

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Anna, Illinois

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News

Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area



Merry Christmas to all of our readers. (The banner is on display in Cobden during the holiday season.)

State officials have announced the results of the 2020 Census in Illinois and celebrated the over 400 nonprofits and organizations that helped Illinois exceed its 2010 self-response rate during the pandemic. Illinois finished seventh nationwide and first among states with over 9 million in population size in self-response rates. The City of Anna and Southern Seven Health Department worked hard to promote the 2020 Census.



A reminder about the reason for the celebration of Christmas again is on display in 2020 at Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church in Anna.

(continued on page 2)

Southern Seven receives first shipment of vaccines



First shipment
Officials from several local health departments across Southern Illinois assembled with the Illinois State Police to accept the first COVID-19 vaccine shipments to arrive in the region. Southern Seven Health Department photo.

Southern Seven Health Department last week received the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines designated to the seven-county region in Southern Illinois.

The department serves Union, Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope and Pulaski counties.

The shipment of 160 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine was received by Southern Seven Health Department staff on Wednesday, Dec. 16, and transported to a local healthcare provider.

(The health department reported on Friday, Dec. 18, that the vaccines were transported to Union County Hospital in Anna.)

Southern Seven reported that frontline healthcare workers at the facility were expected to receive their first COVID-19 vaccinations beginning on Dec. 17.

Frontline healthcare workers are considered to be paid or unpaid employees who serve in healthcare settings and have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.

"The arrival of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is an important step in the fight against this pandemic in the Southern Seven region," said Teresa Wilburn, director of nursing for Southern Seven Health Department, in a news release.

"I'm proud to have been a small part of the process in the delivery to one of our hardest hit counties. Frontline workers will be some of the first people to receive the vaccine and I'm looking forward to the months ahead when it could be available for everyone in our communities."

Based on current guid-



Inspecting shipment

Health officials inspected boxes containing the first vials of COVID-19 vaccines which were delivered to the Southern Illinois region on Wednesday, Dec. 16. Photo from Southern Seven Health Department, courtesy of SIH.

ance from Illinois Department of Public Health, Southern Seven Health Department expects to receive a weekly shipment of vaccine.

These vaccines will be distributed throughout the seven counties based on guidance from IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, CDC.

Currently COVID-19 vaccinations are being provided to frontline healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities under Phase 1A of the CDC's COVID-19 vaccination program.

Phase 1 is characterized by having access to a limited amount of COVID-19 vaccine.

(continued on page 2)

COVID-19 vaccines arrive at Union County Hospital

Officials at Union County Hospital in Anna received the first shipment of the COVID-19 vaccine Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 16, which allowed staff to begin the two-dose vaccination process.

Consistent with CDC guidance, the vaccine will be provided on a staggered schedule to physicians and staff caring for COVID-19 patients first.

After the physicians and staff caring directly and indirectly for patients get vaccinated, Jim Farris, CEO of Union County Hospital will join with his team and do the same.

"I am extremely excited to have the vaccine and that our staff and community can begin to turn the page on this pandemic," Farris said in a news release.

"We have a highly dedicated group of professionals who have been on the frontlines for months now. I owe it to them to be a part of the team - to step up to the plate, set an example and take this vaccine," he said.

Charles Sanders, chief nursing officer for the facility, explained: "This vaccine may be new to this virus, but vaccine development is not a new process.

"This vaccine has been created using known medical research and technology. We have a long way to go, but this is a major step on the road to ending this pandemic, and one we are excited about."

While the first doses of the vaccine in Illinois have been slated specifically for healthcare workers, Farris said, with continued production, he expects to see the vaccine will become more widely available in 2021.

"With the approval of this vaccine and the pending approval of another, I hope we will start to see the

vaccine become more common and, ultimately, see more people and communities protected from this virus and starting to heal from the far-reaching effects of a global pandemic.

"We are not out of the woods yet, not nearly. But I think we may have our guiding light."

Hospital marketing director Monica Schramm said the first doses of vaccine were administered last Thursday to workers at the Anna facility in what was an "emotional moment."

"They're on the front line," she said. "We needed this."

Rural Health Awaits Vaccines

As of late last week, Rural Health Inc. had not yet received COVID-19 vaccines.

Rural Health Inc. community outreach coordinator Chase Hileman said that shipments of the vaccine were part of a phased process.

"That phased process is at the very beginning stage," Hileman said in an email message on Friday.

"With that said, Rural Health Inc. is excited and eager for when our time comes to receive the vaccine."

Wreaths Across America ceremony held in Anna

COLUMBIA FALLS, Maine - Saturday, Dec. 19, was National Wreaths Across America Day.

On Saturday, at 2,557 participating locations, dedicated Americans in every state honored the nation's heroes by safely placing a total of 1.7 million veterans' wreaths on their headstones and remembering them, by saying each name out loud.

One of the ceremonies was held last Saturday morning at the Anna City Cemetery.

Cold temperatures and a light rain did not dampen the spirits of those who gathered in the midst of the ongoing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic to honor Union County's veterans.

Saturday morning's ceremony was led by Phil Ray. In comments during the ceremony, Ray shared that the special event offered an opportunity to "remember the fallen and honor those who have served...and are presently serving."

The ceremony at the Anna City Cemetery included presentation of the colors by an honor guard from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna, the singing of the National Anthem, the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence of the playing of "Taps." Wreaths were laid on the graves of veterans who are buried at the Anna City Cemetery.

"The 2020 theme for Wreaths Across America

has been 'Be an American worth fighting for,' and this year I have been blessed to see my fair share," said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America, in a news release.

"The determination of the American people and their commitment to the mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, made it possible for us to move forward this year, safely. We are humbled, and forever grateful for the outpouring of support from all across the country."

Wreaths Across America thanked the dedicated volunteers in every state for overcoming the many obstacles presented and remaining focused on the mission over the last year.

From the individual location coordinators working with local officials on modified wreath placement plans, to the professional truck drivers who have been keeping this country moving but found time to help deliver these truckloads of respect, each person has played an important part in

the mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those that serve and their families, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Each live, balsam veteran's wreath is a gift of respect and appreciation, donated by a private citizen or organization and it is placed on graves by volunteers as a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy.

For centuries, fresh evergreens have been used as a symbol of honor and have served as a living tribute

renewed annually.

Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active duty military and their families and when volunteers say the name of a veteran out loud, when placing a wreath, it ensures they live on in everyone's memory.

For more pictures from Saturday's ceremony in Union County, see this week's Anna News by Martha Ann Webb. Webb was local coordinator for the Anna event.



Wreaths Across America ceremony in Anna

A National Wreaths Across America Day ceremony was held last Saturday morning at the Anna City Cemetery.



REPPERT PUBLICATIONS

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Southern Seven update, as of Dec. 21

Total of 1,478 COVID-19 cases in county

As of Monday, Dec. 21, Union County had recorded nearly 1,500 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began. Southern Seven Health Department reported Monday that the county had a total of 1,478 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Southern Seven Health Department reported a cumulative total of 4,433 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in its service area as of Dec. 21. The health department serves Union, Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope and Pulaski counties. As of Dec. 21, the health department reported the following statistics for the seven area counties it serves: 81 newly confirmed cases. 73 newly recovered cases. 1,401 total active cases. 64 total deaths. 4,433 cumulative total cases. The health department reported 17 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Union County on Dec. 21. The health department reported the following number of newly confirmed cases in the county, by age: One under 5, two in their teens, two in their 30s, two in their 40s, four in their 50s, four in their 60s, one in the 70s, one 80 and older. Total COVID-19 statistics for Union County since the start of the pandemic, as of Dec. 21, follow: 1,478 cases. 944 recovered. 510 active cases. 24 deaths had been reported.

Southern Seven Health Department launches online survey to determine interest in vaccine

Southern Seven Health Department is inviting anyone who lives in the seven Southern Illinois counties which it serves to take a quick, online survey to gauge interest in the COVID-19 vaccine throughout its service area. Southern Seven Health Department serves Union, Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope and Pulaski counties. The anonymous survey has seven questions and takes less than one minute to complete. A link to the online COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance survey has been posted on Southern Seven's Facebook page and on its website at www.southern7.org. The survey can also be visited directly with the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WP5LDX6. "This is just one of many outreach tools we're launching at the Southern Seven Health Department to help us understand how many folks would like to roll up their sleeves and get the COVID-19 vaccine," said Nathan Ryder, outreach coordinator for Southern Seven's contact tracing program, in a news release. "The COVID vaccine probably won't be available to the general public until spring or early summer but we want to do our homework early. This helps us with the planning process to deploy vaccines more broadly throughout the region in 2021." The first shipment of 160 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine was received by the health department's staff on Wednesday, Dec. 16, and transported to Union County Hospital in Anna. Frontline healthcare workers at that facility started to receive their first COVID-19 vaccinations on Thursday, Dec. 17. Frontline healthcare workers are considered to be paid or unpaid employees who serve in healthcare settings and have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. Based on current guidance from Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, Southern Seven Health Department expects to receive a weekly shipment of vaccine. The vaccines will be distributed throughout the seven counties based on guidance from IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, CDC. Currently COVID-19 vaccinations are being provided to frontline healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities under Phase 1A of the CDC's COVID-19 vaccination program. Phase 1 is characterized by having access to a limited amount of COVID-19 vaccine. For questions regarding COVID-19, contact Southern Seven Health Department at 618-634-2297 or visit the health department on Facebook and online at www.southern7.org.

