Veterans’ Home that has killed more than a quarter of the facility’s residents.

Chapa LaVia is the second high-profile departure related to the outbreak at the LaSalle home in the aftermath of the deadly outbreak. LaSalle Veterans’ Home administrator Angela Melbrech was fired on Dec. 7.

Chapa LaVia’s resignation came after a House Civil Judiciary committee hearing on Monday morning during which members questioned her handling of the outbreak at the LaSalle home, where 36 residents have died of COVID-19 since Nov. 1.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve our veterans,” LaVia said in a news release announcing her resignation effective immediately.

“I’m proud of our accomplishments and I look forward to assisting the interim director in any way possible as the department continues its work to serve our heroes.”

Gov. JB Pritzker, who appointed Chapa LaVia as IDVA director in February 2019, said during his Monday COVID-19 news conference it was a “mutual decision” for her to resign.

“What we want to do is restore confidence. We want to do our best to take care of our veterans,” Pritzker said.

“As you know, Linda Chapa LaVia had served for a number of years in the legislature. She’s somebody who cares deeply about veterans. Her appointment, as all the appointments of my Cabinet, come up in about a week for reappointment or not. And it was a mutual decision that she would step down.”

Maj. Gen. Peter Nezamis has been named the department’s interim director. He currently serves as the assistant adjutant general-air, at the Illinois Air National Guard.

Three members of the House Civil Judiciary committee – Reps. Deanne

Mazzochi, R-Elmhurst, David Welter, R-Morris, and Daniel Didech, D-Buffalo Grove – issued statements immediately following the committee hearing.

The lawmakers said Chapa LaVia’s performance during the hearing reflected poor leadership which caused them to lose confidence in her ability to lead the agency.

Welter, whose district covers the veterans home, said Chapa LaVia’s resignation is a necessary step to hold Pritzker’s administration accountable for the deadly outbreak at the LaSalle facility.

Sen. Sue Rezin, a Morris Republican whose district also includes the LaSalle home, said in a statement that Chapa LaVia’s removal should have come much sooner.

“While I can respect the former director’s decision to resign, I question why the decision to leave the department was left in her hands. The governor should have removed the director from leadership long before today,” Rezin’s statement read.

Following Chapa LaVia’s resignation on Monday, House Civil Judiciary Chairman Rep. Andre Thapedi, D-Chicago, wrote in a text message to Capitol News Illinois that the systemic problems at the Department of Veterans’ Affairs are enormous and most of them predate Chapa LaVia’s tenure.

“The care and treatment of our most vulnerable people – and especially our heroes – must be entrusted to our most capable and compassionate care givers. My only hope is that the necessary reforms at nursing homes and veterans homes across the state takes this principal to heart,” Thapedi wrote in the message.

Mazzochi wrote in a statement before Chapa LaVia’s resignation that she was “particularly disturbed” that IDVA had outsourced an investigation on to the state Department of Human Services, “with no concurrent self-assessment on the practices and policies that led to the outbreaks.”

“As members of our committee from both sides of the aisle agree, what they heard today was stonewalling of our legislative investigation; and a distinct lack

of corrective action being taken by the agency. And, that no steps were taken to ensure the investigative cooperation of the administrator in charge of the facility at the time is an independent critical oversight error,” Mazzochi’s statement read in part.

Chapa LaVia served as a first lieutenant in the Illinois Army National Guard and is a former state House member.

During the committee hearing, Thapedi also accused Chapa LaVia of a “delay tactic” for not providing information about the outbreak that the committee requested from the facility in December.

House Judiciary Committee members repeatedly pushed back when Chapa LaVia and IDVA Chief of Staff Tony Kolbeck declined to answer questions, due to the independent ongoing investigation by the acting inspector general of the Illinois Department of Human Services.

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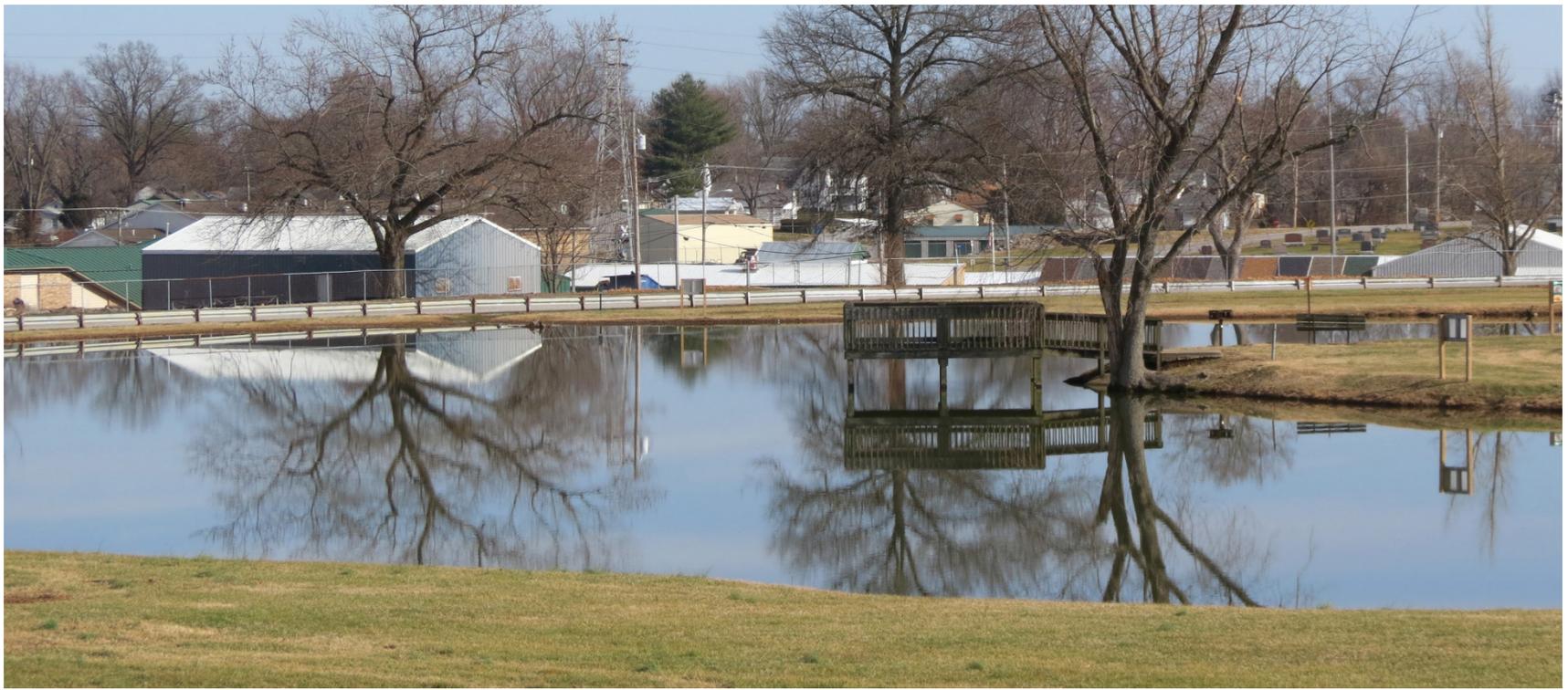
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Tuesday, Jan. 5	51	28
Wednesday, Jan. 6	46	25
Thursday, Jan. 7	36	32
Friday, Jan. 8	36	32
Saturday, Jan. 9	35	30
Sunday, Jan. 10	31	28
Monday, Jan. 11	30	16



**Quiet day at the park**

Images of the surrounding landscape were reflected in the water of a pond at the Anna City Park. The photograph was taken Monday afternoon, Jan. 4, when weather conditions were cold, clear and calm.

**Anna Council meets Jan. 5**

**Update shared on project to ease flooding on city street**

Plans to ease flooding on an Anna street appear to be moving forward.

The project was on the agenda at last week's regular meeting of the Anna City Council.

The meeting was Tuesday evening, Jan. 5. Attendance was available by teleconference.

For a number of years, flooding frequently has occurred in the 500 block of East Vienna Street during heavy rainfall.

For some time, Anna officials have attempted to take action to fix the problem. A solution now may be coming.

City administrator Dori Bigler reported that she had been in contact with State Sen. Terri Bryant, R-Murphysboro, to discuss the project and to secure grant funding for the work. City officials also have been working with the Illinois Department on Transportation on the project.

The city is anticipating the awarding of a \$100,000 state grant to help fund work to end the flooding.

The work is expected to cost a total of \$175,000. Costs also will include traffic control measures when work is done on the busy street.

The City of Anna expects to contribute \$25,000 to the cost of the project.

A timetable has not yet been finalized for the project.

In other business at last week's meeting:

Council member Martha Ann Webb said that she had heard many positive comments about how the city looked during the holiday season.

This year's holiday season decorations included the debut of a new display called Gumdrop Drive. The display included decorations which were on display at the Anna City Park.

City officials agreed that Gumdrop Drive was a success in its first year and are looking forward to displays for the 2021-2022 holiday season.

A request by the Farm Fresh store in Anna to be granted a liquor license was

on the agenda. The request has been a topic of discussion for some time.

The business was proposing to allow on-site consumption in its request.

Mayor Steve Hartline said that the business's request had met all of the guidelines in the city's liquor license ordinance. Hartline also serves as the city's liquor commissioner.

The mayor recommended the granting of a license to the business. His recommendation, in the form of a motion, died for a lack of a second.

Commissioner Martha Ann Webb presented a pro-

posal to the council for a \$1,500 donation to the Wreaths Across America program.

The program involves the placing of wreaths on the graves of veterans each year in December as a way to honor and remember their service.

Wreaths Across America ceremonies have been held at the Anna City Cemetery for the past two Decembers.

Webb has led efforts to implement the program and conduct the ceremonies at the cemetery in Anna.

At this time, donations made to support Wreaths Across America are being

matched by the organization which oversees the program.

During discussion about the possible donation, city council member Bryan Miller suggested the possibility of also making a donation to support a food pantry operated by the United Methodist Church in Anna.

Mayor Hartline suggested that if such a donation were to be made, it would instead be given to the Union County Alliance of Churches instead of to a single church. The mayor said he would pursue that proposal further.

The council approved Webb's proposal for the \$1,500 donation. Her goal is

to have a wreath placed on the grave of every veteran who is buried at the Anna Cemetery for a Wreaths Across America ceremony which is planned in December. A total of 575 wreaths were sponsored in 2020.

The city council approved a resolution which authorized and approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Union County animal control program.

The council discussed the cost of repairing a wood chipper. The estimated cost for the repair work is \$7,700. The work will be done in St. Louis.

**County board waives liquor license fees**

The Union County Board of Commissioners has approved a temporary waiver of fees for many of the county's liquor licenses.

A resolution approving the waiver was approved at a regular meeting of the county board. The meeting was held Friday morning at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Once again, due to limitations which are in effect for the region due to the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, Friday morning's meeting was not open to the public.

The meeting was livestreamed on the "County of Union, Illinois" YouTube page.

The City of Anna also has approved a waiver of fees for liquor licenses.

The action taken by the county and the city are in response to the economic impact that the pandemic has had on local businesses.

The resolution which was unanimously approved by the county board impacts approximately 13 businesses and organizations, including taverns, a club, restaurants, wineries and a bed and breakfast. Fees for the licenses range from \$500 to \$900.

The resolution passed by the county board stated that in early 2020, in an effort to combat the spread of COVID-19, Gov. JB Pritzker "issued a series of executive orders instituting statewide policies of isolation, quarantine and social distancing. "...the Governor's executive

orders included the designation of some businesses as 'nonessential' and requirements that such non-essential businesses cease or severely limit their operations during the ongoing COVID-19 disaster..."

"...while the above described policies were calculated to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the public health risks created thereby, they also had negative consequences for local businesses, including many of the County's liquor licensees, which were both immediate and substantial..."

"...the County of Union desires to provide economic relief to and support for local liquor licensees negatively impacted by COVID-19 and/or the Governor's executive orders..."

"...the County of Union has determined it is in the best interests of the County and its citizens to waive some of the liquor license renewal fees existing local liquor licensees would otherwise be required to pay in connection with the renewal of their existing local liquor licenses where said licensees have been

directly and negatively affected by COVID-19 and/or the Governor's lockdown measures..."

The resolution approved by the county board waived all county liquor licenses, except for Class B package store licenses, for 2021.

The resolution only applies to businesses which had a valid county liquor license on the date that it was adopted.

**Stewardship agreement signed**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, and the USDA Forest Service have signed an Agreement for Shared Stewardship.

Officials said the agreement is designed to strengthen their commitment to collaborative land management efforts throughout the state.

The agreement establishes a framework to allow the state and the Forest Service to work collaboratively on forest management, accomplishing mutual goals, furthering common interests and effectively responding to the increasing suite of challenges facing the communities, landscapes and natural resources in Illinois.

**Food marketing practices addressed**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, NASS, is conducting the 2020 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey.

First conducted in 2015, this Census of Agriculture special study will look at local and regional food systems and provide new data on how locally grown foods in the United States are marketed and sold.

Results of the survey are scheduled to be available in November.

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# Sports

## All IHSA sports remain on pause for moment

Illinois High School Association, IHSA, executive director Craig Anderson, members of the IHSA staff, and Illinois Elementary School Association, IESA, staff members met virtually with Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, director Dr. Ngozi Ezike, deputy governor Jesse Ruiz and IDPH chief of staff Justin DeWitt on the evening of Jan. 6.

"We appreciate the dialogue with state leadership and believe it is crucial that it continue moving forward," IHSA executive director Craig Anderson said in a news release which was posted on the association's website.

"We understand that the state faces shifting priorities as it continues to fight the pandemic, while also beginning the distribution of the vaccine. There was no expectation that a single meeting would resolve all our questions. However, we believe that collaboration with state officials is vital for the IHSA to be able to develop an informed plan for the 300,000-plus student-athletes and over 800 high schools that encompass the association."

IHSA and IESA leadership used the meeting to reintroduce recommended mitigations from the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, SMAC, as well as to seek understanding on any preliminary insight IDPH may have related to the return of interscholastic sports.

The IHSA also asked IDPH leadership to review the risk levels of all remaining sports, with consideration for lowering some sports from their current risk levels.

"We believe that there is both data and science that validates the idea that we can safely conduct sports," said Anderson.

"We have seen it work in other states and believe

it can in Illinois if we utilize the mitigations provided by IDPH and the IHSA SMAC. Students are already leaving or participating out-of-state on weekends. We believe that competing for their high school remains the safest venue for participation."

All IHSA sports remain on pause at the moment. Low risk sports may not begin until the state returns to Phase 4 in the All Sports Policy. The IHSA Board of Directors were scheduled to meet again on Jan. 13.

"Our board of directors is going to have difficult decisions to make regarding the seasons' for medium- and high-risk sports very soon," said Anderson.

"With no specific IDPH timeline or statistical benchmarks established for the return of sports and the calendar shrinking, putting together a puzzle that allows for all sports to be played becomes increasingly improbable. We continue to urge all residents of our state to be diligent in their efforts to adhere to safety guidelines, as a lower positivity rate remains the key to athletics returning."

## Wellness program launched

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services recently announced the launch of Be Well Illinois.

Be Well Illinois is the state's new, comprehensive wellness program for employees, retirees and health plan participants.

The new program connects plan participants with resources to help create and maintain an active lifestyle.

Information can be found on the Be Well Illinois website at [www.Illinois/be-well](http://www.Illinois/be-well) and also on Facebook ([Facebook.com/BeWellIllinois](https://www.facebook.com/BeWellIllinois)).

## Sports Page from the Past from the files of The Gazette-Democrat Thursday, January 14, 1971

Illinois turkey hunters will be allowed another spring turkey hunt this year in the southern sector of the state.

Henry N. Barkhausen, the director of the Illinois Department of Conservation, authorized a three day hunt to take place in Union, Jackson and Alexander counties April 16, 17 and 18.

This will mark only the second time for hunting of these birds in Illinois since the early 1900's. Turkeys were restocked into Illinois in 1960 and have done extremely well. They were obtained from West Virginia, Arkansas and Mississippi in exchange for Illinois deer.

\*\*\*

The Illinois goose season fell 4,000 birds short of the allotted quota in 1970.

Hunters bagged 23,970 birds in Union, Alexander, Jackson and Williamson counties during the regular season which ended December 23.

A total of 28,000 birds was the quota allotted to the Southern Illinois area by the U.S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife.

Hunters received a New Years treat this year, as the Bureau allowed two extra days of hunting for the four counties January 2 and 3.

\*\*\*

Goose season for Illinois hunters ended on a happy note, according to Jim Lockart, supervisor of wildlife resources for the Illinois Department of Conservation.

The special two-day hunt in Southern Illinois resulted in a total of 3,221 (geese) bagged in Alexander, Jackson, Union and Williamson counties.

This brought the total kill for the season to 27,274 geese, only 726 birds shy of the 28,000 bird limit set by the U.S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, Lockhart reported.

\*\*\*

The 15th Anna-Jonesboro Community High School Invitational Tournament got underway Tuesday, Jan. 12, with Meridian playing Cartersville at 7:00 p.m. for the first game. The second game featured Cairo vs. Johnston City.

The Jonesboro Bulldogs won over the Unity Point Trojans by a score of 55 to 49 last week. Jonesboro and Unity Point both used numerous fast breaks and seldom even set plays in the first half.

## Young hunters invited to wingshooting clinic, pheasant hunt in March

Young hunters between the ages of 10 and 17 can apply now for a youth wingshooting clinic and pheasant hunt scheduled Saturday, March 20, at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex, WSRC, in Randolph County.

All participants in the clinic and hunt will be required to follow all health and safety guidelines issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health, including wearing masks when social distancing cannot be achieved, and carrying and using hand sanitizer.

The WSRC youth clinic and hunt has been a popular late winter/early spring addition to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, wingshooting and youth pheasant hunting programs.

Most youth pheasant hunting opportunities are offered at IDNR controlled pheasant hunting areas in the fall or early winter.

During the March 20 event, young hunters will participate in a wingshooting clinic in the morning.

## Winter good time to plan garden

University of Illinois Extension says that winter is a great time to make plans for new garden projects.

One of the projects could be a perennial fruit garden.

Information about fruit garden planting, including fruit-specific information and cultivar recommendations, can be found on University of Illinois Extension's Small Fruit Crops for the Backyard website at [web.extension.illinois.edu/fruit/index.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fruit/index.cfm).

National Sporting Clays Association/IDNR certified wingshooting instructors will teach the wingshooting clinic.

Young hunters will practice safe shotgun handling and operation while advancing their wingshooting skills.

The pheasant hunt will take place during the afternoon.

Young hunters must have successfully completed an approved hunter safety course and have a valid hunting license to participate.

Cosponsors will assist IDNR and the WSRC with the wingshooting clinic and pheasant hunt.

The cosponsors provide funding for clay targets, target and field shot shells, and lunch for the young hunters.

Through the assistance of some of their members, cosponsors also provide bird dogs, bird dog handlers and hunting guides.

Permits for the WSRC youth wingshooting clinic/pheasant hunt are available through the IDNR controlled pheasant hunting internet reservation system.

Organizers advise that hunters need to review the "Illinois Youth Pheasant Hunt Information" and the "Illinois Youth Pheasant Hunt Regulations" on the IDNR controlled pheasant hunting web page prior to applying.

Completing a permit reservation online takes less than five minutes, IDNR noted.

For details, check the controlled pheasant hunting webpage at <https://dnr2.illinois.gov/controlledhunt/>.

## Bob Love's life, career special story of success

By Mike Estel

A lot of young people in the area know the famed professional basketball player Bob Love.

The youth got to meet him and came to know the famed basketball legend over the last several years when they attended the Sport Speed Development and Basketball 101 camps held in Anna-Jonesboro, Vienna and New Simpson Hills schools.

"Many of the older people remember Bob playing for the Chicago Bulls in the late 1960s and 1970s," said Ron Fulenwider, who is in charge of the camps at the various schools. "Bob held most of the Bulls records until a fellow named Michael Jordan broke nearly all of them in his playing career in the 1980s and 1990s."

Ron started inviting Bob to his camps several years ago.

"I first worked with Bob when I was the health and safety director for the Laborers' International Union of North America," Fulenwider said. "Bob was hired to be our motivational speaker at our many union meetings and health fairs."

The former NBA star had a rough start in life. He grew up on a plantation in Dehli, Louisiana, and was raised in a two-story house with 13 siblings. He was abused as a child by his stepfather and was forced to live with his grandmother at a very early age.

His development to what he became he credits to his grandmother. She was a strong, imposing woman at 5-foot, 10-inches. She had an overwhelming presence, physically and otherwise. Through her personality, Bob saw what his needs were. Through her strong

will and with some words laced with a bit of profanity, she made sure that his stepfather kept his distance and out of Bob's life.

Bob developed a stuttering problem that made him a target of kids making fun of him when he was younger. As a professional basketball player, he never gave an interview to a news reporter because of his stuttering problem that didn't finally go away until he was 43 years old.

The story of his is an inspirational account of his roller coaster journey from poverty in the Deep South through his high school, college and NBA career with the Chicago Bulls. He also played for and has a degree from Southern University in Louisiana.

After his success with the Bulls he was forced into retirement with a back injury.

His jersey was retired along side Michael Jordan's and Jerry Sloan's in a special ceremony at the United Center in Chicago.

Bob has written two books about his life. One book is the Bob Love Story, and another is a children's book called, The Bob (Butterbean) Love Story, which can be purchased from the Lick Creek School library.

He has recently signed a contract to have a movie about his life produced. And, what a life he has had in the world of basketball.

## Stimulus checks cashed without fees

The Illinois Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, IDFPFR, has worked with banks to provide services for unbanked Illinoisans who are seeking to cash their stimulus checks without incurring check cashing fees.

The banks provided the service during the first round of stimulus checks and IDFPFR secured the same agreement for the second round of stimulus checks.

The FDIC estimates that over 22 percent of Illinois households are under or unbanked.

Many of these Illinois households will once again be receiving paper stimulus checks and will have few check cashing options that won't incur fees.

IDFPFR has announced a number of banking institutions that are able to work with non-customers on cashing their stimulus checks for free.

Participating banks include Bank of America, First Midwest, Fifth Third, Huntington, Wells Fargo, JP Morgan Chase and U.S. Bank.



## April 2020: Faithful fans

Union County is home to lots of fans of the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs. The 2020 Major League Baseball season was put on hold because of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. Local fans, like those at Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church in Anna, were still showing their support for the Cardinals and Cubs.

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# Rural Health Inc. funds, administers healthcare scholarship opportunities

Rural Health Inc. is funding and administering eight healthcare scholarship opportunities.

A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior at each of the following schools:

Anna-Jonesboro, Cobden, Dongola, Goreville, Joppa, Massac County, Shawnee in Wolf Lake and Vienna.

Home-schooled students in Union, Johnson and Massac counties are welcome to apply as well.

Applicants will be recognized for their desire to pursue a career in the healthcare field.

Application packets are available from the guidance counselor at each of the eight high schools.

Home-schooled students

who are interested in applying for the scholarship program can call Rural Health at 833-4471 to learn how to obtain an application packet.

Rural Health Inc. noted in a news release that the program has two upcoming deadlines.

All application packet materials are to be returned by March 10 to the

guidance counselor at the student's school/school district.

All application packets are due March 12 at Rural Health Inc. in Anna. Home-school students can return their application packet to Rural Health Inc. in Anna.

For more information about the scholarship program, contact Rural Health Inc. at 833-4471.

Rural Health Inc. is a not-for-profit healthcare organization which serves Union, Johnson and Mas-

## Smith named to dean's list

Meghan Smith of Jonesboro has been named to the fall semester dean's list by the Bethel University College of Arts & Sciences and College of Health Sciences in McKenzie, Tenn.

sac counties, with locations in Anna, Dongola, Vienna, Metropolis and Goreville.

To qualify for Bethel's dean's list, undergraduates must have completed 12 or more hours of academic work with a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.69 and no grade lower than a "C."

### ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

The summary must be published in the local newspaper.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, annually. Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact:

COUNTY OF UNION SCHOOL DIST 43      309 COOK AVE JONESBORO IL 62952      618-833-6651      9AM-3PM  
 School District/Joint Agreement Name      Address      Telephone      Office Hours

Also by January 15, annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website@ [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

#### Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2020

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	493,885	147,158	233,884	58,079	113,699	94,540	14,631	88,845	14,428
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0		0	0				
State Sources	3000	2,630,611	50,000	0	61,331	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	373,677	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Direct Receipts/Revenues</b>		<b>3,498,173</b>	<b>197,158</b>	<b>233,884</b>	<b>119,410</b>	<b>113,699</b>	<b>94,540</b>	<b>14,631</b>	<b>88,845</b>	<b>14,428</b>
<b>Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures</b>		<b>3,244,840</b>	<b>177,803</b>	<b>182,641</b>	<b>67,153</b>	<b>99,315</b>	<b>25,323</b>		<b>93,860</b>	<b>7,432</b>
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		0	0	18,373	(18,373)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Beginning Fund Balances - July 1, 2019</b>		<b>1,435,784</b>	<b>1,582,191</b>	<b>88,262</b>	<b>425,494</b>	<b>42,429</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>211,461</b>	<b>13,346</b>	<b>17,839</b>
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ending Fund Balances June 30, 2020</b>		<b>1,689,117</b>	<b>1,601,546</b>	<b>157,878</b>	<b>459,378</b>	<b>56,813</b>	<b>69,217</b>	<b>226,092</b>	<b>8,331</b>	<b>24,835</b>

### SALARY SCHEDULE OF GROSS PAYMENTS FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL AND NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

This listing must be published in the local newspaper, sent to ISBE, and retained within your district/joint agreement administrative office for public inspection.

COUNTY OF UNION SCHOOL DIST 43  
 30-091-0430-04

#### GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIDE PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999	Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999	Salary Range: 60,000 - \$89,999	Salary Range: \$90,000 and over
Alma Gomez	Jessica Wohlwend, Krsity Long, Jordan Kirby, Stephanie Reece, Eric Jerrell, Tonya Miller, Mackenzie Peck, Matt Frownfelter, Christina Dewitt,	Stephanie Hill, Nyla Montgomery, Dayna Will, Hope McFarland, Amy Abernathy, Amanda Kirk, Josh Staples, Lane McFadden, Susan Ramsey, Marcy Bundren, Pam Turner, Melissa Ellis, Tammy Vicenzi, Carrie Hess	Suzanne Carter, Cindy Pender, Beth Miller	Tom Stark, Kevin Westall

#### GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999	Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999	Salary Range: \$60,000 and over
Melissa Calhoun, Patricia Ellis, Amy Ferguson, Mindy Graves, Amy Jerrell, Debbie Meyer, Gail Short, Joeby Stearns, Sarah Wright, Nancy Oind, Cathy Dillow, Cathy Kirt, Juvata Carter, Marilyn Meisenheimer, Carolyn Schramka, Sharon Harris, Bailey Stearns, Barb Clymore, Mike Lohstroh, Mike Smith, Tony Chamness, Kevin Graves, Stacey Busby, Stephanie Hunter, Gary Moore, Tex Lehr, Rich Griffin, Danny McFarland, Gary Wiggs Harold Smith	Donna Williams, Jack Godwin, Berry Miller, Herman Wells	Jenny Sadler, Jama Eddleman	

#### Payments over \$2,500, excluding wages and salaries.

This listing must be published in the local newspaper, sent to ISBE, and retained within your district/joint agreement administrative office for public inspection

COUNTY OF UNION SCHOOL DIST 43  
 30-091-0430-04

Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
A&K Speciality Contracts	24,500
AJNational Bank	25,323
AEP Energy	40,902
American Fidelity	11,143
Anna State Bank	164,267
Baysinger Artichet	13,212
Beussink & Hickam	10,160
Billy Alsip	8,129
BMO Harris	5,459
CDS Office Tech	14,188
City Of Jonesboro Water	16,727
Clayton Holdings LLC	18,373
Clearwave Communications	16,485
Common Goal Systems	4,408
Guin Mundorf LLC	5,610
Haddock Corp	67,118
Hilleman Bobcat	19,078
HOughton Mifflin	8,023
IASB	3,301
Kevin Westall	3,038
Lee Sports	5,736
Litton Enterprises	4,110
McGraw Hill	3,167
NextEra Energy	3,842
ORKIN	8,450

Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
Osborne Office Equip	14766.95
Renaissance	5041
Reppert's Office	3066.74
Riverside INsights	2699.78
Rooster Rubber	6900
Rusty's Home Center	2631.67
Scholastic	3655.89
Secruity Alarm	4294
SHI	32144.41
Southern FS	6841.18
SDS	7032
SupplyWorks/ Home Depot	7672.4
Tipton Linen	2861.45
Tri County Special Ed	325534.76
US Bank	3750.88
Union County Counseling	2709
Universal Glass	91200
Waller Electric	7293.61
Weeke Sales and Service	14772.84
Womick Disposal	4116
Wrightway	26765.59

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life.

I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

As high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts. For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

\*\*\*\*\*

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.

On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." From the Gospel of Mark

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A POWERFUL TEST
Image of a car battery and jumper cables.

There's nothing like a bitter cold morning to test the car battery; it might be in need of a charge. Life can be like that, too, everything runs smoothly until a crisis. Will your spirit be fully charged and ready to handle it? "Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit," says Psalm 147:5. Life's disasters won't find us unprepared when we draw on God for power. Visit your house of worship each week to strengthen your spirit; keep the spark ignited with daily prayer and meditation.

Table with 7 columns: John, Luke, Luke, Luke, Luke, Luke, Luke. Rows: Time ranges (6:00-7:00, 7:00-8:00, 8:00-9:00) and source information (Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society).

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News from

## Camp Ground Church, Community

Rev. Thompson's sermon Sunday was titled "Are We Fulfilling Our Baptism?" Scripture was from Matthew, the account of the baptism of Christ.

The message shared that "for Jesus to come to John for baptism was shocking to John, who had declared earlier in his ministry that one was coming who he was unworthy to even carry his sandals.

"Why would Jesus stand in line with sinners for baptism when He was sinless? It wasn't for salvation. "It symbolizes His emp-

News from

## First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On Sunday, Jan. 10, Pastor Perry Williams spoke at both morning and evening services.

The morning message asked: "Are You Watching for Christ to Come Back?" Scripture was from 1st Thessalonians.

News from

## Anna Nazarene Church

A morning worship service was held Sunday, Jan. 10, at 10:35 a.m. in the church, on Zoom and on the radio in the parking lot. Singing was led by Pastor Randy Wright and the worship team.

Special music was provided by Jessica Elkins, Madison Schnaare and Lotie Smith.

Sunday's message was titled "What You Do Matters," with scripture from the Psalms.

The message can be found on the church's website at [annanaz.com](http://annanaz.com) and on the church's Facebook page.

Birthdays: Jaida Smith, Jan. 12.

A combined Sunday School and church board meeting is planned at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, today, in the fellowship hall.

Friday night Bible study is planned at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, on Zoom. Pastor Wright can be texted for the password prior to the meeting.

A work day is planned at the church on Jan. 16, starting at 8 a.m.

Sunday School for chil-

## Commemorative event to honor Dr. King will be held virtually this year

The Alexander/Pulaski County Branch of the NAACP is planning to host an annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative event.

The 2021 event is scheduled to go forward on a virtual platform, from 10 to noon on Monday, Jan. 18.

This year, the keynote speaker is scheduled to be Dr. Larry T. Barnett Sr., pastor of St. John Praise and Worship Center in Pulaski.

Barnett retired from working in the field of education after 25 years of service.

He served as a coach, teacher and administrator for the Sparta, Century and Carbondale public school systems.

He has served in international ministry as well as in leadership roles in national ministries.

During the event, State Sen. Dale Fowler, R-Harrisburg, is scheduled to offer his reflections on Dr. King's legacy.

Dr. Tim Taylor, the president of Shawnee Community College, is scheduled to honor Dr. King's legacy as a scholar.

Entertainment will be provided by master spoken word artist Samuel Hawkins, who is artist in residence for

tying Himself of all heavenly fullness and humbling Himself to become fully human, stepping into the muck and muddle of our daily lives.

"The Holy Spirit descended and a heavenly voice confirmed Jesus the Son of God. After His baptism, Jesus began His ministry.

"When we are baptized, we are affirmed as a child of God; after our baptism our spiritual journey/ministry should begin."

In closing, Rev. Thompson asked "What prevents us from living as a child

The messages were sent via transmitter for worshippers who stayed in their cars on the church's lower parking lot while tuned in to their radios on station 87.9 FM.

The message also was live streamed on Facebook, where it can be viewed.

The messages were sent via transmitter for worshippers who stayed in their cars on the church's lower parking lot while tuned in to their radios on station 87.9 FM.