News Notes

(continued from page 1)

The Cobden Village Board of Trustees has accepted a proposal in the amount of \$389,924 from Dinges Fire Company for the purchase of a fire truck and equipment. ***

The Cobden Village Board also has authorized expending \$1,200 for security cameras for the village's cemetery and street buildings. ***

Jeremy Raegan has been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Anna Police Department. ***

In response to the impact of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, the Anna City Council has voted to waive 2021 liquor license fees, with the exception of the original package only license classification. ***

Shawnee Community College's winter intersession offerings are scheduled Dec. 28 through Jan. 7. ***

Anna Head Start has been closed for students during December, but activities have continued. Staff delivered gifts, crafts and cookie dough to students in the Southern Seven Health Department Rudolph mobile. ***

Southern Seven Health

Department reported that 162 free COVID-19 tests were completed at a drive-thru, mobile testing event held Saturday, Dec. 19, at the department's Massac County clinic. This was the largest turnout Southern Seven had seen at the free testing events. Following Saturday's testing, Southern Seven Health Department had conducted 1,063 free COVID-19 tests in the region since mobile testing began in September. ***

The shop at the Union County Museum in downtown Cobden has been temporarily closed for the winter. The shop is scheduled to reopen on Saturday, March 6. ***

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign reported on Dec. 15 that it had administered its millionth saliva-based COVID-19 test since initiating a broader management program last summer. A number of other institutions are in the process of implementing the Illinois system, which the university validated by successfully comparing its performance to a test with Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorization. All students, faculty members and staff who reside in the area are required to test at least once a week. ***

Golfers were on the course playing last Saturday morning at the Union County Country Club in Anna. ***

A lawn mower, or two, could be heard last Monday afternoon in Cobden. ***

Merry Christmas to all of our readers

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

Anna State Bank - Anna
 Thursday, Dec. 24 - Close at Noon
 Friday, Dec. 25 and Saturday, Dec. 26 - Closed

Anna-Jonesboro National Bank - 4 Locations
 Thursday, Dec. 24 - Close at Noon
 Friday, Dec. 25 and Saturday, Dec. 26 - Closed

Farmers State Bank - Alto Pass
 Thursday, Dec. 24 - Close at Noon
 Friday, Dec. 25 - Closed
 Regular hours Saturday

First State Bank of Dongola
 Dongola Ullin
 Thursday, Dec. 24 - Close at Noon
 Friday, Dec. 25 and Saturday, Dec. 26 - Closed

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE COMMUNITY GIFT BOXES
CEO Class Business 2020-21

The CEO Class would like to say Thank You to all of the businesses and community members who supported our class business, Christmas Around the Community. Giving is not just about making a donation, it is about making a difference. Your overwhelming support has truly made a difference for the CEO Program and the community. Please help us continue to support these businesses in our local community as they are the heartbeat of our neighborhood, the spine of our local economy and the spirit of our town.

Our sincerest Thank You to our sponsors:

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Anna State Bank
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 Brumleve Farms
 Lambdin Farms
 Moreland Eye Care
 Bald Knob Cross
 Doc's Lakeside Cabin
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Phases
 Whitney Accounting
 Parrish and Lambdin
 Nalee Rae's Boutique
 First State Bank of Dongola
 Nana's Farm
 Remax Southern
 Union County Market

Students share their thoughts, memories about Christmas



Sabryna Borders

Rusty's Home Center in Anna is continuing a Christmas tradition this year.

The Anna business invites students at Union County schools to share their thoughts about what Christmas means to them.

The students with the top entries each receive a giant Christmas stocking.

This year's winning entries follow (photos of the winners were provided):

**Sabryna Borders
Anna**

Christmas is about being with my family and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Every year, my family and I go pick out a tree in the forest to be our Christmas tree. We go caroling with our 4-H club.

Our family goes and looks at Christmas lights. Mom and dad point out the best shows.

We go to church on Christmas Eve and sing Silent Night with candles. We go with the family to find the perfect Christmas tree. We have gone to the Land Between the Lakes and Shawnee National Forest to get our tree and Dad says it is okay because we get a permit to be able to do it. We all look for the perfect tree and dad cuts it down with Callysta.

My brother and sister and I help get it on the top of the van. We go caroling with our 4-H club. We go to all of the local nursing homes and sing to make the people there happier. The whole family sings and we have lots of fun. When we are done, we eat pizza at Pizza Hut and have our 4-H meeting.

We go to church on Christmas Eve. My sister and I get to be sheep or angels in the nativity play. We sing Silent Night and everyone lights a candle.

We used to have a toy flashlight but last year we got to be big and hold a real candle.

Christmas is fun because we do everything with my family. We do the same things every year and they make it special. Mom and dad make sure we get to help and have fun with all of our activities at Christmas time.

**Brantley Hoffman
Dongola**

Christmas time means many things to me. I love to spend time with my family. We bake cookies with my family. We watch Christmas movies. We put up the Christmas tree. We listen to Christmas songs. I love Christmas time.

**Camden Knueven
Lick Creek**

To me Christmas means a lot of things. I am going to tell you about three of them. They are family, Jesus, and presents. My favorite time of year is Christmas.

We spend time with family when we get together at my grandparents' house. We make Christmas cookies. Next we open presents and in our stockings we usually get chocolate, five dollars, and gum.

When we open our presents, it is fun because I never know what is going to be in it. I like surprises! One year I got a phone! So I am excited for what this Christmas will bring for me and for the rest of my family.

Now I am going to tell you about Jesus. We celebrate Christmas because it is the day of Jesus's birth. We wouldn't have Christmas without Him. He gave us this world so we could enjoy our time here and celebrate the holidays.

I hope you enjoyed reading my essay. To me Christmas is about many things but family, Jesus, and presents are my favorites. Happy holidays.



Brantley Hoffman



Hailie Sullivan

**Liam McDonald
Shawnee**

Christmas means fun and love and spending time with my family and having fun. Being kind, showing love and I hear God telling me that today is going to be a good day. Eating food with my family, playing with my family. Giving gift getting gifts. Praying because we need to tell Jesus Happy Birthday. Seeing my elf.

**Hailie Sullivan
Jonesboro**

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. To many, Christmas means Santa Claus and getting gifts, but to me Christmas means so much more.

First, Christmas is the time of year to celebrate the birth of Jesus. I like to celebrate by participating in our church Christmas program every year. This year I am going to be an angel and a shepherd. I also celebrate by going to Christmas Eve service at church with my family. My favorite part of this service is singing Silent Night while holding candles.

I also like to celebrate Christmas by giving gifts to ones in need and to my family. My favorite thing to do is fill a shoe box with special gifts to send to different countries where missionaries hand out the boxes and teach the children about God. This year we are also giving gifts to a 10 year old girl for Christmas. We are giving her a new bike and some clothes and shoes.

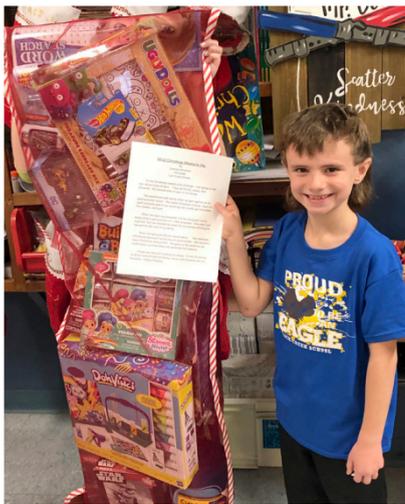
My other favorite thing to do is spend time with my family. My family plays fun games on Christmas and eats yummy meal together. My game it the saran wrap game, and my favorite food is cream corn. I also like to see Christmas lights with my family and watch Christmas movies. My favorite Christmas movie Home Alone.

Christmas is my favorite time of the year because we get to do so many fun things. I hope everyone remembers the true meaning of Christmas. Merry Christmas!

**Caroline Taylor
Cobden**

What does Christmas mean? Christmas means celebrating Jesus' birth, spending time with family, and opening gifts all the while remembering the greatest gift of all time.

Christmas means celebrating Jesus' birth. This means Christmas because Jesus was born to save us from our sins. We go to church and all of the kids perform a big Christmas pageant by telling the story of His birth in action. Last year, I played Mary.



Camden Knueven



Caroline Taylo

We also spend Christmas Eve at church. We sing Christmas songs by candlelight. We always go to the Night in Bethlehem where we walk through to see what it was really like for Mary and Joseph. On Christmas morning we have birthday cake and sing to Jesus. Christmas really is about Jesus' birth.

To me Christmas means spending time with family. This means Christmas to me because we do a lot of things as a family like seeing Christmas lights and decorating. While we are decorating we put up our stockings. We go to our grandparents' house a lot and do Christmas crafts.

On Christmas Eve we go to lunch with



Liam McDonald

our family at Red Lobster. We always give gifts and wrap them with family. Then we open them on Christmas morning. Every year we go to an enormous Christmas House with all of our cousins and we all spend time together. Christmas is about spending time with loved ones.

When I think of Christmas I think of opening gifts because Jesus gave a big gift to the world. I think of getting gifts and giving gifts to others. Usually my family gives gifts to people who are in need, but this year we made card for Veterans. We give gifts because people who don't have a lot need to know that someone cares for them.

A few years ago we had a fire at our house at Christmas time. God protected us and people gave us a home and took care of us. We also bless our neighbors every year with homemade Christmas crafts or baked goods. I love opening gifts because I spend time wondering what is inside of each package. The best Christmas gift is when God gave us his Son named Jesus who saved us from our sins. This is what Christmas means to me.

Christmas has special meaning. Christmas is all about Jesus' birth and remembering the story of his birth with Mary and Joseph, his mother and father. Christmas is also about family and spending a lot of time with them. Christmas is about opening gifts, but most importantly it is about Jesus' big gift to the whole world.

Merry Christmas

From our family to yours.

THANK YOU
For Your Business



In order to allow our employees to enjoy the holiday with loved ones, we will be closing at noon today, Christmas Eve, and will reopen on Monday, December 28th, with regular business hours.

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Sports

Cobden softball team won three state titles

By Mike Estel

The Cobden High School softball team had a three year domination of the Class 1A state tournament series 10 years ago.

The Lady Appleknockers won the title for three consecutive years from 2008 through 2010.

Cobden finished 42-8 in 2008, 47-5 in 2009 and 48-6 in 2010.

Two different coaches led the squad through the championship run.

Josh Franklin was head coach the first year and left after one season to become a minister at the Vine Community Church in Carbondale.

"I still talk with the girls quite a bit," Franklin said. "It was nice seeing the girls grow up. The relationship you build with them is always there."

Nathan Emrick coached the Appleknockers the last two seasons of the championship teams.

"Having a relationship with the girls is something really special," Emrick said.

The four players who were around all three seasons during the championship runs were pitcher/first baseman DaKota Knopp; pitcher/shortstop Taylor Orsburn; shortstop Taylor Quetermous and outfielder Jordan Gray.

Others making contributions during those championship seasons were: second baseman/shortstop Jenna Lehr; shortstop/center fielder Ana Duda; second baseman/first baseman Lindsey Morrison; pitcher/first baseman Christian Pender; infielder/outfielder Hannah Spalt; second baseman Emily Murray; right fielder Taylor Wilkins; third

baseman Katie McMahan; center fielder Kelsey Stadelbacher and designated player Kim Smith.

Franklin, who has two sons playing on the Cobden High School's basketball team, is an assistant varsity basketball coach for the team.

Emrick, who moved to Carterville a short while ago, teaches and coaches volleyball there.

The coaches and players during that championship Cobden softball team run will never be forgotten by the fans for their contributions to part of the school's sports history.

Gold medals remembered

Wes Cripps Jr. of Jonesboro won a gold medal in run, dribble and shot competition at the Great Lakes Regional during the 1977 Special Olympics in Michigan City, Ind.

During this 1977 run when Cripps was just 13 years old, in addition to bringing home a gold medal, he was awarded a trophy and a porcelain mug memorializing the 1977 Special Olympics.

Youth from five states, including Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois, all competed.

Cripps earned the trip to Indiana by winning a gold medal during competition in Chicago. Prior to that win, he won the local competition at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Wes has previously worked as a custodian at Jonesboro Elementary School.

Athletics foundation plans to host virtual 5K event

NubAbility Athletics Foundation plans to hold a non-profit Rudolph Run virtual 5K on Saturday, Dec. 26.

The virtual event will support the NubAbility organization.

Registration fees are \$25 per adult and \$15 per child. The top 25 adult runners and all child runners will receive t-shirts as prizes.

On the same day, NubAbility is encouraging families to get up and move with a virtual family fun run.

For the fun run, participants can run, cycle, swim, roll, walk or use gym equipment, such as a treadmill or an elliptical, as long as they cover a distance of 1 mile.

The fun run is free; participants will receive certificates or medals for completing the event.

NubAbility is a 501(c)3 charity that helps limb-different children gain confidence and courage by helping them to succeed in mainstream sports.

SIH, IBEW Local No. 702 and Nike are sponsors of the event.

For more information or to register for the race, visit nubability.org, call 618-357-1394 or email info@nubability.org.

A virtual race is a race in which participants run in a location of their choosing: on the grass, sidewalk, trail, track or treadmill.

Runners capture their distance and time using a fitness app such as Nike Run Club and submit it to race sponsors to compete.

New golf pro hired

Barry Faulkner of Ballard County, Ky., has been hired as the new golf professional at Union County Country Club in Anna.

Faulkner succeeds Brandon Bierstedt in the job.

Bierstedt recently accepted the job of golf pro at the Kokopelli Lake of Egypt Country Club.

Sports Page from the Past

from the files of The Gazette-Democrat

Thursday, December 24, 1970

Congressman Kenneth J. Gray, D. Illinois, announced Friday, Dec. 18, that, after conferring with officials of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that the Illinois Goose Hunting season will be extended for an additional two days this year due to unseasonably warm weather and the low kill in the early part of the season.

Gray said the season will end December 23 and will reopen for hunting Saturday and Sunday, January 2 and 3, for an additional two days.

The first annual Cheerleading Contest was held at Shawnee High School December 15 and 16.

Selected the best cheerleading squad was first: Cobden; second, Shawnee and third, a tie between Egyptian and Anna-Jonesboro.

The best individual cheerleaders: first, Gwen Schaefer, Shawnee; second, Linda Kinsey, Shawnee and third, Lynn Forby, Cobden.

Honorable mention went to Kathy Brimm, Anna-Jonesboro and Kim Vick, Egyptian.

The best Pep Club award went to: first, Cobden; second, Dongola and third, Shawnee.

The Shawnee Christmas Tournament was held last week. Egyptian won first, Cobden second and Shawnee third.

The Anna-Jonesboro Wildcats' (basketball) record fell to 1-5 after three consecutive losses this past week to Cape Girardeau, Nashville and Murphysboro.

The Jonesboro Bulldogs, led by a balanced attack, crushed the Vienna Rams last Thursday at Vienna. Jonesboro won (the basketball game) 61 to 29.



A message from Frosty...

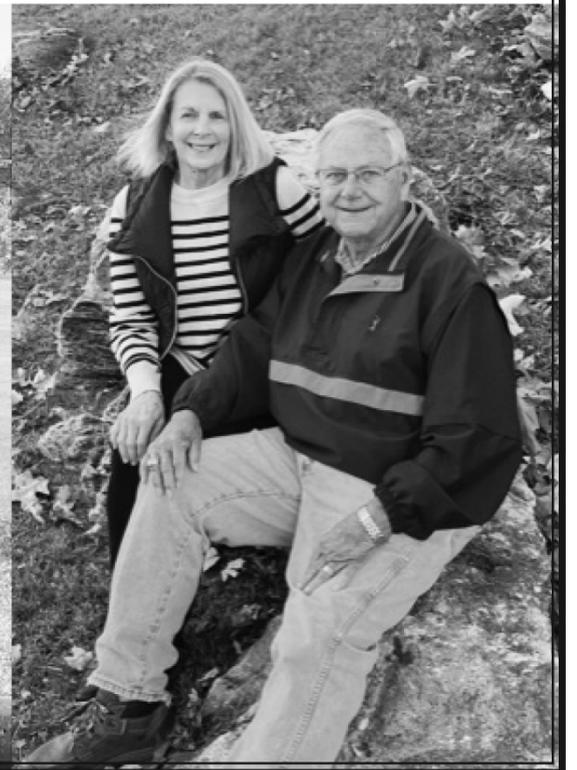
Frosty the Snowman left a special message to everyone in Union County after light snow fell on the area Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning, Dec. 15-16.

WE WISH YOU A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE JERRY REPPERT FAMILY





Cobden FFA fall semester wrap up

Even in the midst of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, students in the Cobden High School FFA program have found ways to continue to be active. Students have participated in activities such as writing thank you cards to veterans for their service and collecting pet-related items to donate to a local animal shelter. Students have also continued to participate in competitions – though they have done so virtually. Competitions the students have participated in include agronomy, a livestock show and horse judging. Members attended the national FFA convention virtually this year as well. The group meets each month and plans to have an extensive spring schedule of activities. Photo provided.

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

Rev. Thompson’s sermon for the third Sunday of Advent on Dec. 13 focused on Joy. Scripture was from the Gospel of John.

The message shared that John’s gospel is different from the other three gospels. He starts at the beginning, with Genesis.

The message recalled that “God spoke to humankind throughout history in dreams and through prophecies.

“Perhaps the most important words in the entire Bible are ‘the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.’

“Jesus came to us as one of us. He humbled Himself even to the point of crucifixion...so great was his love for us.

“Many people have forgotten joy as they go through life.

“If your joy has been stolen, don’t let despair defeat you. Let go of your fear and rejoice that ‘the Word became flesh and dwelt among us’.”

The sermon on the fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 20, focused on Hope. Scripture was from Isaiah and Matthew.

The message shared that “after experiencing the year 2020, many feel hopeless. Before Christ was born, people were weighed down with fears and problems, too.

“Christ loved us so much that he was willing to leave Heaven and all its glory

to live among us on Earth, and to die on a cross to take away our sins so that we can again be in fellowship with our creator.

“This is the good news and hope for a suffering world. This is the message of Christmas, Emmanuel, God with us. Rejoice. He does not leave us alone.”

Those having birthdays during the past week have been Lara Crane on Dec. 19, and Billy Williams and Sandra Boaz on Dec. 21.

Rev. Thompson and the congregation of Camp Ground Church wish the staff and readers of this newspaper a blessed Christmas and a safe, healthy New Year.

Not many Christmas Days with snow on the ground in region

A white Christmas is not very common in the region, records from the National Weather Service office in Paducah show.

The weather service posted a climate history for Christmas Day on its website. Records for Paducah date back to December of 1937.

Since that time, there have been eight years classified as a white Christmas, with a snow depth of 1 inch or greater.

This last happened in 2010, when there was 3 inches of snow on the ground on Christmas morning.

The weather service noted that the deepest snow depth observed on Christmas morning was back in 2004... “when there was an astounding 9 inches.”

Temperatures

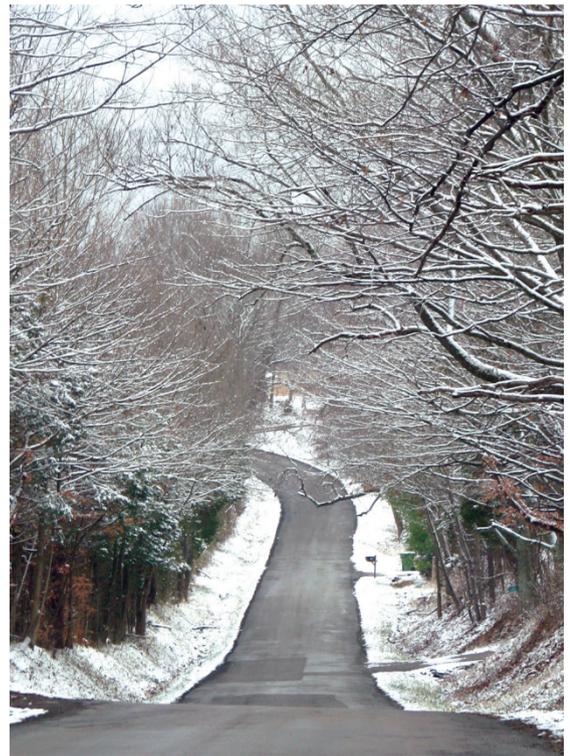
High temperatures on Christmas Day in the region generally are in the 30s and 40s. The normal high temperature is 44 degrees.

The warmest high temperatures on Christmas Day in Paducah included 71 degrees in 2016, 70 degrees in 2019, 69 degrees in 1982, 66 in 1940, 63 in 1971 and 60 in 1942.

The coldest high temperatures on the holiday included 12 in 1983, 19 in 1985, 24 in 2000, 24 in 1980 and 27 in 2004 (which was a tie with a similar reading in previous years).

Low temperatures generally are in the 20s and 30s. The normal low is 27.

Among the coldest low temperatures were 8 de-



Christmas Day, 2010

The landscape in the Union County area was covered with light dusting of snow on Christmas Day in 2010. File photo.

grees below zero in 2004 and 5 degrees below zero in 1983.

Precipitation

Measurable precipitation has fallen on Christmas Day 29 percent of the time. More than 1 inch of precipitation has fallen on three different occasions.

The wettest Christmas Day on record was in 1987, with 3.87 inches of precipitation.

The snowiest Christmas Day on record was in 1969, when 4.0 inches fell.

Christmas Days with the most snow on the ground, in terms of depth, included 2004, with 9.0 inches; 1963,

with 5.0 inches; 1969, with 4.0 inches; 2010, with 3.0 inches; and 1966, with 2.0 inches.

This Week’s Outlook

The outlook for Christmas Day 2020 is calling for sunshine and a high of 33 degrees.

Addison Osman honor student

Addison Paige Osman of Anna has been named to the fall semester dean’s honor roll at the University of Mississippi.

The dean’s honor roll is reserved for students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.50 to 3.74.



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The Gazette-Democrat

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1-2gpc

FOR SALE: Small wooden
desk with keyboard shelf,
\$20.00; HP laptop, \$30.00;
room size light blue rug,
\$20.00. Call (618)-521-8049.

1gp n/c

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Very nice, par-
tially furnished, 2 bedroom
apartment located in Anna.
Close to town. Call (618)-
833-5858 or (618)-697-1893.

1p-2g tfn

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Available now. Call (618)-
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WANTED

LOOKING for house clean-
ing services in Anna, Illinois,
for every other week. Please
call (618)-325-9155.