A morning worship service is planned at 10:35 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 17, in the sanctuary and on Zoom. The service will be available in the parking lot on the radio for those who do not feel comfortable coming inside the sanctuary. CDC guidelines will be followed by wearing masks, social distancing and families sitting together.

A Wednesday night service is planned at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 20, with praise and worship in the sanctuary and on Zoom and Children's Bible quizzing in the fellowship hall, with CDC guidelines being followed by wearing masks and social distancing. The pastor can be texted prior to the meeting for the password.

A grocery giveaway is planned from 10 a.m. to noon on Jan. 23. During this time, the church can be contacted by calling the church office at 833-6702 and leaving a message if necessary or by calling Pastor Wright at 618-534-7103.

Legacy Training Inc. Jeff McGoy is scheduled to serve as this year's master of ceremonies.

Local young people Lyric Houston, Jamaal Jones and Nyasha Howard also are scheduled to perform.

"This event was too important to our community to be canceled due to the pandemic," NAACP Alexander/Pulaski County Branch president Tyrone Coleman said in a news release. "Although we will miss the meal and fellowship, we look forward to hosting this event in the safest way for our attendees."

The ceremony will also include recognition for local leader contributions to the community. Special door prizes will also be awarded. To attend, download the Zoom app on your phone, tablet or computer. The link to join will be provided upon registration.

To register, email [saritasawyer@gmail.com](mailto:saritasawyer@gmail.com). A \$10 registration fee is required. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For more information, contact Sarita Sawyer, branch secretary, at 618-306-2324, or Tyrone Coleman, branch president, at 270-366-2014.

of God? Have we let the world steal the fullness of our baptism?

"Every one of us has a mission as a Christian. Imagine the change in the world if Christians lived out the fullness of our baptism."

Having birthdays this past week were Collin Crane on the 10th and Jhan Miller on the 12th.

Camp Ground Church will be worshipping via Zoom through Jan. 17. Contact any member of the congregation and they will be able to "connect" you to join with us in virtual worship.

The church's Facebook page has videos and the latest information about possible closings.

During the morning service, music director Dee Rose led worship. Debbie York was the pianist. Molly Jones sang a special, "Till I Met You."

Birthdays: Sue Clary, Amy Sheffer, Jan. 10; Denna Williams, Jan. 11; Gary Dahmer, Robert McCain, Jan. 12; Carmen Coffman, Jan. 14; J.D. Tripp, Jan. 15.

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

Prayer and Bible study, as well as youth group meetings, are scheduled at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

News from

## First Baptist Church, Anna

John Turner led the worship music for services on Sunday, Jan. 10.

Pastor Nick DiMauro's sermon was titled "How to Have Joy in a Pandemic, Part 9." Scripture was from Philippians.

Time also was spent praying for the country.

The church's worship service starts at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning.

Wednesday night Bible study is planned at 6 p.m. Pastor Nick continues to lead a study about the Book of Revelation.

The church family invites the community to be a part of the worship service. The church is located at 409 Morgan St. in Anna.

The church's next food giveaway is planned Thursday, today. A food giveaway is planned on the second Thursday of each month. The giveaway begins at 11 a.m. in the parking lot behind the church and is available to anyone in the community.

# Some counties entering next phase of vaccine distribution

By Grace Barbic  
Capitol News Illinois  
gbarbic@capitol-newsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD – Some regions of the state could see loosened COVID-19 restrictions as early as Friday – as some counties have already transitioned to the next phase of vaccine distribution, Gov. JB Pritzker announced Monday.

Although the state remains in Phase 1A of its vaccine distribution plan, some communities which have substantially completed Phase 1A have moved to the early stages of Phase 1B.

"We want to make sure any available vaccine is administered quickly to the priority groups that we've laid out," Pritzker said. "Let's get those out to Phase 1B people. ...Even though we haven't moved everybody into the next phase, we don't want any of these vaccines sitting around."

Those in Phase 1A, who are receiving vaccines, include health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities.

Phase 1B would extend vaccine priority to non-health-care essential workers and residents age 65 or older.

This early transition has been authorized by the Illinois Department of Public Health, but local health departments determine the phase transition on a county-by-county basis, depending on Phase 1A progress. It is not clear which counties have already started Phase 1B.

Pritzker said he expects to make a formal announcement later this week regarding when the entire state will move into Phase 1B.

"But I want to urge patience," Pritzker said. "Phase 1B will take many weeks to complete."

If the next phase is not yet available in certain areas, it is because many counties have not administered enough vaccines in Phase 1A to move forward with the current pace of the national vaccine development pipeline, Pritzker said.

Even when the entire state transitions into Phase 1B, those who were eligible for Phase 1A who have not yet been vaccinated, are still authorized to receive the vaccine in its next phase.

As of Sunday night, approximately 587,900 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines have been delivered to the state.

Approximately 478,175 doses have been delivered to public and private health care providers, outside the city of Chicago, and

109,725 doses to providers in the city of Chicago.

The federally mandated pharmacy partnership program has administered approximately 334,939 vaccinations as of Sunday night; 36,867 by pharmacy partners CVS and Walgreens, and 298,072 by the state's public and private health care providers.

Yet, Pritzker said the state is still not receiving enough vaccine doses.

"We don't even have a million doses and there are 12.7 million people in the State of Illinois," he said.

Pritzker recently joined eight other governors in urging President-elect Joe Biden to release more available vaccine doses, noting that the federal government, under President Donald Trump's administration, has been holding back enormous stores of vaccines.

The Biden administration has agreed to release nearly all available vaccines upon taking office.

Tier 3 mitigations will begin to be lifted come Friday in regions that meet certain metrics. The timeline represents a 14-day incubation period following New Year's Day.

In order to transition from Tier 3 to Tier 2, a region must experience a positivity rate below 12 percent for three consecutive days. It must also have greater than 20 percent available intensive care unit and hospital bed availability and declining COVID hospitalizations for 7 of the 10 days.

Regions began hitting Tier 2 restrictions in November, with statewide Tier 3 mitigations announced on Nov. 20. No region has been able to move back to Tier 1 restrictions after reaching Tier 2.

According to an IDPH document detailing Tier 2 restrictions, "IDPH will continue to track the positivity rate in regions requiring additional mitigations over a 14-day monitoring period to determine if mitigations can be relaxed, if additional mitigations are required, or if current mitigations should remain in place. If the positivity rate averages less than or equal to 6.5 percent over a 3-day period, the region will return to Phase 4 mitigations under the Restore Illinois Plan."

The statewide COVID-19 rolling positivity rate remained below 8 percent for the second consecutive day Monday at 7.6 percent. Illinois reported 4,776 new confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 on Monday, with 53 additional virus-related deaths.

The state is reporting a total of 1,033,526 cases for a total of 17,627 deaths across the state's 102 counties.

A total of 66,697 test results had been reported Monday. Over 14.1 million test results in the state have been reported since the pandemic began.

As of Sunday night, 3,540 people in Illinois were reported to be in hospital beds for COVID-19, an increase of 13 from the day prior, and 759 COVID-19 patients were in intensive care unit beds, an increase of 19 from the day prior. There were 401 patients reported to be on ventilators, an increase of 10 from the day prior.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

### Pastor's Corner

by Pastor Don Cox

**Life is short... Eternity is long... so you better be sure where you really want to be when you go through that last door of reality.**

**Congregational Church of Alto Pass**  
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.  
Worship-Message at 10:30 a.m.

### "The Preaching Pen" First Place

One of the most demanding and frequently ignored admonitions from Jesus Christ is found in His well-known Sermon on the Mount: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [basic needs] shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). This is one of the most challenging, and yet most neglected, directives of Christ—even by many who profess to be His loyal followers. Please consider a few thoughts relative to this verse.

"First." This adjective is used as an adverb to emphasize precedence. It signifies degree, as: "in the first place," "above all." It's the very opposite of the disposition of the man who sought to follow Christ, but said: "suffer me first to go and bury my father" (Matt. 8:21). Jesus admonished the man because he didn't recognize the **preeminence** of his Lord, not because of his love for his father. He didn't give the Lord the place He must have in one's life.

Likewise, in Luke 9:61, we find, "And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house." And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." In other words, "I'll follow you, but first let me go and say goodbye to my family." Jesus said, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." (Matt. 10:37). Do we really understand that? We ought to love our family, but we ought to love God even more, just like Abraham (Gen. 22:10).

Can we really believe that God would settle for second or third place in the lives of the crown of His creation? For the true disciple who tries to live according to the Lord's example, "it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20). Essential to the Christian's lifestyle is "deny himself, and take up his cross daily" (Luke 9:23).

So many in the world today are like the man who was going to follow Jesus, but first had to go bury his dead, or like the one who had to tell his family "goodbye" first. Man says, "Let me do some other things first - let me sort a few things out - get it together, then I'll follow you, Lord." Jesus says, "Seek God's kingdom first." Are you doing so?

R.W. McAlister, Minister  
Anna church of Christ

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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.

## Guest

Guest of Homer and Janet Hawk was their granddaughter Alison Bonner from Charleston, S.C. Alison is in her last year of law school.

## 53rd Anniversary

Ralph and Diane Blaney celebrated their wedding anniversary Jan. 13.

## 96th Birthday

Virginia Housman will celebrate her 96th birthday Jan. 20.

## Celebrating Christmas

Dorothy Mitchell celebrated Christmas for a week and half. She got to spend time with all her children.

Her stepdaughter Lori and grandson Aden Scheeter from Oran, Mo., came on the Saturday before Christmas. On Sunday her two grandsons from St. Louis Jason and Dennis came.

They took them all out to eat at Patti's and look at the decorations in Grand Rivers, Ky.

On Wednesday Dorothy's son Wayne Brown came from Ivesdale and two of his sons Allison and Sam Brown came from Carbondale.

The day before Christmas Dorothy and Wayne went for a long ride in the country. They wanted to look up Wayne's great-grandmother Alice McCommons old home place.

Christmas Day Dorothy and Wayne had dinner at Dorothy's daughter's Debbie and Mike Ayers. Sharon Gibson and her grandson

Dalton were also there. Debbie's daughter Brandy Shelton and her daughter Mac Sturgeon and her fiancé Tyler Hileman came.

Saturday after Christmas Dorothy's daughter from Boonville, Ind., came Meisha and her husband Dayna Morton and their three children Gaea, Oliver, Paxton.

Saturday afternoon Dennis and Jason came back. Meisha and family went home Sunday. Dennis and Jason stayed and Sunday night Dorothy, Debbie, Sharon and Dalton all went out to eat in Cape Girardeau. Dennis and Jason went home Monday.

## Retirement

Debbie Ayers retired from Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center after 20 years.

## Weekend Trip

Jeffery and Christy Barra enjoyed a trip to Florida.

## Birthday Celebration

Amy Mize and Shelly Cooley celebrated their birthdays with family and friends at Blue Fish Café in Dongola. Amy's birthday was Jan. 8 and Shelly's Jan. 10.

## Special Thanks

To Wilma Thomas from Norris City for giving me credit when she renewed her subscription to The Gazette-Democrat and a surprise gift subscription to her niece Christine Miller.

Also to Aaron Hart from Florida for giving me credit when he renewed his subscription to The Gazette-Democrat and a gift subscription to his cousin

Stephen Burns in St. Louis. They really enjoy reading the news and hearing about their hometown.

## Anna American Legion

A special thanks to the Anna American Legion Post No. 344 for donating a new American flag and flag pole at the DAR monument in our Anna Cemetery.

Homer Hawk, commander of the post, with the help of Mark Clary, put the new flag and pole up.

They also recently placed a new flag at the Dough Boy and a new American flag at the American Legion graves and placed new solar lights on the three flag poles there.

Our service men and women serve our country and still serve our country when they retire by doing things like this in our community. I can never thank them enough for helping me with our Honor Wreaths for Veterans ceremony.

## Anna Heights Baptist Church

Pastor Darryl Williams continued his sermon series Ruth: The Road to Redemption, this week: Beginning the Journey Back to God Ruth 1: 6-14.

Birthdays: Jan. 13th Velma Eaker and Don Laster, 14th Jason Oliver and Joni Yates, 15th Cheyanne Greer, Bill Hess, Chole McFarland, Davontae Webb, 16th Bill Pace, 17th Bucky Echols, Lowell Huckleberry.

Anniversary: Jan. 15th Gary and Donna Taylor.

Attendance for Jan. 3: Sunday morning worship 8 a.m. service 66. 10:30 service 89. Small group studies 162.

Momma Lou's Crafters will meet Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. This month's project is six handmade greeting cards. Sign up and pay \$5 by Sunday, Jan. 24.

## Birthday Celebration

Happy birthday to Cindy Walker. She was honored on her birthday Jan. 9 with a dinner in Cape Girardeau with her husband Jim, daughter Maelin and friend Luke Sadler.

## Special Thanks

Janna Harner did the Reindeer Run in November for the Anna Arts Center and ringing the bells for the Salvation Army before Christmas. She has been working from home.

## 101st Birthday

Bernice Dempsey celebrated her birthday Dec. 21.

## United Methodist Church, Anna

Rev. Tim Gossett sermon Sunday was Baptism of the Lord with scripture from Mark.

Carla Anderson played the organ and sang special music. Lord of the Dance, Spirit Song, Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow, On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand, Shall We Gather at the River.

A special thanks to Myra Gossett for recording the message for Facebook and the website.

A special thanks to all who work with Loaves and Fishes that will be Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Congratulations to Natilyn Corbit at your first club volleyball tournament in St. Louis.

## Birthday Celebration

Rosemary Dillow celebrated her birthday with family and friends over the weekend.

## Florida

Talked to Aaron Hart from Florida, formerly for Anna. He said Florida was colder than he had seen it in the 11 years he had lived there. It was in the 40s the day I talked to him.

## Wedding Anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Flamm celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary Jan. 4. Cindy and Jim Walker celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary Jan. 5.

## Art Work

Marie Samuel's December window display at LEAA in Marion is continuing for January.

There is a high school show and competition there this month. Only eight schools have entered so far. They can't have their usual reception for the students because of the restrictions.

Marie is enjoying hearing from quilter friends who share links to learn new art and quilting techniques. Staying mostly at home means people are looking for more information, and ways to learn are changing for older as well as young folks.

## Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Jan. 9 was a special day to thank our law enforcement. Please keep them in your prayers everyday. They are always there for



A special thanks to Anna American Legion Post No. 344 for donating a new American flag and flag pole at the DAR monument in our Anna Cemetery. Homer Hawk, the commander of the post, with the help of Mark Clary, put the new flag and pole up.



Alison Bonner, granddaughter of Homer and Janet Hawk, enjoyed visiting Anna and getting her picture made at the Angel wings at Annabelle Market.



Marshall Burns and his grandson Dalton Bowles celebrated their birthdays together on Marshall's 79th birthday Jan. 9. Dalton turned 14 Dec. 12.



Mr. and Mrs. Collin Boyd will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Alice Foreman married Collin on Jan. 14, 1961, at the United Methodist Church in Anna. They have been blessed with three children, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



On Jan. 3, David and Lori Ray called Miss Taytum Ray and family to wish Taytum a happy 8th birthday. Taytum is the daughter of Corrie, David and Lori's godson and his wife Brooke of Lawrenceville. David and Lori visited the family in December and had a pre-birthday pizza party for Tatum's upcoming birthday.



On Tuesday, Jan. 5, Lori and David Ray's niece Jamie (Baity) Olson and 16 month old daughter Emery visited Lori and David. David brought Lori's sister Lynn over to share in the visit. Lori fixed breakfast and lunch for everyone. Christmas gifts were exchanged since Jamie, husband Brandon and Emery were in Florida over the Christmas holiday. The visit went quickly but many pictures were taken to commemorate the day.



Robert Herman French who was killed on Guam in WWII.

Steven R. Bauer for Curtis L. Adams. From Alice Kerns for a Veteran that doesn't have anyone to buy for him in memory of Alice brother Cardwell Joiner who is buried in Springfield.

Sharon Dillow for 5 wreaths 4 for Veterans who have no one to buy for them in our Anna Cemetery and 1 for her father Miles David Kerby who is buried in Camp Ground Cemetery.

Jimmy and Deborah Walker 5 wreaths, for Steven Hill, Bud Hill, and 3 wreaths for Veterans that have no one to buy for them.

Cara Follis 1 wreath for a Veteran that has no one to buy for them. Crystal Gurdley 5 wreaths for Veterans who don't have anyone to buy for them.

Bob and Betty Caraker for Bob's dad Curtis M Caraker. Richard and Evelyn Gillespie 2 wreaths for

Richard's dad Clarence Gillespie and a Veteran that doesn't have anyone to buy for them.