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WANTED: Person to wash
outside windows on home.
Call or text (618)-521-8049.

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WANTED TO BUY: Paying
cash for pocket knives and
hunting knives, will make
offer. Call (618)-833-3584.

1-2gpc

WANTED: Someone (boy or
girl) to fly with me! Meals and
hotel paid. Call (618)-318-
1152. Young Eagle Program
(young eagles.org).

2gpc

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT
COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN
DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA,
Plaintiff,**

vs.

**DONALD C. BRIMM
and CITY OF ANNA,
ILLINOIS,
Defendants.
Civil No. 19-cv-525-NJR-
RJD**

**SECOND NOTICE OF
MARSHAL'S SALE**

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

1. The name, address and
telephone number of the per-
son to contact for information
regarding the real estate is:

Melodie Rushing
Rural Development
Specialist

502 Comfort Drive
Marion, Illinois 62959
(618) 993-5396 ext. 4

2. The common address
and other common descrip-
tion, if any, of the real estate
is:

201 George Street,
Anna, Illinois 62906

3. The legal description of
the real estate is:

TRACT I: LOT NUM-
BERED 1 IN BLOCK B
IN WARREN T. BROWN'S
ADDITION TO THE CITY
OF ANN, BEING A PART
OF THE SOUTHEAST
QUARTER OF SECTION
28, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH,
RANGE ONE WEST OF
THE THIRD PRINCIPAL
MERIDIAN, UNION
COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

TRACT II: PART OF
BROWN STREET IN WAR-
REN T. BROWN'S FIRST
ADDITION TO THE CITY
OF ANNA, BEING PART OF
THE NORTHEAST QUAR-
TER OF THE NORTHEAST
QUARTER OF SECTION
19, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH,
RANGE ONE WEST OF
THE THIRD PRINCIPAL
MERIDIAN DESCRIBED
AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN-
NING AT THE NORTH-
WEST CORNER OF LOT 1,
IN BLOCK B OF SAID AD-
DITION; THENCE SOUTH-
EAST ALONG THE WEST
LINE OF SAID LOT 1 A DIS-
TANCE OF 132 FEET TO
THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-
OF-WAY LINE OF GEORGE
STREET; THENCE WEST-
ERLY ALONG THE SAID
RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A
DISTANCE OF 14 FEET;
THENCE NORTHERLY
PARALLEL WITH THE
WEST LINE OF SAID LOT
A DISTANCE OF 132 FEET
TO THE SOUTHERLY
RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF
A 16.5 FEET WIDE AL-
LEY; THENCE EASTERLY
ALONG THE SAID ALLEY
RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A
DISTANCE OF 14 FEET
TO THE POINT OF BEGIN-
NING; UNION COUNTY,
ILLINOIS.

4. The real estate may
be inspected prior to sale
at the following times: by
appointment.

5. The date, time, and
place of the sale are: January
13, 2021, at 12:00 noon, at
the front door of the County
Courthouse for Union Coun-
ty, Jonesboro, Illinois.

6. The terms of the sale are:
cashier's check, 10 percent
due at time of sale, balance
due within 72 hours.

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

8. At said sale I shall give
to the purchaser or purchas-
ers a certificate in writing
describing the lands and
tenements purchased and the
sum paid therefor. Upon
confirmation of said sale by
the court, the holder of said
certificate shall be entitled
to a deed for said premises.

Dated at East St. Louis,
Illinois, this 29th day of
September, 2020.

BRADLEY MAXWELL
United States Marshal
Southern District of Illinois

ADAM E. HANNA
Assistant United States
Attorney
United States Attorney's
Office

Nine Executive Drive
Fairview Heights, Illinois
62208-1344
Phone: (618) 628-3700
Fax: (618) 622-3810
E-mail: Adam.Hanna@
usdoj.gov

1-3g

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

**ESTATE OF
JERI WALKER,
DECEASED.
NO. 2020-P-47**

IN PROBATE

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

NOTICE IS GIVEN to
creditors of the death of Jeri
Walker of Cobden, Illinois.
Letters of Office were issued
on December 8, 2020, to Julie
Walker, 1860 Shiloh Road,
Cobden, Illinois 62920, as
Independent Administrator,
whose attorney is Elvis C.
Cameron, 205B N. Main St.,
Anna, Illinois.

The estate will be admin-
istered without Court super-
vision unless, under Section

5/28-4 of the Probate Act of
1975 (755 ILCS 5/28-4), any
interested person terminates
Independent Administration
at any time by mailing or de-
livering 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 62952, or with the
Independent Administrator,
or both, on or before June
17, 2020, or if mailing or
delivery of a notice from the
Independent Administrator 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 Administrator and to the
attorney within ten (10) days
after it has been filed.

Dated: December 10,
2020.

JULIE WALKER
INDEPENDENT
ADMINISTRATOR

**CAMERON LAW FIRM,
LLC**
ELVIS C. CAMERON, #
6244394

ATTORNEY FOR
ADMINISTRATOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
1-3g

**STATE OF ILLINOIS,
CIRCUIT COURT
UNION COUNTY**

**PUBLICATION NOTICE
OF COURT DATE FOR
REQUEST FOR NAME
CHANGE (ADULT)**

**Request of:
JESSE THOMAS
ADAMS
2020-MR-106**

There will be a court date
on my Request to change my
name from: JESSE THOMAS
AS ADAMS to the new name
of: Jesse Thomas Adams.

The court date will be held
on February 2, 2021, at 10:30
a.m., at 309 W. Market Street,
Jonesboro, IL, Union County,
in Courtroom #1.

JESSE THOMAS ADAMS
1-3gpc

**NOTICE UNDER
ASSUMED BUSINESS
NAME ACT**

**State of Illinois
SS
County of Union**

Notice is hereby given
pursuant to "An Act in rela-
tion to the use of an Assumed

Name in the conduct or
Transaction of Business in the
State," as Amended that a
certification was filed by the
undersigned with the County
Clerk of Union County. Filed
this 7th day of December,
2020, under the Assumed
Name of JESSE THOMAS
ADAMS with the place of
business located at P.O. Box
531, Cobden, Illinois 62920
and that the True Name(s) and
Residence Address of the sole
owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of
said Business is:

JESSE ADAMS
P.O. Box 531
Cobden, IL 62920
1-3gc

**TAKE NOTICE
CERTIFICATE NO.
2016-00064**

**TO: CHARLES DIESEL
SERVICE,
CHARLES R. SMITH
FARMS INC.,
CURRENT RESIDENT,
LANCE
MEISENHEIMER
(UNION COUNTY
CLERK)
AND ALL UNKNOWN
OWNERS, HEIRS,
AND INTERESTED
PARTIES:**

A Petition for a Tax Deed
on the premises described
below has been filed in the
Circuit court of UNION
County, Illinois, as Case No.
18-TX-3 (Y) 3.0 Acres m/l;
Part of the South Half of the
Northwest Quarter & Part of
the East Half of the Southwest
Quarter South of the Road,
Section 12 Twp 12S Rng
3W, described as follows:
Commencing at the Southeast
Corner of said Northwest
Quarter, thence South 1 de-
gree 17' 21" West along the
North/South center line of
said Section 21 a distance of
701.02 feet to the Southerly
right of way of Co. Highway
13, thence Northwesterly
along the said right of way
line on a curve to the right of
radius 990.37 feet a distance
along the arc of 422.96 feet,
thence North 46 degrees 58'
West along the said right of
way line a distance of 933.30
feet to the point of beginning,
thence South 43 degrees 02'
West a distance of 208.71 feet,
thence North 46 degrees 58'
28" West a distance of 626.13
feet, thence North 43 degrees
East a distance of 208.71
feet to the Southerly road of
way line of Co. Highway 13,
thence Southeasterly along
the said road of way on a
curve to the right of radius
4372.46 feet a distance along
the arc of 27.06 feet thence
South 46 degrees 58' East
along the said road of way
line a distance of 599.07
feet to point of beginning; as

recorded Doc#196612 dated
7/22/1991; 12-3W Township,
Union County, Illinois and
any building thereon and their
contents, if any Common
address: 4865 State Forest
Road, Wolf Lake; 12-3W
Township, Union County,
Illinois and any building
thereon and their contents,
if any.

Property Index No. 11-
12-06-943

Said Property was sold on
May 30, 2018 for General
taxes for the tax year 2016.
The period of redemption
will expire on April 1, 2021.
On April 7, 2021 at 9:00
AM, the Petitioner will make
application to such Court in
said County for an Order for
Tax Deed should the said real
estate not be redeemed.

WILLIAM E. GROOME,
Petitioner
2-4g

**NOTICE UNDER
ASSUMED BUSINESS
NAME ACT**

**State of Illinois
SS
County of Union**

Notice is hereby given
pursuant to "An Act in rela-
tion 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 21st day of December,
2020, under the Assumed
Name of Lane Co. Boutique
with the place of business
located at 303 S. Jefferson,
Cobden, Illinois 62920 and
that the True Name(s) and
Residence Address of the sole
owner(s) and Proprietor(s) of
said Business is:

Mackenzie Laird
303 S. Jefferson Street
Cobden, IL 62920
2-4gc

**Bid for mowing St. Johns
Cemetery**

The St. Johns Cemetery
board is seeking bids for
mowing the cemetery for the
2021 season. Mowing starts
in March and runs until the
end of October. The cemetery
is to be mown as often as
needed to maintain a clean
presentable appearance. You
will also need to weed eat
around all stones and remove
clippings from the stones.
Dead flowers from funerals
will need to be removed at
times as well. Insurance is
required. Call 618 559-3957
if you have any questions.

Please return bids to John
Mowery, 880 Sweet Potato
Road Dongola, IL 62926.

2g

A Page from the Past

from the files of The Gazette-Democrat

From Thursday, December 10, 1970

Cobden's Lady Santa Claus at Work

It's the Christmas season again and Cobden's Lady Santa Claus is happily going about distributing gifts and goodies which includes some of her own delicious homemade candy.

As most everyone knows, Cobden's Lady Santa Claus is Mrs. Robert Burnett, better known as Helen.

Helen recalls that the Lord called her to be a missionary 18 years ago this coming March and the way he burdened her heart was to give one-third of her income.

This she does and more in her joy in giving and spreading Christmas spirit.

As a way to help finance and enlarge her Santa Claus activities, Helen is selling her own homemade marshmallow fudge and peanut butter fudge and will be taking orders until Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Thursday, December 24, 1970

Special services are planned at many churches throughout the Union County area to commemorate the birth of Christ.

The weatherman holds out little hope for a White Christmas this year in Union County, but does promise cooler weather than the 48 recorded early Wednesday morning, Dec. 23.

Despite the wet evening, a large number of persons attended the first Cobden Carol Sing Monday evening, Dec. 21.