Jim and Sandy Carter 2 wreaths for Jim's dad Everett "Buck" Carter in Anna Cemetery and Sandy's dad Hubert L Clover in Grand Tower Cemetery.

Kenneth and Carol Sue Dillow for 12 wreaths, 2 of them for their brother in laws D.G. Sanders, (Duffy) Army Korean War and Edward Kawpas Army Air Corps World War II and the other 10 for Veterans that has no one buried in Hillcrest addition at Anna Cemetery.

Judy Gurthie for her husband Ronnie. Aaron Hart from Florida for Aaron W. Hart, James "Jim" McNamee, Gilbert Knupp, and Thomas Coffman.

All these wreaths will be matched by Wreaths Across America for Veterans who have no one to buy for them.

If you plan to buy a wreath for our Honor

Wreaths for Veterans Ceremony December 2021 now is the time to buy your wreath but you will have to hurry tomorrow Jan. 15, is the deadline to get the matched wreath by Wreaths Across America.

Take your check made out to Honor Wreaths for Veterans to Anna City Hall and ask them to put in my mailbox there. Thanks so much.

Our goal is to cover every Veterans grave this 2021. Our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach. We live in the land of the free because of these brave men. The wreaths are \$15 each.

You will be able to buy a wreath all year but the buy one match one will be over after Jan. 15 for this year.

A special thanks to all our Veterans who are retired and our service men and women serving our country now. Past, Present and Future.

Caring for Our Veterans

In communicating with Carol A. Jablonski GFWC Illinois of the strategic planning committee communications and public relations committee from Springfield about turning in an article for the Womens Club State Magazine she was reading about our Honor Wreaths for Veterans at our Anna Cemetery.

She told me her dad was a Korea War veteran, and was at the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno for almost three years before succumbing to Parkinson's last October.

She said she couldn't say enough good things about the care he received there. It's always so nice to hear that our veterans are being cared for at our state homes.

**Anna VFW**  
Thursday, Jan. 14, the Post will not meet. The Auxiliary will have a short meeting at 6 p.m. to drape the charter in memory of 3 members who passed away, pay the bills and take

care of any other business that needs to be taken care of.

Friday, Jan. 15, the Post will have a drive thru fish fry dinner from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Call 833-5182 no later than noon on Friday, Jan. 15, to reserve your meal and pick up time. Pull up under the awning in front of the building, give your name and they will bring your fresh hot meal out to you. Anyone can order these meals for a donation of \$10.

**Sympathy**  
Sympathy to the family of George Warren. George was a member of the Kiwanis Club working with many projects to help the youth of our community.

He and his wife Linda were the owners of T & I Office Supplies and Equipment for many years.

George made appearances as Abraham Lincoln at many gatherings over the years telling about Abraham's life and work. George was an asset to our

community and will be missed.

Sympathy to the family of Bobby Joe Hines. We worked with Bobby at Choate Mental Health.

**Military Prayer List**  
Trace Faire, John Michael Brimm, Kaleb Meier, Nathaniel Moss, Derek Nelson, Nick Pearson, Nate Frankell, Alex Gratz, Lukas W. Davis, Reagan Morrison, Garrett Goins, James McWhorter, Jennifer Ann Bishop, Arin Whitemountain, Katelynn Williams, Lindsey Keene, Jacob Schaefer, Jerod Schaefer, Creighton Laster, Josh Steveson, Josh Williams, Jim Bonner, Nick Harvel, Nona Elizabeth Luke, Lucas J. Strickland, William Nathaniel Frankell, Ethan Maze, Tanner Anderson, Hayden Young, Kiefer Stull, Davis Jordan Glasco, Ryan Hampton, Brittany Michelle Lence, Killian Jesse, Molly Noyes, C.J. Youngerman, Freddy Morse and wife Megan in Alaska.

# Television Listings

## THURSDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>6 PM</b> :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Local	Local Programs	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD) Law & Order: SVU	SVU (HD)	Raven Raven	"Flags of Fathers" (07)	"The Kingdom" (07)	(:20) "Tommy Boy" (95) <i>Duo saves business.</i>
<b>7 PM</b> :30	Celebrity Wheel of Fortune	Young B Positive	Hell's Kitchen (HD)	Mr. Mayor Superstore	Featured "Movie"	Bang (HD) Go-Big Show	Law & Order: SVU	Jessie Jessie	★★★ "The King of Staten Island" (20) (R) (HD)	"Pearl Harbor" (01) Ben Affleck. WWII pilots fight for a woman's love.	"National Lampoon's Animal House" (78)
<b>8 PM</b> :30	The Chase (HD)	(:01) Mom Unicorn	Call Me Man (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		Bang (HD)		BUNCK'D BUNCK'D			
<b>9 PM</b> :30	The Hustler	Star Trek: Discovery	Local Programs Local info.	Dateline NBC (HD)	SportsCenter	Bang (HD)		Big City BUNCK'D	(:20) 30 Coins "The Mirror" (HD)		
<b>10 PM</b> :30	Local Jimmy Kimmel Live	Local (:35) Late Show (HD)		Local (:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Conan Go-Big Show	"Olympus Has Fallen" Missing president. (R)	BUNCK'D Sydney	"Midway" (19) Battle of Midway.	(:05) "Blackhat" (18) Hacker eyes villain. (HD)	"BELUSHI" (20) The life of John Belushi.
<b>11 PM</b> :30	Nightline	Corden	Local Programs	Late Night	SportsCenter (HD)	Conan		Jessie			

## JANUARY 14, 2021

## THURSDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>7:00pm</b>											
<b>ABC Celebrity Wheel of Fortune</b>											
<b>8:00pm</b>											
<b>FOX Call Me Kat</b>											

## FRIDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>6 PM</b> :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	SportsCenter (HD)	Fam Guy ★½ "Big Momma's House" (00) FBI stakeout.	Law & Order: SVU	Big City Big City	(4:50) "Harriet" (19)	"The Hunt" (20) (HD)	"Equals" Illegal love.
<b>7 PM</b> :30	Shark Tank (HD)	Hawaii Five-0 (HD)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (Live) (HD)	Figure Skating (Live) (HD)	Featured "Movie"	(:45) ★★ "Baggage Claim" (13, Comedy) Woman's search.	Law & Order: SVU	Secrets	"The High Note" (20, Drama) A singer. (HD)	"Unbreakable" (00, Drama) (HD)	★★★ "The Lobster" (15) Mate in 45 days. (HD)
<b>8 PM</b> :30	(:01) 20/20 Investigative news. (HD)	Magnum P.I. (HD)	Local Programs Local info.			(:45) SportsCenter (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	(:05) Secrets	Real Time Maher (HD)	(:48) "Snake Eyes" (98) Conspiracy unfolds.	"The Gentlemen" (20) American expatriate.
<b>9 PM</b> :30	Local	Local		Local (:35) Tonight (HD)	(:45) SportsCenter (HD)	ELEAGUE (HD)	Family	BUNCK'D BUNCK'D	Tiger "Part I" Tiger Woods. (HD)	"Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" (12)	The Circus Shameless
<b>10 PM</b> :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Late Night	SportsCenter (HD)		Family	Jessie	Real Time		
<b>11 PM</b> :30	Nightline	Corden	Local Programs				Family	Jessie			

## JANUARY 15, 2021

## FRIDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>7:00pm</b>											
<b>CBS Hawaii Five-0</b>											
<b>9:00pm</b>											
<b>SHOW The Gentlemen</b>											

## SATURDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>6 PM</b> :30	Scoreboard	Local	Local	Local Programs	The Last Dance	★★½ "Uncle Drew" (18, Comedy) Old players.	Chicago P.D. (HD)	Big City Big City	(4:40) "Hobbs" (19)	"Ready or Not" (19)	Shameless "NIMBY"
<b>7 PM</b> :30	College Football "Teams TBA" (Live) (HD)	NFL Today	The Masked Dancer	Games (HD)	The Last Dance		Chicago P.D. (HD)	Big City Big City	"Kill Bill: Vol. 1" (03) Revenge spree. (R) (HD)	"The Talented Mr. Ripley" (99, Thriller) (R) (HD)	★★½ "Resistance" (20) Man recruited. (R) (HD)
<b>8 PM</b> :30			(:02) Name That Tune	Dateline NBC (HD)	The Last Dance	"Central Intelligence" (16) Unlikely partners.	Chicago P.D. (HD)	Big City Big City		(:20) "Going in Style" (17) Bank heist. (HD)	"Dallas Buyers Club" (13) Man with HIV. (R)
<b>9 PM</b> :30			Local Programs Local info.	Sat. Night Live (HD)	The Last Dance	Frontal	Chicago P.D. (HD)	Unsitatable	(:51) "Kill Bill: Vol. 2" (04) Trail of revenge.		
<b>10 PM</b> :30	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	Cosmos	Local Sat. Night Live Sketch comedy.	SportsCenter (HD)	Go-Big Show	Family	Unsitatable			
<b>11 PM</b> :30	Local Programs		Local Programs		SportsCenter (HD)	Go-Big	Family	Jessie	30 Coins "The Mirror"	"La La Land" (16)	Shameless "NIMBY"

## JANUARY 16, 2021

## SATURDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>7:00pm</b>											
<b>SHOW Resistance</b>											
<b>8:00pm</b>											
<b>TBS Central Intelligence</b>											

## SUNDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>6 PM</b> :30	Videos <i>Arm is caught.</i>	60 Minutes (HD)	Simpsons Burgers	Weakest Link (HD)	TBA (HD)	(5:30) "Central Intelligence" (16)	Law & Order: SVU	Jessie BUNCK'D	"The Invisible Man" (20) A controlling man.	(5:16) ★★ "Cake" (15)	Shameless "NIMBY"
<b>7 PM</b> :30	Who Wants to Be a	NCIS: L. A. (HD)	Simpsons Simpsons	The Wall (HD)	High School Basketball (Live)		Law & Order: SVU	BUNCK'D BUNCK'D		"Wanderlust" Alternative living.	The Circus The Circus
<b>8 PM</b> :30	Card Sharks (HD)	NCIS: New Orleans	Burgers Fam Guy	To Be Announced	ESPN Original	★★★ "Black Panther" (18) African king is challenged by a rival. (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Secrets	Tiger "Part II" (HD)	(:40) "Horrible Bosses" (11) (HD)	Your Honor (HD)
<b>9 PM</b> :30	The Rookie "La Fiera"	NCIS Military crimes.	Local Programs Local info.	Law & Order: SVU	NFL Rewind		Law & Order: SVU	Jessie	(:45) Tiger "Part I" Rise to fame.	(:18) "CHiPs" (17, Comedy) Unlikely partners.	Your Honor (HD)
<b>10 PM</b> :30	Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs		Local Programs Local info.	SportsCenter (HD)	Go-Big Show Special talents.	Family	BUNCK'D BUNCK'D		(:15) Tiger "Part II"	The Circus Shameless
<b>11 PM</b> :30	(:35) Local	Local Programs	Local		SportsCenter (HD)		Family	Jessie			

## JANUARY 17, 2021

## SUNDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>7:30pm</b>											
<b>TBS Black Panther</b>											
<b>8:00pm</b>											
<b>ABC The Rookie</b>											

## MONDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>6 PM</b> :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Local	Local Programs	College Basketball Florida State vs Louisville	"The Equalizer" (14)	Law & Order: SVU	(4:55) "Movie"	(:05) "Kill Bill: Vol. 1" (03) Revenge spree. (R)	"Open Range" (03)	"Dark Water" (HD)
<b>7 PM</b> :30	The Bachelor (HD)	Neighbor. Bob Hearts	9-1-1 Dam breaks.	The Voice Hopefuls coached. (HD)		(:15) "Black Panther" (18) African king is challenged by a rival. (HD)	WWE Monday Night Raw (T) (HD)	Raven Raven		"The Haunted House"	Your Honor (HD)
<b>8 PM</b> :30		Let's Make a Deal	(:01) 9-1-1: Lone Star		College Basketball Kansas vs Baylor (Live)			Raven Raven	30 Coins "Memories"	(:46) "Dream House" (11) (HD)	Shameless (HD)
<b>9 PM</b> :30	The Good Doctor	Bull "To Save a Life"	Local Programs Local info.	Weakest Link (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	Jessie	"The Photograph" Famous photographer.	(:20) "Belly" (98) DMX. Friends become foes.	★★★ "Hereditary" (18) Sinister ancestry. (HD)
<b>10 PM</b> :30	Local	Local		Local (:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Conan	Family	Jessie		30 Coins "Memories"	(:10) Your Honor (HD)
<b>11 PM</b> :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Late Night	SC (HD)	Conan	Family	Jessie			
<b>11 PM</b> :30	Nightline	Corden	Local Programs		SC (HD)		Family	Jessie			

## JANUARY 18, 2021

## MONDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>7:00pm</b>											
<b>FOX 9-1-1</b>											
<b>8:00pm</b>											
<b>HBO 30 Coins</b>											

## TUESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
<b>6 PM</b> :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	The Last Dance	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	(4:55) "Movie"	Real Time Maher (HD)	(4:55) "Blackhat" (15)	(4:55) "Batman" (89)
<b>7 PM</b> :30	★★★½ "Cinderella" (15) Abused lady aided.	NCIS "Sunburn" (HD)	The Resident (HD)	The Voice (HD)	The Last Dance	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	TBA (HD)	★★ "Swimfan" Obsessive student.	"King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" (17)	Your Honor (HD)
<b>8 PM</b> :30		NCIS Crusade apex.	(:01) Prodigal Son	This Is Us (HD)	"Movie"	Bang (HD) Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	BUNCK'D			Inside the NFL (HD)
<b>9 PM</b> :30	Call Your Connors	FBI: Most Wanted	Local Programs Local info.	Transplant (HD)		Bang (HD) The Misery	Law & Order: SVU	Undercover Liv Maddie	Tiger "Part II" (HD)	"The Doors" (91) The story of the '60s rock band is told.	Shameless (HD)
<b>10 PM</b> :30	Local	Local		Local (:35) Tonight (HD)	SC (HD)	Conan	Family	Liv Maddie	30 Coins "Memories"		Inside the NFL (HD)
<b>11 PM</b> :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Late Night	SportsCenter (HD)	Go-Big Show	Family	Liv Maddie	"Staten Island" (20)	"Rambo"	"Full Metal Jacket"
<b>11 PM</b> :30	Nightline	Corden	Local Programs		SC (HD)		Family	Jessie			



### April 2020: Sign at entrance to Choate Center

A sign seen in early April at the North Main Street entrance to the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna noted that no visitors were being allowed at the facility in the midst of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic.

## BIG program helps small businesses

Illinois officials on Friday, Jan. 8, announced more than \$275 million in nearly 9,000 emergency assistance grants have been made to small businesses in over 600 cities and towns statewide through the Business Interruption Grants, BIG, program.

The funding was announced by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, DCEO, and Gov. JB Pritzker.

Small businesses in Union County are among those receiving emergency assistance grant funds.

Those receiving grants in Union County included Sinisi's on Main in Anna, the Shawnee Hills Arts Council in Anna, The Kitchen on Lafayette in Anna, Abbey Ridge LLC (Downtown Abbey) in Cobden, Lincoln Heritage Winery (which is located between Anna and Cobden) and Feather Vines LLC (Feather Hills Vineyard & Winery) in Makanda/Union County.

State officials said that through the BIG program, the largest of its kind in the nation, grants have been made available to a wide range of small businesses, with a focus on the industries and communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis, and with the majority of funding going to smaller and minority-owned businesses.

Friday's announcement marked the conclusion of the BIG program, which was created by the governor and the General Assembly to assist Illinois' hardest

### Timothy Merriman earns degree

Timothy Merriman of Anna was among 291 students at Bethel University in McKenzie, Tenn., who completed the requirements for 2020 fall graduation.

Merriman earned a bachelor of science degree, with honors.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, commencement for the graduates will take place in conjunction with the spring commencement in May 2021.

"Graduation is a special time," said Bethel University president Walter Butler. "It's a celebration of a culmination of commitment, hard work and learning. I am so proud of these young men and women and excited for the impact that they will have in their careers, communities and families."

hit businesses with making ends meet during the pandemic.

"Small businesses are the backbone of their local communities, providing essential goods and services to Illinois residents across the state," the governor said in a news release.

"Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, too many of those businesses are facing tough choices about the future, which is why my administration worked quickly to launch the historic BIG program to provide the relief business owners need.

"Through BIG, the state was able to provide nearly 9,000 grants to small businesses in every corner of the state, with nearly half of all grants going to businesses in industries and communities hardest hit by COVID-19.

Over \$275 million in funding has been dispersed, allowing businesses to make payroll, purchase PPE, and cover other necessary operational costs.

"While the BIG program has now concluded, my administration continues to provide other relief programming for Illinois businesses and families impacted by COVID-19," the governor said.

Using an equity framework created by the Pritzker administration and the General Assembly, the BIG program sought to ensure that the hardest hit businesses and communities would be prioritized for small business grants provided using federal CARES Act dollars.

As a result, nearly half, or over 4,200 awards, were made to businesses located in disproportionately impacted areas, DIAs.

More than 80 percent, or over 7,300 awards, were

### Vaccine scam alert issued

People throughout Illinois are urged to be on alert for scams related to the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

As the general public begins to receive doses of the vaccines manufactured by Pfizer and Moderna, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office is cautioning people to be alert for scams and theft of personally identifiable information.

Individuals who have questions or need to report a scam can call the attorney general's consumer fraud hotline at 1-800-243-0607 (Carbondale), or they can file an online complaint.

made to businesses with \$1 million or less in annual revenues; and 40 percent, or over 3,600 awards, were made to minority-owned businesses statewide.

Additionally, \$105 million or 3,100 awards were provided to downstate communities.

"Through the historic BIG program, we are proud to have helped thousands of deserving businesses with assistance that will help them continue to make payroll, afford operational costs, and make ends meet during these unprecedented times," said DCEO director Erin Guthrie.

"With equity a cornerstone of Governor Pritzker's response to COVID-19, our BIG grantees represent the hardest hit industries, the hardest hit communities, and among the smallest and most vulnerable businesses affected by the pandemic.

"We thank our community and grant partners for their tireless work over the past several months, and we stand committed to assisting more small businesses impacted in the months ahead."

The hardest hit industry sectors are among the largest beneficiaries of this program, including restaurants and taverns; gyms and fitness centers; museums; performing arts venues, event venues, concert venues; and indoor recreation.

Businesses located in downstate communities were also prioritized for funding.

Nearly half of all funds went to restaurants and taverns, with 3,747 grants totaling more than \$133 million dollars.

More than 2,700 grants were made to other heavily impacted industries.

BIG grants average \$30,000 in size. Grants were tailored in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$150,000, according to the amount of loss incurred.

The funds may be used toward reimbursing losses due to COVID and operational expenses, including PPE, rent and utilities, payroll and more.

To receive BIG grants, businesses were required to demonstrate they experienced losses due to COVID-19, and that annual revenues in 2019 did not exceed \$20 million.

To administer this unprecedented program quickly and efficiently, DCEO partnered with Accion Serving Illinois and Indiana and the Women's

Business Development Center, WBDC, to launch a streamlined online application process to respond to the urgent demands facing businesses.

Thousands of applications were reviewed each week, and more than 50,000 were reviewed in total before the program closed.

Given the extended nature of the crisis, DCEO maintained a rolling application to ensure that small businesses in every part of the state had ample opportunity to apply and receive grant funding, with many businesses awarded funds in the final weeks of 2020.

To help small, minority-owned and hard to reach businesses gain access to the program, DCEO partnered with a dozen community organizations to conduct outreach and technical assistance for businesses seeking funding.

Community outreach efforts complemented efforts by DCEO's own statewide network of 42 Small Business Development Centers, regional economic development liaisons and business development directors in the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment who partnered with community leaders, chambers, and legislators to conduct over 200 webinars, 1:1 Technical assistance, and calls reaching over 15,000 businesses throughout the course of the program.

Additionally, the BIG program has allowed DCEO to provide loan forgiveness totaling \$7 million for over 200 businesses that received low-interest loans through the Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan program.

The Department of Agriculture is processing applications for up to \$5 million in business interruption grants through the livestock facility grant program.

The BIG program is one part of over \$1 billion in emergency assistance programs awarded by the State of Illinois in response to the economic crisis created by COVID-19.

The programs have collectively provided financial assistance to thousands of businesses and communities across the state, through programs including the \$250 million Local CURE program, \$325 million through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and over \$580 million distributed to small business and childcare providers through the BIG program.

## Annual IDOT contest supports innovative ideas

An idea to help conserve deicing materials and a tool that assists engineers and designers in improving safety are the winners of the Illinois Department of Transportation's third annual Innovative Ideas Contest.

The contest is a statewide initiative that brings IDOT employees together to share creative solutions to common problems, with the winning ideas selected on their ability to save money and improve safety.

"Our department is as innovative as they come because of employees who show up for work each day with a goal of doing the best job possible every time," said acting IDOT Secretary Omer Osman.

"I applaud our employees for their creativity on top of their hard work on behalf of the public."

While the COVID-19 pandemic delayed this year's contest, typically held in March, it did not diminish its success.

Seventy-five ideas were submitted by employees in two tracks: technical and operations.

Projects were evaluated by size and scope of the problem addressed, creativity in coming up with a solution, ability to be implemented statewide and potential to save time, money or other valuable resources for the state.

The operations grand champion was the District

6 Carlinville Team Section, with the tank level light.

This innovation places sealed LED lights in the lids of tanks that hold deicing chemicals on snowplow trucks.

The lights illuminate fluid levels when the tanks are filled at night.

IDOT said this idea has the potential to save thousands of dollars by preventing deicing material spills at minimal expense. The lights cost just \$38 to make from simple parts which are available at any auto parts store.

For the technical track, Dixon's District 2 Bureau of Program Development's crash analysis tool took top honors.

The tool is a program developed using existing software to identify traffic safety problem areas by quickly producing visual representations of potential trends.

The program reduces processing time by more than 90 percent and helps designers make better judgments about how to improve safety.

Twenty-three finalists displayed their work in November through a virtual showcase.

To see videos of the ideas in action, visit IDOT's YouTube account at youtube.com/user/IllinoisDOT. The videos were filmed before the COVID-19 pandemic hit Illinois.

## Capture your life story in free writing workshop

Recording your life story, treasured memories, and special moments can leave a legacy for your family for generations to come. Everyone has a unique and individual story to tell.

Start writing yours with a little help from University of Illinois Extension in a free, eight-week online workshop called "Life's Moments: From Memory to Legacy."

"There is something special about this class, a bonding over shared stories. When people share their stories, they trigger memories for others to write about," says Chelsey Byers, a University of Illinois Extension family life educator.

The workshop series is scheduled to begin Jan. 19 and is open to adults over 18 years of age at all writing levels.

No previous experience is necessary to participate, and participants will write at their own pace using their own writing tools, either

pencil and paper or a digital device.

Weekly sessions are planned online every Tuesday from Jan. 19 to March 9, from 11 a.m. to noon (CST).

The eight-week series leads participants through prompts and exercises to trigger meaningful life memories.

Byers compares the process to making a quilt; by the final session, participants will have developed a collection of moments, ideas, and stories that come together to create their life legacy and family heritage they can pass down for generations.

Registration for the free workshop is available online at <https://go.illinois.edu/write2021>.

Email access is required to receive registration confirmation, session joining information, writing prompts, homework and other relevant updates.

## Southeast Missouri State names fall semester dean's list students

Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau has named fall semester dean's list students.

Students named to the dean's list earned at least a 3.75 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, completed at least 12 hours of standard graded credit, achieved no grade below a B and received no failing grades in enrolled, credit/no credit or pass/fail courses.

Students from the Union County area who were named to the dean's list include:

Molly Adams, Anna. Morgan Bass, Cobden. Clair Boget, Anna. Kenzie Boget, Anna. Morgan Bunch, Jonesboro.

Zach Clardy, Jonesboro. Delaney Cummins, Dongo-

la. Hannah DeWitt, Anna. Lydia Dover, Anna. Savannah Edwards, Anna.

Hannah Falgout, Cobden. Zoe Fuhrhop, Alto Pass. Cameron Grob, Carbondale. Justyn Harvel, Jonesboro. Britni Helton, Jonesboro. Justin Hotwagner, McClure.

Brittany Johnson, Anna. Morgan Keller, Anna. Nolan Knupp, Jonesboro. Alyssa Kohler, Jonesboro. Gracey Lyerla, Alto Pass.

Anna Mattheis, Jonesboro. Penny McFarland, Anna. Tanner Stadelbacher, Anna. Megan Tehandon, Jonesboro.

Jaryt Tripp, Anna. Emma Tweedy, Anna. Jenna Watkins, Anna. Sydney Windings, Cobden. Morgan Wright, Buncombe.

# The Gazette-Democrat

## Classified Section

Phone: 618-833-2158 • Fax: 618-833-5813  
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### CLASSIFIED RATES

Classifieds ..... 30¢ per word  
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**FIBERGLASS FOR SALE:**  
Corrugated, 26" wide, 8/10/12 ft. long, 8 ft. equals \$6.50. 12 ft. equals \$10.00. Large supply, all colors. Call (618)-827-4737.

gptfn

### BUCK-A-BOOK

**Books, Books, and More Books #6 is liquidating all in stock materials at \$1.00 per book/items** beginning January 2 and ending January 31. Packrat's Paradise Antique Mall, Cobden, Illinois, next to Dollar General  
Hours: Thursday-Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

4-7gc

**FOR SALE:** Small round table and 4 chairs, \$125.00 firm. Call or text (618)-521-8049.  
5gp tfn

**FOR SALE:** 43" Sanyo TV, \$75.00. Call (618)-697-3976.  
5gp

## FOR RENT

**FOR RENT DONGOLA:** 2 bedroom mobile home. Available now. Call (618)-827-4705.

1gp tfn

## WANTED

**LOOKING FOR A 3 BEDROOM HOUSE OR MOBILE HOME TO RENT** in Union County. Nothing fancy, but must be pet friendly, in a country setting. Call (618)-614-2886.

4-5gp

## YARD SALE

**UNION COUNTY GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO YARD/GARAGE SALES:**  
1. Social Distancing must be exercised.  
2. Please wear a mask and/or other protective clothing.  
3. No more than 10 people at one time permitted.  
tfn

**\*CLEARANCE SALE:\* REPPERT'S OFFICE SUPPLY, 112 LAFAYETTE STREET, ANNA. MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M. File Folders, Cards, Stamps, Lots of Misc. Supplies. All Sales Final.**  
tfn

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE UNDER ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME ACT

State of Illinois  
SS  
County of Union

Notice is hereby given pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Name in the conduct or Transaction of Business in the State," as Amended that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Union County. Filed this 28th day of December, 2020, under the Assumed Name of Custom Craft Woodworking with the place of business located at 4590 Burns Road, Dongola, Illinois 62926 and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the sole owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of said Business is:

Ethan J. Hostetter  
4590 Burns Road  
Dongola, IL 62926  
3-5gc

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

ESTATE OF WILLIAM L. MUSGRAVE, SR., IN PROBATE DECEASED. NO. 2020-P-48

### NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of William L. Musgrave, Sr., of 104 Thomas Drive, Cobden, IL 62920. Letters of Office were issued on December 18, 2020, to Randy Musgrave, 215 Apple Lane, Anna, IL 62906, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Judith A. Ray, 215 Apple Lane, Anna, IL 62906.

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 Independen-

dent 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 West Market, Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before January 29, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: December 27, 2020.

RANDY MUSGRAVE

JUDITH A. RAY  
ATTORNEY NO. 6287164  
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER  
215 APPLE LANE  
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906  
PHONE: 618-713-5450  
4-6g

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

ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK, a National Chartered Bank, Plaintiff,

Vs  
LORRAINE KARRAKER,

THE FIRST STATE BANK OF DONGOLA, MICHAEL WAYNE GEE II, SHERRY GEE, SHAUN CHRISTOPHER GEE, SARAH ELIZABETH (GEE) COONCE, QUENTIN COONCE, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.  
Case No.: 2020CH17

### PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, Lorraine Karraker, The First State Bank of Dongola, Michael Wayne Gee II, Sherry Gee, Shaun Christopher Gee, Sarah Elizabeth (Gee) Coonce, Quentin Coonce, 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:

#### EXHIBIT 'A'

PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SAID QUARTER-QUARTER; THENCE SOUTH 0°-43' WEST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE SAID QUARTER-QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 467.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89°-42' WEST PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF THE SAID QUARTER-QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 467.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 0°-43' EAST PARALLEL WITH THE EAST LINE OF THE SAID QUARTER-QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 467.00 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE SAID QUARTER-QUARTER; THEN NORTH 89°-42' EAST ALONG THE SAID NORTH LINE A DISTANCE OF 467.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THE TRACT CONTAINING 5.00 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND BEING SUBJECT TO AND HAVING THE USE OF AN EXISTING INGRESS AND EGRESS EASEMENT AS RECORDED IN BOOK

68, PAGES 557-560, AND ALSO BEING SUBJECT TO EXISTING 20 FEET WIDE INGRESS AND EGRESS EASEMENTS ALONG THE NORTH AND EAST LINES OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT. PER PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY CHARLES L. GARNER, ILLINOIS LAND SURVEYOR NO. 2316, RECORDED ON MAY 17, 2004, IN RECORD BOOK 247 AT PAGE 709 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

ALSO CONVEYING TO THE GRANTEE, THEIR SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS A 20-FOOT WIDE EASEMENT FOR WATER METER AND WATERLINE PURPOSES, WITH THE RIGHT TO MAINTAIN, REPAIR, OR REPLACE THE SAME AS MAY BE NECESSARY. IN ITS PRESENT LOCATION, THE WATER METER BEING LOCATED NEAR THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF A 28.661 ACRE TRACT CONVEYED BY WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN RECORD BOOK 246 AT PAGES 534-536 AND NEAR CASPER CHURCH ROAD, WITH THE WATERLINE RUNNING UNDER GROUND SURFACE IN A GENERALLY EASTERLY DIRECTION TO THE RESIDENCE LOCATED ON THE HEREIN CONVEYED 5.00 ACRE M/L TRACT. (SEE WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN RECORD BOOK 246 AT PAGES 534-536 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF UNION COUNTY, 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, Lorraine Karraker, The First State Bank of Dongola, Michael Wayne Gee II, Sherry Gee, Shaun Christopher Gee, Sarah Elizabeth (Gee) Coonce, Quentin Coonce, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, file your answer to the Complaint in the suit, or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, in the County Courthouse in the City of Jonesboro, Illinois, on or before the 14th Day of February 2021, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Keri E. Clark  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Prepared by:  
JOHN R. SCHNEIDER JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C.  
212 North Main Street  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
Tel: (573) 335-3300  
Fax: (573) 335-1978  
5-7g

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

ESTATE OF GERALD BERRY, DECEASED 2020P51 IN PROBATE

### CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of GERALD BERRY, 792 North Main Street, Anna, IL 62906.

Letters of Office were issued on December 29, 2020, to JERILYN BERRY MILLER of 392 Clear Springs Lane, Hillsboro, IL 62049, whose attorney is Bill

## Now Hiring

**Office Assistant. Full-time. Spanish a plus!**  
Qualifications: Trustworthy, good work ethic, good computer and office writing skills, ability to work with others, problem solver and detail focused. We offer a positive work environment, some flexibility in slower season, variety in work and training.  
Busiest months are May thru Oct. Pay and hours dependent on skill set.

Email questions and resumes to:  
hello@rendlemanorchards.com

CD

5GP

Nichelson.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, Illinois 62952, or with the representative or both, within six (6) months from the date of first publication of this notice, which is July 15, 2021, or within three (3) months from the date of the mailing of this notice, whichever is later, and 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 representative(s) and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

"E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office."

JERILYN BERRY MILLER, Executor

Prepared by:  
Bill Nichelson #6237771  
Attorney at Law  
1330 N. Springfield St.  
P.O. Box 290  
Virden, IL 62690  
(217) 965-1400  
nichelsonlaw@gmail.com  
5-7g

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

ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK, a National Chartered Bank, Plaintiff,

vs

MICHAEL BAKER, LISA BAKER, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TAX LIEN, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.  
Case No.:

### PUBLICATION NOTICE

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

#### Legal Description

LOTS NUMBERED FIFTEEN (15) AND SIXTEEN (16) IN MCELHANEY'S HEIRS SECOND ADDITION TO THE TOWN (NOW CITY) OF JONESBORO, UNION COUNTY, 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, Michael Baker, Lisa Baker, State of Illinois Department of Revenue Tax Lien, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, file your answer to the Complaint in the suit, or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, in the County Courthouse in the City of Jonesboro, Illinois, on or before the Day of, 2021, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Keri E. Clark  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Prepared by:  
JOHN R. SCHNEIDER JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C.  
212 North Main Street  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
Tel: (573) 335-3300  
Fax: (573) 335-1978  
5-7g

## NOTICE

Preston Levee & Drainage District will be accepting bids for mowing. The successful candidate must have their own Worker's Comp Insurance and must attend the bid meeting for details on Tuesday, January 19, at 12:30 p.m. in the Wolf Lake Community Center.