Anna-Jonesboro Teen Town will hold its 13th Annual all-night New Year's Eve Party for Teen Town members, their guests and non-members of Anna-Jonesboro (on) Thursday, Dec. 31.

The Union County Board of Commissioners elected Johnny W. Wilson as chairman of the board at their regular meeting Monday, Dec. 21. The board is composed of Wilson, Ned Foley and Everett Brasel.

Six cars of a Gulf Mobile and Ohio freight train were derailed early Friday morning, Dec. 18, in downtown Alto Pass.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Monday, Dec. 21, that 18 year olds may vote in federal elections for presidential and vice presidential and congressional candidates, but held that state voting laws will continue to govern state and local contests.

**Merry
Christmas**

During this
holiday season,
we wish you all
the best.



Phillip R. McGrath
Financial Advisor
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(618) 833-6999

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him. From the Gospel of John

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

A MANGER SCENE



Photo Credit: bigstockphoto/francescomoutografos

An infant lay on a bed of straw, His newborn cries drowned by the sounds of animals. Wise Men from the East appeared, dressed in rich fabrics and carrying jewels; the finest of their gifts of fragrance mingled with the animals' scent. Weatherworn shepherds trembled in awe at the scene before them...still stunned from their encounter with angels. Mary and Joseph could not take their eyes from the true miracle God had entrusted to their care...a babe destined for perfection...born into a humble scene...yet, bathed in glory. In this holiest of seasons, share in the celebration of God like the Wise Men did; honor the birth of His only Son and worship Him.

Daily Bible Reading

Isaiah	Luke	Luke	Luke	Luke	John	Luke
8:21-9:7	1:1-25	1:26-56	1:57-80	2:1-20	1:1-18	2:21-52

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society X Daily Devotional at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org

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Special birthday celebration

Family, friends and the community came together to help a Union County resident celebrate a special birthday in the midst of the ongoing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. River to River of Anna resident Ervina Johnson celebrated her 90th birthday on Dec. 15. In honor of the special occasion, a drive-by celebration was held, complete with an escort from the Anna Police Department and the Jonesboro Police Department.

Ervina, a lifelong resident of Union County, was able to stand outside and greet the many people who came to wish her well. Many vehicles were decorated with signs saying "Happy Birthday," as well as colorful balloons. Several people even sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Those who worked to plan the special celebration said they wanted to make Ervina's 90th birthday as special as possible.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

A drive-in service was held on the church parking lot Sunday, Dec. 20, at 10:35 a.m. and by Zoom inside the sanctuary.

Singing was led by Pastor Randy Wright and the worship team.

A Christmas gift was presented to Pastor Wright and to church secretary Verna Fuller for their faithfulness and hard work throughout the year.

A letter was read from Nina Shepard, church board secretary, and the Rev. Terry Armstrong, Illinois district superintendent, stating that "He was excited to announce it was an overwhelming consensus of the board to continue the current church/pastoral relationship with Pastor Randy Wright for four more years. Good things are going to continue to happen as you all work together to glorify and honor Christ, lifting up His name and sharing His love with your community."

Pastor Wright was presented with a card and a gift for his continuing to be the church's pastor.

Sunday's message was titled "Jesus Brings Joy," with scripture from Luke.

The message can be found on the church's website at annanaz.com and on the church's Facebook page.

Birthdays: Matt Lacy,

Logan Cronk, Dec. 20; Drake Wiseman, Dec. 21; Pastor Randy Wright, Dec. 22.

A candlelight and Communion service is planned at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24.

Friday night Bible study will not be held on Dec. 25 due to Christmas.

Sunday School for children is planned from 9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on Dec. 27.

A parking lot service is planned at 10:35 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 27, if the weather permits, and on Zoom. Services will be inside the sanctuary if the weather is bad, following CDC guidelines by wearing masks, social distancing and families sitting together.

A Wednesday night service is planned at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 30, 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.

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.

State jobless rate 6.9 percent in November

The Illinois Department of Employment Security, IDES, reported that the state's unemployment rate fell 0.5 of a percentage point to 6.9 percent in November.

Nonfarm payrolls lost 20,000 jobs in November, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, BLS, and released by IDES.

The October monthly change in payrolls was revised from the preliminary report, from a loss of 1,100 jobs to a gain of 7,000 jobs.

The state's unemployment rate was 0.2 of a percentage point higher than the national unemployment rate reported for November, which was 6.7 percent, down 0.2 percentage point from the previous month.

In November, the three industry sectors with the largest over-the-month gains in employment were trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; and construction.

News from

First Baptist Church, Anna

John Turner led worship music for the morning worship service on Sunday, Dec. 20.

John Turner also preached. His sermon was titled "Morning has Broken." Scripture was from the Psalms.

All are welcome to attend services at the church. Information about services is available by contacting the church by phone at 833-5416. Office hours are between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The church is located at 409 Morgan St. in Anna. Nick DiMauro is the pastor.

The church shared the following message:

We pray you and your family have a blessed Christmas even during these hard times. May we draw strength from each other and from our Lord as we remember the reason we celebrate Christmas is the birth of our lord and savior Jesus Christ. May all we do and say bring glory and honor to his name every day. May God bless you and yours is our prayer.

News from

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Anna

Sunday's sermon was about patience. The pastor mentioned that "there have been many situations worse than what we have been through in 2020, and that patience has not been, for the most part, one of our strong points.

"In the Bible it tells us that God, through Nathan, spoke of what would be happening in the future. A king would be born of the House of David, and he would rule the world...forever. This King was Jesus. It took over 700 years for this prophecy to be fulfilled, but the people of Israel did not give up waiting for the Messiah.

"We sometimes have no patience, wanting what we want even before we know we want it. We need to be more like the Israelites."

Prayers were offered for the whole church of God, for Ann West, Marlee Smith, Kati Rausch, Gail Malott, Virginia Housman, Stephen Bussey, Craig Bass, Karen Hubbs, Faye Bledsoe, David Ury, Tabi Smith, Jenna Sadler, and Diane McClelland. Also for those grieving for Earl

Stahlheber, Lonnie Florida, Barbara Stegle Sweitzer and Stephen Busby.

Communion continues each Sunday from 11 a.m. until noon, by driving up at Salem Lutheran Church in Jonesboro to receive the sacrament.

The Salem and Mt. Moriah youth enjoyed a socially distanced Christmas party Sunday night at Salem.

Bible study was planned Tuesday night at Salem for both churches. They are still in the Book of Joshua.

Bell ringing is encouraged for everyone on Thursday, today. Go out on your front porch and listen for the chimes, and if you have a bell, participate in the ringing to announce the Lord's birth.

A Christmas Eve service will be live-streamed on YouTube at 4 p.m. on Thursday, today. The church hopes to be able to go back to normal worship in mid-January.

Until then, the people of Mt. Moriah wish everyone a blessed Christmas, and pray that you are safe and healthy. Thanks be to God.

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On Sunday, Dec. 20, Pastor Perry Williams spoke at both morning and evening services.

The morning message picked up on the rest of the Christmas story which began in last week's sermon, with scripture from Luke. This week, the message focused on "Glory" brought by Jesus into the world.

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.

During the morning service, music director Dee Rose led the worship. Debbie York was the pianist. Jayson Rose and Molly Jones sang a Christmas special, "The Christmas Shoes."

The church building is now opened for services. Check the church's Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, for the latest information about possible closings.

Birthdays: Carolyn Harvel, Dec. 24; Rachel Poole, Dec. 26.

Anniversaries: Jerry and Jean Hunter, Dec. 20, 57

years; Floyd and Ann Landis, Dec. 24, 70 years.

Currently, the regular schedule for worship at Jonesboro First Baptist Church for the coming week 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.

Wagons delivered

The holidays will be a little brighter this year for 450 children in the care of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services thanks to a generous donation from The Toy Foundation and Radio Flyer.

Last week, Radio Flyer's iconic red wagons, tricycles, balance bikes and ride-ons were to be delivered to families in Cook County; Coles, Macon, McLean and Sangamon counties in the central region; and Effingham, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Massac, Richland, Saline, St. Clair and Williamson counties in the southern region just in time for holiday celebrations.

New Coats, New Hope campaign tops goal

With the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic impacting many lives in the region, WIBH Radio in Anna held its 10th annual New Coats, New Hope Campaign surrounded by uncertainty – only to have communities come together to exceed this year's goal of 500 coats.

Since 2011, WIBH Radio in Anna has partnered with local agencies and businesses to hold their campaign, a fund-raising effort presented by WIBH and Operation Warm, a 501 c3 charitable organization that provides new, winter coats to children in need throughout the United States.

New Coats, New Hope's purpose is to provide new coats to children ages 3 to 16 living in the lower 45 counties of Illinois.

This year, with additional monies donated by Postal Pal to cover shipping, the campaign raised over \$10,136 to purchase 504 coats, making it the largest donation response in campaign history, organizers reported this week.

The second highest year was in 2016, when over \$7,500 was raised.

Since the campaign began, over \$47,000 has been raised, resulting in over 2,600 coats being purchased.

Donations came from all over the country, with

the majority received from Southern Illinois.

Donors could sponsor a coat for \$20, or give any monetary amount. One hundred percent of all donations were used to buy the coats.

"We are so grateful to our listeners for meeting our goal of 500 new coats for the children in our area," said Moury Bass, co-owner of WIBH Radio.

"We also want to thank our partners – Southern Seven Health Department and Head Start, Children's Medical and Mental Health Resource Network, and Arrowleaf, formerly Family Counseling Center. It was truly a team effort."

The coats purchased through this year's campaign will be distributed to kids affected by abuse, neglect, disaster and family need through this year's campaign partners.

Families needing a coat are not required to complete any paperwork or show proof of income. Coats are available while supplies last.

To request a coat for a child in need, contact Moury Bass at WIBH at 833-9424 or Shawna Rhine at Southern Seven Health Department & Head Start at 618-634-2297, extension 9161.

To learn more about Operation Warm, visit operationwarm.org.

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Obituaries

Barbara P. Anderson

Barbara Anderson passed away peacefully on Dec. 15, 2020.

She was born on Sept. 3, 1926, in Wilmette, Ill., the daughter of Mildred and Stanley Peterson.

She attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and then graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., with a degree in piano and pipe organ. She earned her master's degree in English in 1977.

After her graduation from Northwestern, she left Illinois to be a missionary teaching at a Presbyterian mission school on the Navajo reservation in northern Arizona.

It was there that she met Lowell Anderson, whom she married in 1950. They were married for 48 years until his death in 1998.

Barbara loved good music, the pipe organ, laughter, family and friends.

She taught piano from the time of her graduation, and played the pipe organ in numerous churches over the course of 65 years.