4gp-5g

## NOTICE

Clear Creek Levee & Drainage District will be accepting bids for mowing. The successful candidate must have their own Worker's Comp Insurance and must attend the bid meeting for details on Tuesday, March 17, at 12:30 p.m. in the Wolf Lake Community Center.

4gp-5g

## NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

To All Owners and Occupiers of Lands Lying Within the Boundaries of The Union County Soil and Water Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on the 9th day of February, 2021 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., at the Union County USDA Service Center, 201 Springfield Avenue, Anna IL 62906. Two (2) Directors will be elected to serve the Union County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

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

Carlyn Light, Chairman  
Union County Soil and Water Conservation District  
DATE: December 28th, 2020

4p-5g, 6p-7g

*Need some extra cash? Sell what you don't need in the classifieds. To place your ad in The Gazette-Democrat call (618) 833-2158*

# Obituaries

## Bobby Joe Hines

Bobby Joe Hines, 67, of Anna, died peacefully at his home on Jan. 7, 2021, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

Family and friends came to celebrate his birthday with him on Jan. 6, the day before his passing. He left this Earth knowing that he was loved and will be missed by many.

He was born on Jan. 6, 1954, in Anna, and was the fourth of five children born to Loren W. Hines and Olive L. Boyer Hines.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Dianne Hines, of Anna; two children: a daughter, Hillary Hines-Holl (Tim) of Anna/Clinton, and a stepson, Billy Joe "B.J." Colson (Shelby) of Anna; two grandchildren Billy Joe of Murray, Ky., and Lillian Grace of Anna; siblings Lennie "Jerry" Hines (Diane) of Kansas City, Mo., John Hines of Anna, Debby Hines Kent (Ron) of Jonesboro and James "Jim" Hines of Anna; nieces, nephews and many other family members and friends.

Mr. Hines was preceded in death by his parents and by a sister-in-law, Linda Hines.

He graduated from Anna-Jonesboro Community High School in 1972, where he played football, baseball and basketball. He also umpired for IHSA and summer league baseball for several years.

After retiring from the Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna in 2012, he enjoyed spending his retirement years fixing, repairing and selling lawn mowers.

He was an avid NASCAR and St. Louis Cardinals fan and, of course, he loved his A-J Wildcats. Football Fridays behind the A-J football field in the Hines garage was a tradition for many people for several years. The tradition will continue. He enjoyed frying fish and cooking out with family and friends every chance he got.

The family thanks everyone who has reached out, visited, or contributed in any way to support the family during these trying times.

The family extends a very special and sincere "thank you" to Bobby Joe's buddy, Adam Mays. When Adam found out his friend was sick, he made one of Bobby Joe's dream projects a reality.

For 20 years, Bobby Joe has said "I am going to put Christmas lights on that 50 foot cedar tree in the front yard." Without hesitation, Adam, with the assistance of B.J., spent many hours to surprise Bobby Joe by putting Christmas lights on that very same tree. Bobby Joe was beyond thrilled to see the lights. Special thanks to all of our family and friends who donated lights to help make a 20-year dream come true. The tree is still lit in Bobby Joe's memory.

A graveside funeral service will be held at the Casper Church Cemetery near Anna on Thursday, today.

Individuals may arrive starting at noon to pay respects to the family, with the service starting at 1 p.m., with the Rev. Stephen Clardy officiating. Interment will immediately follow.

Everyone who attends the service will be required to wear a face cover and to observe social distancing guidelines.

Individuals may choose to remain in their cars at the cemetery and listen to the service on the radio. The service also will be live streamed through Zoom. Meeting ID code: 924 4493 2183. Meeting Passcode: Hines.

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

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home at 301 W. Spring St. Anna, Ill. 62906, or to the cemetery on the day of the service.

Memorials can be made to Hospice of Southern Illinois. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home and cemetery.

To leave online condolences for the family, visit [rendlemanhilemanfh.com](http://rendlemanhilemanfh.com).

## Rodney Patrick Pearman

Rodney Patrick Pearman, 37, of Jonesboro, and formerly of Cairo, died at 2:19 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, at his home.

He was born on Aug. 19, 1983, in Cairo, the son of Rodney Gene and Donna Farris Pearman.

He loved the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting.

He worked as a landscaper and owned and operated his own lawn service for many years. He was a member of Mighty Rivers Regional Worship Center in Cairo.

Survivors include his mother, Donna Pearman of Jonesboro; his sister, Shelly Pearman of Anna; his children and their mother, Keaton and Braya Pearman and Melissa Clark; niece and nephews Noah, Mariah and Drake; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and countless friends.

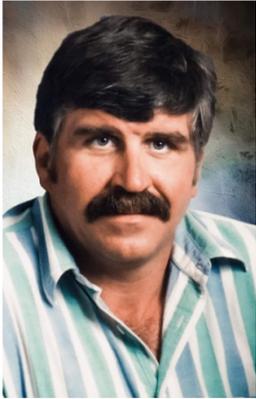
He was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents; his father, Rodney G. Pearman; and several aunts and uncles.

Graveside funeral services were at Rose Hill Cemetery in Thebes at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, with the Rev. Larry L. Potts officiating.

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

For those who prefer, memorials may be made to Crain Funeral Home, 135 W. Vienna St., Anna, Ill. 62906.

To view the full obituary or to leave an online condolence for the family, visit [www.crainsonline.com](http://www.crainsonline.com).



## George W. Warren Sr.

George W. Warren Sr., 79, of Cobden, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

He was born on Feb. 14, 1941, in Franklin County, the son of Clyde Davis and Ethel M. McNeal Warren.

George married Linda Mangold on June 30, 1962, at the First Baptist Church in Anna.

George attended Southern Illinois University, where he earned an associate degree.

He then began a career in sales of copiers and office equipment. That career led him to his life's work and eventually the ownership of T & I Office Equipment, which he and his wife, Linda, owned and operated from 1996 to 2020.

George had a passion for sports and while at SIU he lettered in pole vaulting.

In the late 1950s, George helped start a band called "The Four Vests" as the drummer. Although they are no longer together, they enjoyed the opportunity to reunite and play for benefits and class reunions.

George was a member of the Benton Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club in Anna, where he was an officer, a past Lieutenant Governor, and the I-I District Secretary. He was a 33rd Degree Mason and a Shriner.

George was a man of faith and a member of the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Anna, where he served as a deacon. He was able to display his musical gift as a member of the praise band. He especially enjoyed his men's Bible class.

Besides his wife of 58 years, he is survived by his son, George W. Warren Jr. (Sarah M. Thomas) of Georgetown, Texas; four grandchildren, George W. Warren III of San Antonio, Texas, Carl Andrew (Savannah) Warren of San Antonio, Texas, Benjamin Davis Warren of College Station, Texas, and Hilleary Sarah Warren of Austin, Texas; a brother, Max Edward Warren of Cobden; a sister, Carmen Elaine Garland of Wheatland, Wyo.; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Harry Warren.

A pass-through was held Friday, Jan. 8, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., and on Saturday, Jan. 9, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro.

Funeral services for George W. Warren Sr. were held Saturday, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m. at the funeral home, with David Fischler and John Hughey officiating.

Memorials can be made to the Kiwanis Club of Anna or to the Deacon's Fund at the First Presbyterian Church of Anna and will be accepted at the funeral home.

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

To view the obituary or to leave an online condolence for the family, visit [www.crainsonline.com](http://www.crainsonline.com).



## Donald 'Ducky' Rangel

Donald "Ducky" Rangel, 64, of Anna, died at Southeast Missouri Hospital in Cape Girardeau on Jan. 1, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Consuela Rangel, and his grandparents, Joaquin and Agrippina Rangel.

Ducky leaves behind his Mulberry Manor family and many other friends who adored him.

He was born on Sept. 21, 1956, in Peoria. He had lived at Mulberry Manor in Anna since 2008.

Donald enjoyed spending time in the offices of staff, where he held many important "meetings."

His favorite things were "clicky pens," clip boards and paper. He would spend hours taking notes, talking on the phone and just being the best administrative assistant one could ask for.

Ducky has taught many that love and friendship go beyond words, and that individuality is what makes this world so beautiful. We are all equal members of humanity and to know Ducky was to know that "different does not mean less." You will forever be in our hearts, little man.

To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit [www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com](http://www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com).

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



## Mary Lucille Tucker

Mary Lucille Tucker, 90, of Wolf Lake, died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

She was born on July 25, 1930, in Anna, the daughter of Francis Lester and Clyde Lingle Kelley.

She married Billy W. Tucker on April 2, 1960.

She is survived by her husband, Billy W. Tucker of Wolf Lake; a daughter, Kathy (Michael) Myers of Grand Tower; two grandchildren, Brandon (Sheila) Myers and Will Myers and fiancée, Holly LeMay; three great-grandchildren, Allie, Zoe and Branson Myers; many nieces and nephews; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and by four brothers, Rosco, Oran, Elmer and Gene Kelley.

She was a member of the Wolf Lake United Methodist Church for many years. She retired from Florsheim Shoe Factory.

Funeral services for Mary Lucille Tucker will be announced at a later date.

To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit [www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com](http://www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com).

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



## David Samuel Henry

David Samuel Henry, the son of RW and Kattie Eastwood Henry, went to be with his Heavenly family on Jan. 6, 2021, of natural causes.

He was born on April 26, 1933, on the family farm in White Hill.

He married the love of his life, Dorothy Ann Dunkin on June 26, 1970.

He was the 10th of 14 children raised to believe in God, family and country. He had a generous, loving, kind heart, and worked hard to provide for his family.

Mr. Henry was a proud veteran who served his country in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955. He was stationed in France, helping rebuild war-torn Europe.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Crystle and Shawn Grear; a brother, Vernon; a sister, Velma; stepchildren Ricky, Robert, Susan and Kelly; numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives. He had two devoted dogs, Tiny and Spike.

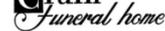
He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 41 years; seven brothers, Charlie, Johnny, Olen, Owen, Donald, DeRay and Ocie; four sisters, Hazel, Martha, Leora and Wilma; and a stepson, Scott.

A pass-through was held Friday, Jan. 8, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro.

Funeral services for David Samuel Henry were at 11 a.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Interment followed in Casper Cemetery near Anna, with full military honors.

To view the obituary or to leave an online condolence for the family, visit [www.crainsonline.com](http://www.crainsonline.com).



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



## Edna R. Poole

Edna R. Poole, 91, died on Jan. 6, 2021, in Carbondale.

She was born on Dec. 4, 1929, the daughter of Ford and Anna Hubach Cates.

She married Norbert Leo Basler on July 16, 1948. He preceded her in death on Jan. 14, 1982. On Dec. 8, 1991, she married Donald Poole. He went to meet the Lord on Sept. 22, 2017.

She was a homemaker and farmer's wife for many years. She was also employed at Tripp Shelter Care in Cobden as an activity director for several years. She worked for a short time at Florsheim Shoe Factory in Anna and later was employed at Anna City Care Nursing Home as a CNA.

After moving to East Cape Girardeau with her husband, Donald Poole, she became a seamstress for many people in that area and also in Cape Girardeau.

Survivors include one son, Douglas (Kathy) Basler; three daughters; Donna (Larry) Mahan, Diann Boyer and Cindy (Steve) Pryor; seven grandchildren and six step-grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, Ginny (Charles) Stephenson; and three brothers, Gaylon (Clara) Cates, Ed (Carolyn) Cates and Homer Cates.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one sister, Helen Treece; and four brothers, Floyd Cates, Donald Cates, Charles Cates and Robert Cates.

She trusted in the Lord early in life and was a member of Grace Methodist Church in Cape Girardeau. She was very active in the church for many years and also sang in the choir.

Her hobbies included sewing, quilting, and playing the piano for her own enjoyment.

Funeral arrangements were pending at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden.

To leave online condolences for the family, visit [rendlemanhilemanfh.com](http://rendlemanhilemanfh.com).

## Joyce Wandalein Cates

Joyce Wandalein Cates, 89, of Anna, Illinois, went to her Heavenly home on Jan. 3, 2021, at the home of her daughter, Donna Cates.

Memaw is survived by her children, Donna Cates, of Baton Rouge, La., Jerry Cates (Shirley) of Cape Girardeau, Connie Boyd (Steve) of Anna, Illinois, Larry Cates and Gary Cates (Dawn) of Mandeville, La.; grandchildren Chris Boyd (Angela), Courtney Aufdenberg, (Dannny), Mandy Hall (Jon), Nealy Hamson, Ryan Cates (Cari), Austin Cates and Breanna Cates; great-grandchildren Hunter Boyd, Brendon, (Charlyn) and Ashlee Johnson, Julia and Evan Hall, Brenna, Makenna and Jenna Hamson, Hadleigh Cates; a great-great-grandchild, Marianna Johnson; and other relatives, and many special friends: Special loved ones of Memaw, Hayden, Matt, (Shannon) Evie, Rusty, (Brittany) and Garrison Ellis, Trevor Taylor, and especially Randy Simmons and Lou Boswell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Billy Cates; a brother, Curtis Adams; and a granddaughter, Kimberley Pridgen, (Donna's daughter) of Baton Rouge, La.

Many will remember Pinky by the warm hugs she gave to family and friends. She was a member of the Anna First Baptist Church. Memorial contributions can be made to the Casper Cemetery.

In the future, there will be a private family service at the Casper Cemetery near Anna.



## Charles E. Houston

Charles E. Houston, 82, of Jonesboro, died at 3:10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, at his home.

He was born on Jan. 10, 1938, in Anna, the son of Claude and Alma Casper Houston.

He married Linda Odum on Aug. 24, 1983. She preceded him in death on Oct. 1, 2016.

Mr. Houston retired from Bunny Bread after many years as a truck driver. He was also a heavy equipment operator.

He loved fishing, hunting and trapping many different animals. Mr. Houston earned his 50-year pin with the Masons.

Survivors include his daughter, Melodie (Brian) Penrod of Carterville; a grandson, Colten (Alyssa) Penrod of Jonesboro; a granddaughter, Michaela (Bobby) Sizemore of Dongola; great-grandchildren Drake and Ella Penrod, Kimber and Piper Sizemore; sisters Jo (Russell) Hill of Jonesboro and Rita Dillow of Dongola; a brother, Larry Houston of Dongola; nephews Gary and Patrick Dillow, originally from Dongola, Jason and Justin Hill of Jonesboro; special helper and caretaker Kendra Lingle; and many other relatives and friends.

Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Scott Randall Houston; and a grandson, Jordan Michael Houston.

Cremation will be accorded and inurnment will take place at a later date at the American Legion Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to the Masonic Lodge in Dongola.

Crain Funeral Home Dongola in Dongola is in charge of arrangements.

To view the obituary or to leave an online condolence for the family, visit [www.crainsonline.com](http://www.crainsonline.com).



## Joe J. Smith

Joe J. Smith, 72, of Jonesboro, died Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, at his home.

He was born on Aug. 18, 1948, in Anna, the son of Ellis and Virginia Hamel Smith.

Mr. Smith is survived by three sons, Little Joe (Samantha) Smith of Grand Tower, James Lee Smith of Jonesboro and Danny (Carol) Hancock of Ware; seven grandchildren, Dustin, Ethan, Bam, Rusty, Morgan, Bridget and Daniel; two great-grandchildren, Remi and Bailey; girlfriend Mary Norris of Jonesboro; siblings Margaret (Larry) Dale of Jonesboro, Grace (Butch) Norton of Wolf Lake, Kathryn (John) Yow of Carbondale, Elvis (Judy) Smith of Vienna and Ellis (Ruby) Smith of Wolf Lake; nieces and nephews; many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and by his brother, Harold Smith.

Mr. Smith served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He worked many years as a diesel mechanic.

Graveside funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, today, at the Mound City National Cemetery in Mound City. Military rites will be accorded by local area veterans and the Illinois Army National Guard honor team of Marion.

Everyone who attends the service will be required to wear a face covering and to observe social distancing guidelines.

To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit [www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com](http://www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com).

**RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES** Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro is in charge of arrangements.



## Dale Harvell

Dale Harvell, 82, of Jonesboro, died Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, at Union County Hospital in Anna.

He was born on July 19, 1938, in Tamms, the son of Thomas and Pearl Bridges Harvell.

He married Dorothy Williams on Nov. 4, 1959.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; his children, Darryl (Diane) Harvell and Donna (Kenny) Brumleve; grandchildren Kyle, Jessica, Ryan, Stephanie and Derek; great-grandchildren Logan, Flynt, Aria, Kason, Brigham, Adaley and one on the way. He is also survived by a brother, Melvin (Clara) Harvell; and two sisters, Wilma Hoyle and Kim Guetersloh.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Norman Harvell.

Mr. Harvell retired from Sears, where he worked as an appliance repair technician. He continued doing repair work after his retirement.

He dearly loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them. He also loved animals, holding a special fondness for horses, cats, dogs and spent many hours watching birds and deer.

Graveside funeral services for Dale Harvell will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, at the Jonesboro Cemetery. Interment will immediately follow.

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

Memorials can be made to Union County Animal Control. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home and at the cemetery.

To leave online condolences for the family, visit [rendlemanhilemanfh.com](http://rendlemanhilemanfh.com).



## Naomi Davis

Naomi Davis, 99, of Anna, died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, at Wabash Christian Village in Carmi.

She was born on Dec. 9, 1921, in Buncombe, the daughter of Tull E. and Dovie Thomas Perry.

She married Homer Mangrum. He preceded her in death in 1975. She later married Lester Davis. He preceded her in death on March 4, 2004.

Mrs. Davis was a devoted Christian. She loved her family and Jesus and became a prayer warrior when called upon.

She is survived by her grandchildren, Kim Langley, Sasha Mangrum and Seve Mangrum; great-grandchildren Jack Langley and Ally Langley; a sister, Martha Cawthon of Evansville, Ind.; a sister-in-law, Wanda Perry of Jonesboro; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her two husbands, Homer Mangrum and Lester Davis; a son, Jerry Michael "Mike" Mangrum; three brothers, Bob, Dave and Van Perry; and two sisters, Josephine Faulkner and Cecile Craig.

Graveside funeral services were at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Cobden Cemetery, with the Rev. Cliff Perry officiating. Interment immediately followed.

To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit [www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com](http://www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com).

**RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES** Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna was in charge of arrangements.



## Landowners need to know timber's worth before selling

URBANA—There comes a time when every forest landowner gets a knock on their door. Someone wants to buy their timber on a handshake deal.

"I get calls from landowners looking for information on the harvesting process and rates," says Duane Friend, a University of Illinois Extension expert and environmental stewardship educator.

"But by that time harvesting has already started and it's too late to help."

A landowner may only sell timber once or twice in their lifetime.

Knowing in advance what the timber is worth and what should and should not be harvested puts the landowner

in a much better position.

Extension forestry specialist Chris Evans says a lot of Illinois timber is sold for a fraction of its true value.

"I usually recommend landowners reach out to a professional forester to work with," Evans says.

"There is a lot of thought and planning that should go into a harvest, especially in terms of the larger, long-term sustainable management of that forest."

A consultant forester acts on the landowner's behalf and facilitates all the steps of a timber harvest.

After the timber is sold, a portion of the proceeds go to the forester.

As part of the process, the forester will survey the land

and determine if the timing is right.

"Not all woods are ready to cut and the timing of a timber harvest can influence the income the landowner receives and the turnaround time for the next harvest," Evans says.

The consultant will also ensure the harvest is done in a healthy manner as part of a larger, sustainable management plan and they will market the timber to multiple buyers to maximize profit.

There are plenty of responsible loggers and timber buyers in Illinois, but it is still to the landowner's advantage to have a forestry expert representing their interest and helping to navigate the process.

"A recent study found that landowners who worked with a consultant had sale prices 78 percent higher than landowners who didn't," Evans says. "That can be a difference of thousands of dollars."

Illinois Extension Forestry has a list of forester consultants available at [go.illinois.edu/Consulting-Foresters](http://go.illinois.edu/Consulting-Foresters).

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources also has timber selling resources at [www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/Forestry/Pages/SellingTimber.aspx](http://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/Forestry/Pages/SellingTimber.aspx).

For more information on forest management, visit Extension's forestry website at [extension.illinois.edu/forestry](http://extension.illinois.edu/forestry).

## Doris Choate

Doris Choate, of Grand Tower, died Tuesday, Jan. 12, at her home.

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

To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit [www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com](http://www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com).

**RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES** Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.

## Rauchfuss Hill State Recreation Area reopening

A new year means new beginnings for the Rauchfuss Hill State Recreation Area near Golconda.

State Sen. Dale Fowler, R-Harrisburg, said that after being closed for almost a decade, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has announced that the Rauchfuss Hill State Recreation Area will be reopening for camping in spring of 2021.

In the meantime, beginning on Dec. 29, Rauchfuss was scheduled to be open to visitors for picnicking and hiking.

"This is great news for the community, providing another recreational option for visitors and campers," Fowler said in a news release.

"Rauchfuss Hill State Recreation Area has been under-utilized and neglected for years. It's past time

that we put the time and resources into this local Southern Illinois treasure."

Over the past year, efforts have been underway to prepare the campground for visitors, including clearing out brush and removing overgrown vegetation.

Other improvements include hiring additional staff, putting in new picnic tables and rocking over the roadway.

Rauchfuss Hill State Recreation borders Lusk Creek and is situated just north of Golconda.

Fowler said 15 tent sites and 15 camper sites are anticipated to be available to campers in the new year, with plans for future expansion of additional sites in the following months.

The campground was originally closed in 2013 due to lack of funding and a staffing shortage.



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12 PER BOX

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Mid-back design with mesh back and mesh fabric seat

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GREAT HOME OFFICE

### Elmer's X-Acto Mighty Mite Pencil Sharpener

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BRTPT70BM

Regular Price \$29.99 EA

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# Opinion and Commentary

## Commentary

### Silence is complicity...

By David Porter

I try to keep this missive light most of the time. There's enough anguish in the world without me adding to it. But it's difficult to think in terms of light and humorous following the rampage last week at the U.S. Capitol.

I don't intend to fuel the flames of dissent or provide cover for those who think the Capitol breach was a good thing. No matter where you land on the issue, someone you know is on the other side.

I also think, however, that silence is complicity. I've stayed silent on a lot of issues that I probably shouldn't have not because I approve or disapprove but because I just don't want to fight with people. I just want to smoke my cigars, watch a movie and tune out the rest of the world.

I don't imagine that I can fix the world's problems. I can't even fix a decent breakfast. At some point, though, you have to take a stand.

I absolutely support the right to petition the government and protest. I also support the right to bear arms and defend oneself.

I don't support the attack on the Capitol, though, because, in my opinion, it was built on a huge lie. The protestors were not rebelling against fascism. They were acting on behalf of a fascist.

The president simply cannot accept the fact that he lost an election and has been willing to use any means possible to hold onto power.

There's not enough space here to check off every debunked conspiracy theory to support my statement. Was there any voter fraud in the election? Yes. Was it enough to change the outcome? No.

That's not merely my opinion. That was the conclusion of dozens of officials including Republicans and Democrats alike. It included the Attorney General and dozens of judges, of which some were appointed by the president. The effort to subvert the election by force was not an act of patriotism. It was an act of treason.

Then, when it was over, there was a proliferation of social media posts claiming that the perpetrators were not supporters of the president but rather members of antifa.

While it's conceivable that some rabble-rousers were not supporters of the president, this was his insurrection. His rally. His words. His followers. It had been planned for weeks on alt-right websites that included blueprints of the Capitol.

If you're going to storm the Capitol, then own it. It's alarming how easily some in the Trump camp buy into ridiculous conspiracy theories in an effort to absolve themselves of any wrongdoing or wrongheadedness.

Research from the Associated Press shows that the 120 people arrested or sought in connection with the uprising were overwhelmingly Trump supporters.

Then there's the issue of social media owners shutting down the president's communication feeds. While I'm a strong defender of free speech, I support the right of the companies to ban any account they want.

It's no different from the newspaper. I own three of them, and I encourage diversity of opinion on them. But I also reserve the right to not publish something that I know to be false or believe to be dangerous.

This column goes out to about a dozen newspapers. Each of them can choose whether to run my opinion or not on any given week. They don't have to give me a reason or inform me if they reject a column. It's their newspaper.

So, I apologize for not being light and humorous this week. These are not humorous times.

We will survive a Biden administration just as we have survived a Trump administration. Continue to voice your opinion. Continue to pay attention and take part in civic dialogue. But accept reality. Biden won.

©Copyright 2021 by David Porter. Porter is a newspaper publisher in Tuscola and the author of the self-syndicated, award-winning, weekly Ramblin' Man column. He can be reached at porter@ramblinman.us.

## Letter to the editor

### Shame on every one of you

Vice President Pence,

I heard your speech on TV. I quote you "Violence never wins, freedom wins, and this is the people's house." I believe you were referring to the breach of the Capitol.

Violence wins freedom. Our country is based on violence, deceit and broken treaties with the American Indians which gained vast areas of land.

Let me state a few events of violence that gained freedom or gained land for the USA...Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Indian Wars, Civil War, Alamo and World War II. If not for World War II violence, Sir you might very well be speaking German or Japanese now.

How deceitful is it to say, "this is the people's house?" The House is a continuous battleground between the Republicans and the Democrats for total control of the USA. Each party wants total control of the Presidential office plus the House and the Senate. Neither party is concerned about the people.

If the House is of the people then why is our country so deeply in debt, has high unemployment, homeless, lack of medical treatment for everyone and the elderly having to choose between buying medicine or food? We the people do not want this.

You the elected official should be working for the people's house not for your political party.

Shame on every one of you!

Signed, Tom Betts, Anna

## Please read this...

By Geof Skinner



A pair of killdeer (or maybe a pair of killdeers) were seen walking along, and on, the railroad tracks in metropolitan Cobden on a cold January afternoon.

## Dear, dear...it's a deer...and two killdeer, too

This week, let's start with a grammar question: If the plural of deer is deer, is the plural of killdeer killdeer?

Common sense, which seems to be a rare commodity these days, might suggest that more than one killdeer would be killdeer.

That is said based on the notion that more than one white-tailed deer would be, say, two white-tailed deer. The singular and the plural are the same thing.

With that in mind, I still find it somewhat fascinating that one Canada goose, joined by another Canada goose, creates a situation involving two Canada geese. Based on the deer guidelines, why wouldn't two Canada geese simply be two Canada geese? Of course, that's just not possible, you silly goose.

Same goes for a moose. As far as I know, while we do have lots of deers in Southern Illinois, nobody has seen a loose moose in our neck of the woods. But let's say that somebody saw more than one moose on the loose, maybe down by the Jonesboro Library caboose. More than one moose would not be mooses, or meese...they would be moose. Go figure. Or, don't.

(By the way: yes, I know that we've engaged in this discussion a number of times over the years. I just think it's fun to play with some of the words in the English

language, like geese and geeses and mooses and meeses and mooses and mices, and so on and sew fourth.)

That brings us back to determining the plural of killdeer. Both the online version of the Merriam-Webster dictionary and a 1965 edition of Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language informed me that the plural of killdeer is killdeer...or...maybe...killdeers. So, what's a person to do?

You may be wondering (or maybe you aren't wondering) why we're spending so much time on killdeer. Or killdeers.

One cold evening last week, I was on my daily walk-about and happened to spot a couple of killdeer/s. I guess the birds were out for a walk, too. At the time I saw them, the killdeer/s were walking along, and occasionally, right on the railroad tracks which are the middle of the village we call home.

As often happens, one thing led to another after my encounter with the birds. In addition to wondering about the plural of killdeer, it occurred to me that I really did not know much about these birds, which I see quite often on my walkabouts.

The aforementioned online version of the Merriam-Webster dictionary shared that the killdeer is "an American plover (*Charadrius vociferus*) characterized by two black breast bands and a plaintive penetrating cry."

"This attractive dark-eyed bird had a loud, rather sad cry that to some people sounds like 'Kill deer! Kill deer!' Killdeers are not vicious birds. They have no special hatred of deer, and they do not eat venison. The killdeer is simply an animal that got its name from human interpretation of its call." And, just in case you were wondering, the first known use of the word "killdeer" was in 1731.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, shared on its website that the killdeer is "a shorebird you can see without going to the beach." (There was a little bit of standing water left over from recent rainfall near the railroad tracks. Don't know if that counts as a beach, though.)

"These tawny birds run across the ground in spurts, stopping with a jolt every so often to check their progress, or to see if they've startled up any insect prey." (Since it was early January, and very cold at the time, I don't think they would have seen very many insects.)

"Killdeer lay their eggs into an empty nest but add other materials later on. Some of these items they pick up as they are leaving and toss over their shoulder into the nest. In one nest in Oklahoma, people found more than 1,500 pebbles had accumulated this way."

Now that you have read this fascinating exercise in word crafting, and you have learned more than you would ever want to know about killdeers/s, you can at least be grateful that what you are seeing this week does not include yet another photograph of a turtle. You are welcome.

\*\*\*

Hope you'll allow me just a brief reflection on what unfolded last week at the U.S. Capitol...sad...incredibly sad...



Thank goodness there's only one white-tailed deer in this photograph. I actually saw two of the critters standing close to each other along a driveway in the suburbs of either Cobden or Alto Pass last Friday afternoon. So, did I see two deer...or two deers?

## A Page from the Past

from the files of The Gazette-Democrat

From Thursday, January 14, 1971

The 1971 Convention of the Illinois Association of the Agricultural Fairs will be held January 16, 17 and 18 in Springfield.

Representing the Union County Fair will be Mr. and Mrs. Henry Don Dillow and Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Rich.

The highlight of the affair will be the crowning of the 1971 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen by the governor. Miss Melody Nickles, Miss Union County Fair of 1970, will be among the 55 contestants who will vie for the honor with 10 finalists competing for the coveted crown at the Monday evening banquet.

\*\*\*

Rep. Clyde L. Choate, Anna, has been selected as the new Democratic leader of the House of Representatives when the 77th General Assembly convened Tuesday, Jan. 5. Choate had been serving as minority whip.

A primary election will be held March 16 for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the position of Union County Commissioner for a four year term and a State's Attorney for a one year term.

The Union County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution at their meeting Monday, Jan. 11, setting April 6, 1971, as election day for Road Districts 1-A and 2-A in Union County, for the purpose of electing a Commissioner and Clerk in each of the districts.

## Anna VFW to serve dinners

A drive-thru fish dinner and a drive-thru chicken leg quarter dinner are planned at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455. The post is located at 70 VFW Ln. near Anna.

**Fish Dinner:** The VFW plans to serve a drive-thru fish dinner on Friday, Jan. 15. Serving is scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The menu will include fish, potato salad, baked beans, a pickle, and hush puppies for a donation of \$10. Fish only will be available for a donation of \$2 per piece.

Those who would like to order a meal are asked to call 833-5182 before noon on Jan. 15 to make reservations for pick up. The VFW asks those who pick up meals to have the correct change; no credit cards or debit cards can be accepted.

**Chicken Leg Quarter Dinner:** The Auxiliary to the VFW plans to serve a drive-thru pork steak dinner on Monday, Jan. 18. Serving is scheduled from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The menu will include baked chicken leg quarters, cheesy potatoes, green beans and dessert for a \$10 donation.

Those who would like to order a meal are asked to call 833-5182 no later than 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17, to make reservations for pick up. The Auxiliary asks those who pick up meals to have the correct change; no credit cards or debit cards can be accepted.

The Anna VFW and its Auxiliary continue to thank the community for its support during this difficult time.