She also loved to knit, creating countless sweaters, scarves, hats and gloves for family and friends.

In her retirement she continued to knit caps for newborn babies, donating them to the hospital, until her eyesight started to fail.

She was an active member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter and served as president of her P.E.O. chapters at various times, and her last chapter was KZ in Southern Illinois.

After returning to Southern Illinois from New Mexico in 2004, she joined the Anna First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, where she continued to play the pipe organ, and enjoyed her Sunday School class and the Women's Association.

Her final years were spent at the River to River community of Anna, surrounded by good friends and a caring staff.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; two brothers; and a son-in-law, Tim Robertson.

She is survived by her four children, M. Brownell Anderson of Springfield, Ill., Warren (Carla) Anderson and Stuart (Pat) Anderson of Cobden, and Lois Robertson of Spokane, Wash.; grandchildren Muriel Zachary, Jessica Anderson, Kristen Robertson and Nicholas Robertson; great-grandchildren Anastasia Ingoldby and Winifred Zachary; and step-great-grandchildren Trent and Suzie Foster, Ethan and Isaac Foster.

A memorial service for Barbara Anderson will be held at a later date.



Margaret Ann Rogers

Margaret Ann Rogers, 87, of Carbondale, died peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on Dec. 11, 2020.

She was born on Nov. 26, 1933, in Wolf Lake, the daughter of Archie and Margie Andrews Williams.

She married Patrick Edward Rogers on Aug. 24, 1957, and together they shared 63 years of marriage.

She is survived by her husband, Patrick Rogers; three daughters, Joni Rogers, Kim (John) Joiner and Cheryl Formel; two sons, Jim (Debbie) Rogers and Marc (Katie) Rogers; nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; a sister Jenny Otten; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Archie and Margie Williams; two brothers and one sister.

Mrs. Rogers was devoted to her family. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. The many memories shared by her family and friends will be cherished by those who knew and loved her.

She was past madame president of Carbondale Eagles Women's Auxiliary No. 2569.

Memorials can be made to Hospice of Southern Illinois, 204 Halfway Rd., Marion, Ill. 62959.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, a private graveside service will be held at Oakland Cemetery and a celebration of life will be conducted at later date.

The family extended a special thank you to Hospice of Southern Illinois, Dr. Fasnacht and staff for all her care and compassion.

Walker Funeral Home & Crematory of Southern Illinois is in charge of arrangements.



Jeremy M. Bennett

Jeremy M. Bennett, 34, of Anna, died at 8:27 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020, at his home.

He was born on April 21, 1986, in Carbondale, a son of Kevin Mark Watkins and Linda Faye Bennett.

He enjoyed studying ancestry and genealogy. He loved fishing and spending time with his family and friends, but most importantly, he was a proud father. His love for his daughter never faltered.

Survivors include his mother, Linda Browning (fiancé, Tim Law); his daughter, Codi Raven Bennett; his brother, Nathan Nance; his companion, Amber Nimmo, and her daughter, Molly Sickling; his stepsister, Tiffany Watkins; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents; and by two uncles, Jerry Bennett and Shawn Watkins.

Cremation rites will be accorded and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorials can be made to Crain Funeral Home, 135 W. Vienna St., Anna, Ill. 62906.

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



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



Mary Ruth Morgan

Mary Ruth Morgan, 93, of Jonesboro, died Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020, at the Jonesboro Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

She was born on April 2, 1927, in Anna, the daughter of Glee and Ollie Ann Girtman Lewis.

She married Freddie Walker on Oct. 9, 1944, in Anna. He preceded her in death on July 31, 1994. She later married Hubert Morgan.

She is survived by her children, Peggy Dunn of Ware and Tammy (Rod) Sadler of Kirksville, Mo.; grandchildren Ron Fox, Donnie (Paula) Dunn and Rodney II (Kelly) Sadler; great-grandchildren Jessica Fox, Matthew Fox, Tyler Fox, Rachel Fox, Anna and Alice Sadler; sisters Hazel Jefferson of Talulah and Peggy Sinclair of Petersburg; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands; one brother; six sisters; and a granddaughter, Rhonda Lambert.

Graveside services will be held privately for the family at the Jonesboro Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the Refuge Worship Center in Jonesboro.

To view the obituary and to leave online condolences for the family, visit www.rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

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

Benjamin L. 'Benny' Jordan

Benjamin L. "Benny" Jordan of Sorrento, Fla., and formerly of Elco and Grand Tower, went to be with Jesus on Dec. 10, 2020.



He was born on Feb. 2, 1957, the son of Carl and Betty Jordan.

He married Helen Dupa.

Survivors include his wife, Helen; a daughter, Lenore Jordan; a stepdaughter, Elana (Steve) Carothers; two grandsons; his mother, Betty Jordan of Grand Tower; sisters Mary Ann Jordan of Granite City and Pamela Chamness of Grand Tower; and brothers Jeffrey Jordan of Grand Tower and Cecil Eugene Varner of Tamms. He had a faithful pet, Koda.

Mr. Jordan was preceded in death by his father, Carl Jordan; paternal grandparents Gertie and Everett Jordan; maternal grandparents Floyd Ray Varner and Dorothy Hill Story; and two brothers, Jerry and Ronald Jordan.

Mr. Jordan served for 22 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. Funeral arrangements were pending.

Burial will be in the Veterans Cemetery in Sorrento, Fla.

Reynoldsville News

By Sue Eudy

Happy belated birthday wishes to Ervina Johnson of River to River whose birthday was Dec. 15.

Thank you to Keith Easton of Homer, Ill., for renewing his subscription to The Gazette-Democrat and giving me the credit.

Shirley Miller of McClure celebrated her birthday Dec. 19. Penny and Kerry Hill brought dinner to her home.

Vivian Bennett of McClure had lunch with Shirley on Thursday.

On Wednesday night Jonathan, Betsy, Brilee and Kyndal Oxford of Anna visited with Dolores Reynolds of Reynoldsville. They brought dinner and spent the night with Dolores playing Scrabble. Others also visit-

ing that night were Justin, Hunter, Gracie and Paxton Wilson and Jackie and Jay Jennings, all of Reynoldsville.

Adam and Marissa Reynolds of Wolf Lake visited with Dolores Reynolds on Friday.

Hope all of our readers have a very Merry Christmas and obey the CDC guidelines for the coronavirus pandemic.

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

Remember the Reason for the Season.

Juanita Kathleen (Granny) Woolridge

Juanita Kathleen Woolridge, 86, of Jonesboro, died Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020, at Herrin Hospital. She died as a result of the coronavirus.

She was born on Nov. 16, 1934. She was the daughter of Charles and Dora Smith of Scott City, Mo.

Kathleen married Robert (Bob) Woolridge on July 27, 1951. Mr. Woolridge passed away on June 20, 2015. They had four children.

She is survived by one son, Donald (Danna Pendergast) Woolridge of Christopher; two daughters, Deborah (Kent) Howerton of Mt. Pleasant and Cathie Up Church of Walnut Grove, Ark. She is survived by five grandchildren, Stephanie (Joel) Diers of Springfield, Robbie Woolridge of Carbondale, Gaylon and R.J. Simmons of Walnut Grove, Ark., and Ashley Up Church of Arkansas. She is also survived by three great-grandchildren, Aliyah and Mason Diers of Springfield and Holden Woolridge of Carbondale. She is also survived by three sisters, Joan, Annie and Sharon; and two brothers, Danny and David.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one son, Ronald; three brothers, Mac, Alfred and Johnny; and two sisters, Audrey and Imogene.

She was a retired LPN. She worked at Union County Skilled Nursing Home for years.

As per her wishes, she was cremated. Due to the coronavirus there will not be a public funeral. Private graveside services will be later.

Obituaries Online at annanews.com

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Pastor's Corner
by Pastor Don Cox

Father's are to Provide, Protect, Guide and Discipline . . . just as our Heavenly Father does for his children!

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

"The Preaching Pen"
Going Home

The older I get, the less I like to be away from home for very long – that includes vacations. I think a pretty good day is one where I can stay on the farm.

Home – there's something comforting and safe about that word. At the end of the day, or at the end of a trip, I look forward to coming home – home with my wife and children – no place else I'd rather be. Perhaps you feel that way, too.

However, as much I love my earthly home, I need to be reminded that it's only a temporary home. Indeed, Paul reminds us that we are not citizens here (Phil. 3:20). The Bible makes it plain that we are merely pilgrims in this physical world. There is a better home awaiting the faithful child of God, and I want to see it. I want my whole family and all of you to see it. I want my children to see it. I'm sure you know, though, that before leaving for any trip, preparations must be made. If I want to be reunited with departed loved ones who died in the Lord (Rev. 14:13), I must do what they did and live as they did. In order to reach Heaven, I must: hear the message of salvation (Luke 8:12; Rom. 10:17; Eph. 1:13), believe the gospel (Mark 16:15,16; Rom. 10:9,10), repent of my sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38), confess my belief that Jesus is the Son of God (Matt. 10:32,33; Rom. 10:10), and for sins to be washed away and the soul saved, one must be baptized (Acts 22:16; I Peter 3:21). Following these actions, one must live faithfully unto death in order to receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10; II Tim. 4:6-8).

Christmas and the New Year are upon us. As we scramble to get home to spend the holidays with loved ones, I urge us all to think about the Heavenly home. As much as we enjoy seeing family at this time of year, just try to imagine how thrilling it would be to spend all of eternity in the presence of the God of Heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ. Are you ready to go home?

Have a Merry Christmas and visit the Anna church of Christ at 104 Nile Street whenever you can.

R.W. McAlister, Minister
Anna church of Christ

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Christmas Greetings, Letters to Santa

This special Christmas Greetings section features Letters to Santa. The letters were written by children from throughout the Union County area. Merry Christmas to all of our readers from The Gazette-Democrat.

Letters to Santa

Cobden Elementary Kindergarten

Dear Santa, I want some presents for Christmas. I really would like a remote control grave digger. And I want reverybody to be safe during this time and stay happy.

Kade Davis

Cobden Elementary Mrs. Genung Kindergarten

Dear Santa, I've been a little bad but I'm always good enough to get some toys. For Christmas I would like a baby yoda, a big yoda, a dragon toy, a shark (the real looking ones that follow your

hands), the other indoraptor toy with red eyes (that glow when they roar). For Holden, my baby brother, I would like a puppy dog pals toy. I also would like flowers and decorations for my mom and new pants for my dad.

Liam

Dondola Elementary First Grade

Dear Santa, I want an Apple tablet, pokemon sword and sheild. Thank you! merry Christmas!

Carsen McClellan

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing

for. I would like V bocks for fortnite. I would also like a bike. I wish the corona 19 virus would go away so we can live good again. I want the video game grounded.