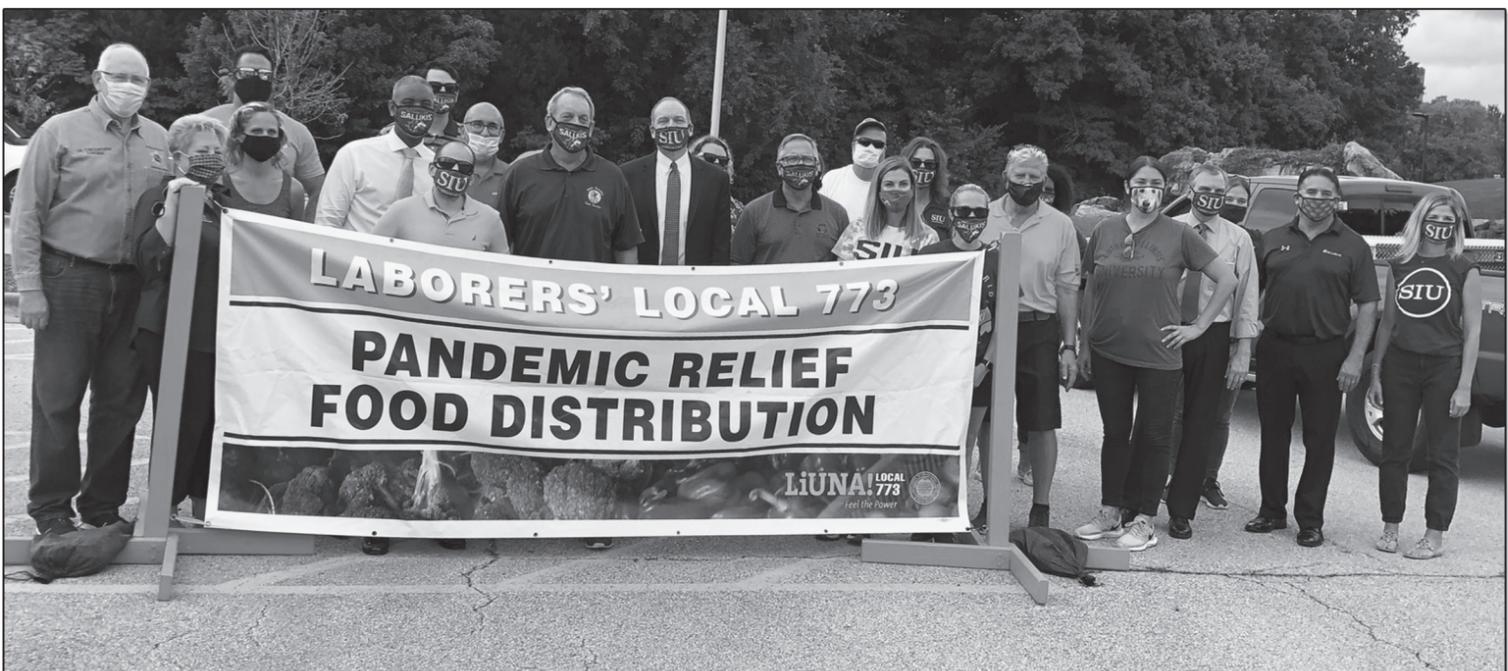
2020 a year of

# HEROES & HEARTACHE

January 2021

Reppert • Woodworth Production

**Commitment**   **HELP**   **spirit**   **Hope**   **KINDNESS**  
**HEART**   **GRIT**  
**Dedication**   **Heroes**  
**THANK YOU**  
**FOOD**   **LiUNA!**   **Local 773**



**When Willie Nelson sang ‘My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys’ he had not yet lived through 2020, the pandemic, or witnessed the response of Laborers Local 773 to one of the worst times in American history.**

**If the country music great had witnessed the compassion and commitment set forth by union leadership and members, he might have changed the words to the song.**

**The response by union members to hunger and uncertainty that affected thousands of families in Southern Illinois, after the pandemic struck in 2020, was nothing short of heroic.**

**See story on Page 3**

## HEROES & HEARTACHE

# Union's heroic efforts should not go unnoticed

## 773 delivers one million pounds of food to Southern Illinoisans

As a little boy, for trouble I had caused, my mother sent me to bed without supper. It'd be the closest I ever came as a child to experiencing hunger.

Today, hundreds of other Southern Illinois children are not so lucky. And when the pandemic struck in 2020, the threat of hunger worsened throughout the region dramatically.

It wasn't just finding food — as many grocery stores were wiped out by consumers with fears of what the pandemic would bring — it was also affording food as many people lost their jobs and a way to pay for necessities.

As the pandemic began to take the first of 16,500 lives in Illinois — and sickening or hospitalizing more than 960,000 — the future for many families became bleak. Knowing where their next meal would come from was even uncertain.

As federal leaders dealt with issues of stimulus payments and lockdowns, leaders of Laborers Local 773 based in Marion realized there was something they could and must do.

Led by Jerry Womick, Matt Smith, Bill Orrill and others, 773 quickly put together a plan to begin delivering meals to needy families throughout the mostly rural landscape of Southern Illinois.

It didn't come as a directive from any other source, not from the Laborers national leadership or from any federal political leaders, it came directly from their heart. They realized that if they didn't do it, it probably wasn't going to get done. And if it wasn't done,

the outcome could be catastrophic.

Modern history had never experienced anything like this before. For many, the pandemic and the horrific challenges it brought with it remain unbelievable.

And while we are still far from an ending to the pandemic, the hopes brought with the vaccine are finally showing a light at the end of what has been an extremely dark tunnel.

For some, the beginning of the pandemic brought such a dark time, they had no idea where to turn for help.

That was until 773 sprung into action and began delivering the first of what would be a total of 1,000,000 pounds of fresh food and produce to folks throughout Southern Illinois. Every week from March until just before Thanksgiving, 773 planned and carried out deliveries to persons who needed them most.

For those of us who have never experienced hunger, it's impossible to know the toll it takes on the body and mind of those who go without food. Like I said before, I only remember missing one meal and that was an attempt by my mother to correct my behavior.

For mothers and fathers who pray for food for their children because they have no idea how they will supply for them, the hopeless feeling must be unexplainable.

Thank God for the Laborers Local 773. And thank God for everyone who joined hand-in-hand with the

By

**SHANNON  
WOODWORTH**

**National Newspaper  
Association Award  
winner and winner of  
numerous awards for  
writing from the  
Associated Press**



effort.

Persons like State Senator Dale Fowler (R-Harrisburg); U.S. Representative Mike Bost (R-Murphysboro); first responders; school leaders, such as Jacob "Jake" Rendleman, a member of the John A. Logan College Board of Trustees; and trustees at Shawnee Community College and Rend Lake College. And for those like Attorney Tom Lech who helped purchase important equipment to make the effort logistically possible.

These people made a difference. A big difference, and at a time like no other in the history of this nation.

As time passes on, and we begin to see "normal" again across this great nation, remember what 773 did for others. At the very least, remember, we owe them that.

## COVID HEROES: Nurses make huge impact in Southern Illinois



HEATHER ESMON

By **SHANNON WOODWORTH**  
*Reppert Publications*

MT. VERNON — You've probably never heard of Heather Esmon.

I mean, why would you? In 2010, she quietly graduated from nursing school at Rend Lake College with very little fanfare.

Her mother was there, grandparents, too, her siblings also applauded as she crossed the stage to receive her diploma. But, that year, hundreds of others would do the same across the nation.

So what's the big deal? The big deal is this: A decade later, every single person like Esmon — who graduated and became nurses — would be on the front-line of the greatest healthcare battle in American history.

There they were, ill-equipped across the nation, standing toe-to-toe with a virus that would kill more than 350,000 American people in less than a single year. This virus was new, it was

deadly, and very little was known about it. Yet, people like Esmon had the courage to face it head on and to help helpless people who entered hospitals throughout Southern Illinois fight for their lives.

Some lives were lost, but many were saved. And those, like Esmon, who had gone mostly unnoticed throughout their careers were rightfully being hailed as heroes of the pandemic.

"Until you see a patient battling COVID-19 struggling for their next breath, you have no idea how scary and uncertain this virus is," Esmon said. "So many of us saw it. We knew this was very bad and something we had never encountered before."

But all the nurses she knows, Esmon said, stood and fought. Even when personal protective equipment was scarce, the days were long, and the pandemic worsened.

"Without committed nurses, COVID would have already devastated the country," Esmon said. "Nurses quickly found them-

selves physically and emotionally drained, but didn't give up the fight. We are still in the fight. And we care about the outcome of every single patient we have contact with."

Esmon noted that there is a lot weighing on nurses as they not only worry about their patients, but about their families at home.

"We see what COVID can do and we don't want our family members to suffer from this," Esmon said. "Many of us are outspoken about it, about wearing a mask, washing your hands, about staying away from gatherings where it can spread. We are outspoken only because we care."

Like I said, you've probably never heard of Heather Esmon. But the fact that you haven't heard of her — or the thousands of other Illinois nurses like her — doesn't mean they are not heroes. Heroes who have made a difference, saving lives, sharing hope, and giving of themselves during a time of great uncertainty for everyone.

**Some lives were lost, but, because of the heroics of nurses, many lives in Southern Illinois were saved.**

## HEROES & HEARTACHE

By **SHANNON WOODWORTH**  
Reppert Publications

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS — When Willie Nelson sang ‘My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys’ he had not yet lived through 2020, the pandemic, or witnessed the response of Laborers Local 773 to one of the worst times in American history.

If the country music great had witnessed the compassion and commitment set forth by union leadership and members, he might have changed the words to the song.

Simply put, the response by 773 to hunger and uncertainty that affected thousands of families in Southern Illinois, after the pandemic struck in 2020, was nothing short of heroic. But nothing in 2020 was simple.

When COVID hit, hunger hit just as hard, especially in rural communities where, even if food was available, it was almost impossible to distribute.

Feeding America data showed that nearly 90 percent of counties with the highest percentage of children at risk of going hungry were rural. The need in Southern Illinois was great. The response by 773 was even greater.

### BLAME IT ON THE TIMES

No one could have ever predicted what was about to happen in America at the close of 2019. Eventually, COVID-19 dominated 2020. The horrors of sickness and deaths brought fear and hopelessness throughout the nation. The country, at one point, basically came to a screeching halt.

Jerry Womick, business manager of 773, began conversations with 773 officers and staff concerning a local response to needs brought about by the pandemic. Concerns about 773 retirees was the first conversation they had.

“Our first response was to purchase boxes of food for our retirees and deliver them to their homes,” Womick said. “I guess we started with about 100 boxes. Then we realized very quickly just how widespread the needs were for other families throughout Southern Illinois and we set out to address it.”

What resulted was the distribution of over 1,000,000 pounds of food by 773 throughout Southern Illinois. The weekly effort to feed the hungry in Southern Illinois was nearly non-stop from March until November.

“We knew we couldn’t do anything about the pandemic, but we knew we could help lessen the pain of hunger, we knew if we worked at it, if we worked hard, we could make a difference,” Womick said.

So with the full support of members and union officers like Matt Smith — whose grandfather, Connell F. Smith, was a founding member of 773 nearly 80 years ago — the union set out to make a difference. Connell F. Smith often asked the question, “Who can I help today?”

Because of the pandemic, there was no shortage of people the union could help. Hundreds and hundreds of families, the union would learn, needed food.

### BOTH ENDS OF THE CANDLE

Immediately, those associated with 773 began burning the candle at both ends as they worked feverishly to find a way to fill the hunger gap.

There was no time to rest. From Jef-

erson County to the north to Alexander County to the south, Southern Illinois’ rural landscape is vast. Reaching its population would prove to be extremely difficult, an undertaking which had never been attempted before — until now.

“It had to be done,” Womick said. “Too many lives were on the line. Too many families needed the food. We were driven. We weren’t just out to try and succeed, we were going to succeed. No matter how many hours we had to work and no matter how difficult it would become, we were going to succeed.”

As the effort grew, so did the number of people willing to help. Local 773 joined hands with Cusumano & Sons, Inc., a regional wholesale produce distributor located in Mt. Vernon; State Senator Dale Fowler; Congressman Mike Bost; and Vivian Robinson, state central committeewoman for the 15th Congressional District, to name a few.

One of the greatest steps forward in the effort was obtaining a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to help with the purchase of food.

“We sat up a food distribution site near Joppa,” Womick explained. “An eight-year-old boy walked up and asked if the boxes had any hotdogs in them. The boy explained that he and his brothers lived with their grandfather and that they had no vehicle and that he had walked two miles to the distribution site with hopes he might get a package of hotdogs. He was just a little-bitty guy. He was hungry.”

A member of 773 explained that not only did they have hotdogs, they had a 40-pound box of food for the child’s family. And when the boy, delighted at the news, was about to carry the 40-pound box of food two miles to his home, a 773 member insisted on giving him a ride.

“This is just one of many stories that still brings tears to my eyes,” Womick said.

### ON THE ROAD AGAIN

To understand the vast effort put forth by 773, one must understand that this was something they did each and every week from March until the week before Thanksgiving. One must also understand the landscape of Southern Illinois and how many thousands of miles of rural roads must be navigated in order to make an effort like this a success.

Along with traveling rural roads and visiting rural counties, 773 also had to be successful in getting the word out about the location of food distribution sites. When individuals, many who were elderly, could not get to food distribution sites, 773 coordinated at-home deliveries by other volunteers.

Maurice “Woody” Woodworth of Blufford was one of those volunteers.

Woodworth, an Army veteran, is 83 years old. He is considered disabled by the VA.

But when Woodworth learned that food needed to be delivered in his tiny Jefferson County village, he looked past his ailments and took four boxes of food from home to home each week.

“I just heard this food needed delivered,” Woodworth said. “I didn’t know who was overseeing it, I just knew it needed to get to a few homes and I figured I could help. When I first saw the looks of hope on people’s faces when the food boxes arrived, I knew there wasn’t anything that would keep me from contin-



“ We knew we couldn’t do anything about the pandemic, but we knew we could help lessen the pain of hunger, we knew if we worked at it, if we worked hard, we could make a difference. ”

**Jerry Womick**

uing to deliver them.

“I may not see as well as I once did but neither that little setback nor the pain in my body was going to keep me on the sidelines when I realized how badly people needed this food,” he added.

Womick praised Tom Lech an attorney with Goldenberg Heller & Antognoli for the purchase of a transport trailer that made reaching rural areas with food much easier.

“The trailer was a godsend and another example of so many others helping with this effort,” Womick added.

### SOMETHING YOU GET THROUGH

This wasn’t the first response to a need in Southern Illinois by 773, but it was certainly the largest local response and, quite possibly, one of the greatest responses of its kind in the nation.

But it didn’t start out that way.

No one had ever faced anything so daunting in modern history. There was no way of knowing initially how long the pandemic would last or how detrimental it would be to Southern Illinois’ families. But as quickly as 773 learned how devastating the pandemic could be to Southern Illinois, they sprung into action.

Leadership, led by the philosophy of helping others, didn’t

have to think about whether or not they should act, they acted. They didn’t wait for someone else to tell them what to do, they saw the need and responded. The problem with hunger was something to get through, not to ignore and allow to grow out of control.

Those who joined hand-in-hand with 773, the Cusumanos, public officials, first responders, church leaders, school leaders, business leaders, and farmers undoubtedly saved many lives and immediately responded with hope when hope was beginning to wane.

“America is an incredible place, Southern Illinois is just as incredible or more,” said Senator Fowler. “When we are faced with a problem that affects us all, we all join together to make a difference. I’m proud of 773 and each and every person who gave it their all to respond to this crisis and help so many people get through this difficult time. These people are still at it as the crisis still exists, but I can’t imagine what would have taken place here in Southern Illinois if this response had not been so great and so impressive. I was proud to join hands.”

Fowler said he will continue to be involved with 773 to find resources to continue to help the effort into 2021.



## Thank you to these essential workers

- Firefighters, police officers, and other first responders
- Healthcare and Public Health Operations
- Human Services Operations
- Essential Infrastructure
- Food, beverage and agriculture
- Organizations that provide charitable and social services
- Media
- Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation
- Financial institutions
- Hardware and supply stores
- Critical trades, including plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers that maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences, essential activities, and essential businesses and operations
- Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery and pick-up services
- Educational institutions, for purposes of facilitating distance learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions
- Laundry services
- Restaurants for consumption off-premises
- Supplies to work from home
- Supplies for Essential Businesses and Operations
- Transportation, for purposes of Essential Travel
- Home-based care and services
- Residential facilities and shelters
- Professional services
- Day care centers for employees exempted by this Executive Order
- Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries
- Critical labor union functions
- Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry-out food services
- Funeral services



## 773: 80 years of helping others

Laborers Local 773 responded to the pandemic by distributing over 1,000,000 pounds of food throughout Southern Illinois. The weekly effort to feed the hungry in Southern Illinois was nearly non-stop from March until November. Above, Southern Illinoisans line up for food. At left, a box being packed.

## INCREDIBLE: One million pounds of food distributed in Southern Illinois

## \$50,000 donation to warming center



The Laborers Local 773 recently donated \$50,000 to the Carbondale Warming Center. The donation was made possible through the Laborer's Care Charity. The Carbondale Warming Center provides a safe, warm place for families or individuals to stay when cold, winter temperatures threaten lives. The Center serves around 40 people at one time.