Love, Levi Eddleman

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I want LOL bath bombs. I want LOL dolls. I want pop corn game. I want a tablet.

Love, Kay Kay

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I wish you can bring me remote control car. Did you know you have 22 days before Christmas!

Love, Jaxon Sevenski

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. Real magic wand. 3 big buckets of slime. A motorcycle. 4 wheeler.

Love, Sophie Hancock

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I wish for a Barbie doll. I wish for a baby doll. I wish for santa come to my house. I wish for an Elf on the shelf.

Love, Ellie Lewis

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I wish for Lego me-jogos. I wish for 5 dogs. I wish for a Turtle set.

Love, Adam Keeler

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. Santa I wish a PSSPS4. I wish for Santa's Elf. I wish for everything. I wish for a baby Huskey.

Love, Bentley

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I wish for an X-Box 360pro. I wish for Santa's Elf.

Love, Anthony Ford

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I wish lago nin-jun ego. I wish for switw. I wish a trtily. I wish for 5 dog. I wish for 5Zg. I wish 00000k dollars. I wish babby dog.

Love, Ada Mkeeler

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I want a sonic Boom toy. I want a Bendy Plushie.

Love, Axel Thorne

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I wish I had a Baby alive. I wish I had a new lunch box. I wish I had a talking ooma doll. I wish I had a heating blanket. I wish I had Bloonds.

Love, Emilia Rojas

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I want an Apple tablet. I want Pokemon Shield and sword.

Love, Carson McClellan

With Warm Regards This Holiday Season

... And many thanks for your kind and loyal support. Have a wonderful holiday!

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YULETIDE GREETINGS

Straight from the heart to all of you, go our sincere best wishes and heartfelt gratitude. We know we couldn't have wished for a better bunch of friends than you. Merry Christmas!

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Letters to Santa

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I wish for a real horse. I want a princess carriage. I want a mermaid picture. I want a new blanket. I want a new tv. I want a new LOL kit.

Love, Natilee Vanderpool

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. I would like a Twister game.

Love, Aubree Miller

Dear Santa, I have been so good this year! Here is a list of things I'm wishing for. LOL house, lip balm, nail polish, shopkins, lego Lincoln Logs, kitchen supplies, Barbie Stuff.

Love, Kalyann Hill

Dondola Elementary
Mrs. Pulley
Second Grade

Dear Santa, I want a xbox game. I would like a FNAF plushies. Thanks Santa!

Love, Izzy B.

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Here are a few things I'm hoping to get for Christmas i a dog, candy, and legos. Thanks Santa!

Love, Breslyn Sheppard

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Here are a few things Im hoping to get for Christmas a life-like baby boll, elf on the shelf, clothes, and a lot of my life stuff. Thanks Santa!

Love, Lynleigh Wright

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Here are a few thoiings Im hoping to get for Christmas; a Nintendo, a Play-Station 5, and a phone. Thanks Santa!

Love, Livingston Kennedy

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Here are a few things I'm hoping to get for christmas; Legos, fake glasses, LOL doll, Vans that are yellow and Blue, and a Silican baby doll.

Love, Kadence Poe

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Here are few things Im hoping to get for christmas! Legos/ Wii games/ and Fortnite toys. Thanks Santa!

Love, Raylan Duty

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Hrer are a few things. Im hoping to get for christmas; a fish a phone a plushy and a chrome book.

Love, Rem Chick

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Here are a few things I'm hoping to get for Chrstmas, an iphone, five books, ten nerf guns, and a baby! Thanks Santa!

Love, Huntley Hilliard

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Here are a few things I'm hoping to get for chrstmas; a drone, xbox, candy, and a phane.

Love, Coltan Heffner

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Here are a some things I'm hoping to get this christmas; a big Dallhouse, a barbie dall, and a baby Dall. Thanks santa!

Love, marianna Mensch

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Here are a few things Im hoping to get for christmas... a small computer, on rv, and a phone.

Love, Justus Helton

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. Here are a few things Im hoping to get for christmas; a robot chicken, a doll house three dolls and a unicorn. Thanks Santa!

Love, Dixie Basler

Dear Santa, I have been very good this year here are a few things Im hoping to get for christmas, I really

want a cross bow so I can deer hun Also I want a RC nerf car. And I want mason to get a semi and rastor Thanks Santa.

Love Drake Fuller

Jonesboro Elementary
Mrs. Susan Ramsey
Kindergarten

Dear Santa, I want Chuckie's girlfriend, a pink Switch, and a Barbie house.

Athena Aldridge

Dear Santa, I want a penguin, a real penguin, 'cause I already have a stuffed penguin. I will keep them in a penguin cage. I want a big horse because I'm getting too big for my pony. I like you, Santa!

Payzlee Anderson

Dear Santa, I want some Jet to the Rescue. It's Paw Patrol. I want a medium sized, real guitar. I want a Hot Wheels that has a real life pedal that you push like that. Sissy wants the rest of those Spirit toys. I think my Mommy wants dresses, beautiful dresses. I think my Daddy wants some new socks. I love you, Santa!

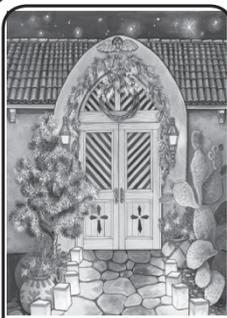
Margaret Bailey

Dear Santa, Give me presents, like a toy, a mermaid toy. Santa teaches me how to exercise. My mommy wants paper because it's very important. Savannah wants Hulk Smash. I want to go to the North Pole.

Arianna Coe

Dear Santa, I want a house with a slide. I want Barbies, two Barbies. Hunter wants a gun shooter, Mommy wants a rock, to put it outside in the rain. Daddy wants a blanky. He has one and he needs to have two.

Thank you! Abbie Dunn



May your holiday come alive with beautiful memories.

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Ron & Janice Garner, Owners
Anna
833-7418

BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS HOLIDAY

Union County Treasurer
Leigh Burns

have a jolly holly-day!

From all of us at
Dongola Unit School District #66

Wishing you every happiness this holiday season and beyond. Your friendship has brought much joy to us.

May the presence of Christ fill your home this Christmas season.

The Enchanted Garden
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Anna
(618) 833-7673



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Celisha Merriman, OD • Paul C. Jacobs, O.D., F.A.C.O.P.
Trevor Crabtree, OD • Jessie Crabtree, OD
316 S. Main • Anna • (618) 833-3777

Dear Santa, I want a kid craft toy shuttle. I looked through a catalogue book and found it. I also really want a Nerf gun and Papa wants one too. Thank you!

Rome Isom

Dear Santa, I would like a new, snowy monster costume and a pretend locker that's plastic. My locker at school is metal. Thank you!

Owen Jiter

MERRY CHRISTMAS

GUTHRIE CONSTRUCTION, INC.
(618) 833-7663

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing you the gift of faith and the blessing of heavenly peace throughout the holiday season. For your friendship, we are deeply grateful.

Merry Christmas

Coad Chevrolet-Ford

Corner of Hwy. 51 & 146 - Anna, Illinois
(618) 833-2166
Hours: M-F 8:00 - 6:00 • Sat. 8:00 - 4:00

Wishing you a Merry Christmas.

Lyman L Eudy, Agent
515K E Vienna Street
Anna, IL 62906
Bus: 618-833-7064
lyman.eudy.bz6m@statefarm.com

May the joy of the season bring you love and peace. Merry Christmas to a wonderful community!

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State Farm

State Farm
Bloomington, IL
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... And To All A Good Night!

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512 E. Vienna Street • Anna • 618-833-2922
151 Leigh Avenue • Anna • 618-833-4546
1002 Public Square • Jonesboro • 618-833-4547

Or Visit Us On The Web At: www.ajnabank.com

Member FDIC

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I want a Switch.
Viktor Diaz Kelly

Dear Santa,
I want a Xbox and
a phone. Thank
you!
London Miller

Dear Santa,
I would like a
Hatchimal and I
want LOL's, a lot
of them. I want a
thing that has beads
and you put it in
a girl's hair. My
Mommy wants band
aids. Thank you!
Jacelyn Pecord

Dear Santa,
I want a VR head-
set because, basi-
cally, I want to be-
come a VR player,
then I can pick up
stuff. Please, can I
have it? Thank you!
Riley Petzoldt

Dear Santa,
I would like a big
unicorn that I can
sleep on. I want a
playhouse that goes
outside. I want a
big Elsa and a
pretend dog that
is little that fits
in the house. I'm
going to leave you
cookies and milk.
Will you bring my
brother presents,
too? Oh, one more
thing that I'd like
is a pretend tv. with
a remote. I'd like
a stuffed bear that
I can sleep with. I
would like a toy
sunshine.
Kenley Rains

Dear Santa,
I want a "Gotta
Go Flamingo." I
saw it on a book
or one hundred
times on tv. I also
want some clip on
Elsa earrings and
a snowflake ring to
match the earrings.
My great grand-
ma already put my
Christmas tree up
and it's done!
Mariah Miller

Dear Santa,
I would like more
Barbie dolls that
are mermaids. Like
big ones. I want
a cat, a little cat.
I want a carousel
that I can drive by
myself with a horse
in front. It's for my
dolls and for me.
I want a stroll-
er that changes to
a high chair and
like, five different
things, like a baby
crib. Thank you!
McKenzie
Spurlock

Dear Santa,
I want you to
bring me one toy
car steering wheel.
I want a big tower
to play Paw Patrol
with. Thank you!
Knute Toedte

Dear Santa,
I would like a
big Barbie dream
house. I want a
Hatchimals egg car-
ton holder 'cause
it has so much Hat-
chimals. Mommy
would like blanket.
My brother would
like a board game.
Thank you!
Koralynn Treece

Jonesboro
Elementary
Mrs. Melissa Ellis
Kindergarten

Dear Santa,
I want a complete
My Spirit toys. I
need Mystery, Mar-
cella, Lucky and

Spirit. For my sis-
ter, Lady Bird from
Paw Patrol. From
Blue's Clues we
need Josh, Magen-
ta, and Blue.
Ella Bailey

Dear Santa,
Can I have a cow-
boy house and a
Barbie house for my
sister? I want a toy
duck and pig.
Cristiano Cruz

Dear Santa,
I want an Xbox
with Fortnite and
Minecraft. I want a
fighting game and
a computer. I want
a doll for Mcken-
zie. I want a real
horse that is black.
Cain Daniel

Dear Santa,
I want a mini bike
and a computer and
a crossbow. Please
bring Beckett a toy
phone and Scarlett
a stuffed animal.
Karcen Easterly

Dear Santa,
I really want a
two-wheel scooter
and a skateboard.
I want a bunch of
slime because my
mom doesn't let me
have slime.
Charolette Goss

Dear Santa,
I want more Nerf
guns.
Blu Gray

Dear Santa,
I want on my
list a Barbie doll
dream house and
dolls. Also, a
swimming pool for
when they are hot
and drinks and
a bathroom and
water. I want a
big Elsa and Anna
doll.
Althea Lingle

Merry Christmas
from all the staff
and students of
Anna School District 37
Anna Junior High,
Lincoln and Davie Schools!

Blessings of the Season
**Ronald E. Osman
& Associates, Ltd.**
Attorneys at Law
Marion, IL (618) 997-5151

With **BRIGHT** Wishes
At The Holidays

JOE OLLIS
Real Estate & Auction LLC
Alex Belcher, Auctioneer/Agent
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Happy Holidays
**From The
Village of Dongola**

Thank you for the opportunity
of serving the community's
mental health needs.
Merry Christmas from

**Union County
Counseling Service**
Anna • 833-8551

With Heartfelt
Thanks
At The Holidays

Union County
Abstract Office, Inc.
Chicago Title Insurance Company
Susan T. Holderfield, President
304 West Market Street
Jonesboro, Illinois 62952
(618) 833-6521

Merry Christmas...
Happy Holidays...
Season's Greetings...
Joyous Noel...
"From all of us
to all of you!"

**Jonesboro
Grade School**

Smile...
It's Almost
Christmas!

Merry
Christmas and
many thanks
from all of us.

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THE APPLES
AND ORANGES!
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best prices!

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As we put the wraps on another
holiday season, we hope that yours is
filled with lots of pleasant surprises
and magical moments.

**Happy
Holidays**

Bill Ballard
Attorney at Law and Staff
Anna • 833-6432

Thanks ... for giving us your
valued business and
friendship this year.
Happy Holidays!

MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO YOU!

WAL*MART Rt. 146 & 51
Anna, IL
SUPERCENTER 833-8592

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GREETINGS**
to our Neighbors, Associates,
Customers & Friends

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(618) 833-7400

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CHRISTMAS**

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LAW FIRM CHTD.
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(618) 529-2440
501 Rushing Drive • Herrin, IL
(618) 944-4995

May your holiday season be
filled with good times and fond
memories for a long time to
come. Thank you for
visiting us this past year.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

**ASB Anna
STATE BANK**
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Anna, Illinois • 833-2151
www.annastate.com

Member
FDIC

Best Holiday Wishes

**READY-MIX
SOLUTIONS
LLC**
CARBONDALE, IL
300 McKinley St.
Anna, IL • 833-7321

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I want a lot of LOL dolls. I want to get Queen Bee. I want to get a vampire toy and white vampire teeth and a skateboard.
Kharmadi Hurst

Dear Santa,
I want a remote controlled motorcycle and I want a car my size and that's it. I will buy you some cookies and milk!
Keaten Winters

Dear Santa,
I would like another remote control car and a water gun and a wooden calendar.
Lincoln Jones

Dear Santa,
I want Santa to bring me a hoverboard, Buzz Light-year toys, a new scooter and a Ryan's World egg and FG-TeeV toys.
Jayce Khurana

Dear Santa,
I saw a toy in the store where Paw Patrol killed a T-Rex. I want that. I want an owl that has something on its belly.
Kai Diaz Kelly

Dear Santa,
I want you to buy me a new LOL. My baby needs a new tractor blanket.
Hallie Miller

Dear Santa,
I want a metal detector and the "Gotta Go Flamingo," a couple Barbies, and a play tablet.
Caliope Pind

Dear Santa,
I love Santa Claus and thank you for the presents. Santa, you are the best!
Penelope Short

Dear Santa,
I want Barbie doll stuff, Paw Patrols, and baby dolls. I like Blue's Clues and Puppy Pals.
Reata Wenger

Lick Creek Elementary
Mrs. Bires
First Grade

Dear Santa,
My first grade students have been good so far this school year. I would like to recommend them for the NICE Lists. I am passing along what each of them have asked for Christmas this year.

Blakeley: would like a computer, a big white board with dry erase markers, she would also like a "toy" puppy she says one that looks real but you don't have to take care of it. She also would enjoy having a sewing machine with some new fabric and thread along with some new craft stuff and last but not least stuff to make slime.

Eli: He without a doubt enjoys anything with MINECRAFT and would love to get Lego themed minecraft sets.

Hunter: He mentioned that he will leave you milk and cookies if you can bring him a Nerf gun and some Legos.

Henry: Would enjoy getting video games especially a new Nintendo, remote control cars, and anything Angry Bird.

Harper: She is excited about light up shoes, "Twisty Girls", PomPoms, reindeer and other stuffed animals. She also likes JoJo Siwa pillow, slime kits, a sewing machine, and a puppy.

Alexa: she would like to get a new cat for Christmas. I noticed that she enjoys talking and reading about her cats so maybe a new book, also.

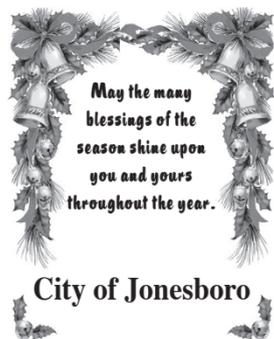
Sam: would like to have a Nintendo. He asked "how are you and the elves doing?"

Mackenzie: Is asking for 3 real pets, toy cars, dolls, 2 phone cases along with a new phone, and 2 purple mats for gymnastics.

Kameron: Batman Nerf Gun and Cave, Teen Titans Go Tower, and new PJ's.

Liam: asks "how is your elves and reindeer?" He would really like a remote control car.

I really hope that you and all of your friends at the North



Enjoy this time with family and friends.
Remember the reason for the season.

Delivering Our Best!

UNION COUNTY HOSPITAL

517 North Main St.
Anna • 833-4112
UnionCountyHospital.com

Pole are healthy. We have loved having "Elfie" in our classroom as your scout elf. I hope he has had good things to say about all of my friends.

Truly,
Mrs. Bires, Lick Creek 1st Grade Teacher

Lick Creek Elementary
Mrs. Cerney
Second Grade

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list. I would like Lego Friends, new pj's. and makeup, Bitly Barbies, Xbox, Nintendo Switch, and a trampoline. I will leave out something good for you.
Love, Maggie

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list this year. I would like LOL OMG dolls, toy

sacks, and American Girl dolls. How are your elves? How are Mrs. Claus? How is Mrs. Claus? How are your reindeer? I will leave you milk and cookies.
Love, Ali

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list this year. I would like Super Mario Maker 2 for the Nintendo Switch, Breath of the Wild, Luigi's Mansion 3, Crash Bandicoot, Seiro, Lego Marvel Super Heroes 2, Mortal Kombat 2. A game case wolf link amiibo, dvin helmet vauro. Everything for Nintendo Switch games.
Love, Jet

Dear Santa and Mrs. Claus,
This is going to be the best Christmas ever! I want a hoverboard and an American Girl Doll. Merry Christmas. Ho Ho Ho!
Love, Serenity

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list this year. I would like a game. How are your elves?
Love, Matthew

Wishing you and your family, all the creature comforts of this special time of year.

Chamness Care
Anna, Cobden & Jonesboro

Keeping Spirits Bright

To our many friends go our warmest wishes for a season filled with joy.

WBH
Your Local News, Weather, Sports Authority
Anna, IL www.wbhdio.com

102.5 FM
1440 AM
330 South Main
Anna

Season's Greetings from All of Us

Flamm's Heating & Air Conditioning
Cobden
893-2830 or 893-2861

Merry Christmas & Many Thanks!

At the most joyous time of the year, we'd like to send our best wishes. Along with our thanks and gratitude, too 'Cause we wouldn't be here without all of you!

A & G Automotive
109 Transcraft Drive
Anna • 833-8755

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Merry Christmas and sincere thanks to all of you!

KEB
Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP
Certified Public Accountants
3401 Office Park Drive
Marion, IL • (618) 993-8724

Christmas Greetings

Shawn McMahan and Rodney Henry at
Taylor, Dodd & Wood INSURANCE

521 E. Vienna St.
Anna, IL 62906
618-833-4721

Everything's pointing to a great season, but it just wouldn't be Christmas if we didn't get the chance to express our gratitude to all of our patrons and friends. Merry Christmas and sincere thanks from all of us.

FARMERS STATE BANK
Of Alto Pass
893-2464
Banking The Old Fashioned Way!

Member FDIC

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list this year. I would like for you to please get my dad a new bass boat. And this is Taylor Marie Baker. And I can get a dress and high heels and I will send you another note and I love you!

Love, Taylor

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list this year. I would like a new charger for my Amazon tablet, black boots, a snow globe, necklaces and bracelets. Also, fine tip pens. How are you and Mrs. Clause? I will leave you milk and cookies. I've been mean to my brother, but I will be nice.

Love, Kaitlyn Z.

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list this year. I would like a blue clock, a bear stuffed animal, a fox stuffed animal, and a lemur stuffed animal. I will bake you milk and chewy cookies.

Love, Abigail

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list this year. I would like Legos. How is Mrs. Claus? How are your elves? How is your reindeer? I will leave you milk and cookies.

Love,
Ryan Houseman
Dear Santa,
Have a good Christmas Santa. I hope that me and my sister have one too. I wish all of your elves a Merry Christmas as well. What I want for Christmas is a LOL Doll. My sister

would like a little toy of Blues Clues.
Love, Patty

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list this year. I would like Mandalorian stuff. How are your reindeer?
Love, Titus

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list. I would like an Elf on the Shelf, a basketball, some shoes, and that is all I want for Christmas. How are your reindeer? What kind of cookies do you like?
Love, Bentley

Dear Santa,
How are your elves? How is Mrs.

Claus? How are your reindeer? Can you give me Just Dance 2021? And a Nerf gun and shocks? Also Super Mario Legos and pajamas. Merry Christmas! I will give you milk and cookies.
Love, Owen

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list this year. I would like an enchanted fox and love for my family. And I would like a cat and to see my grandpa. How are your elves? How are you and Mrs. Claus? I will leave you milk and cookies.
Love, Sofia

Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list. I would like a reindeer and a with gas for it. I would like snow this year. I will leave you milk and cookies.

Love, Emmie Orange

Dear Santa,
This is going to be a wonderful Christmas. I want a new Barbie with Barbie accessories. I will get you some milk and cookies.

Love, Ayla

Dear Santa,
This is my Xmas list this year. I would like a RC car, Legos, a bike, a fidget spinner, PS4 controller and PS4 games. How are your reindeer? I will leave you milk and cookies.
Love, Logan

Dear Santa,
I want a hoverboard, a dirt bike, a new Playstation 6, or a Nintendo Switch. I will leave you some cookies and milk.

Love, Holden

TO OUR BEST FRIENDS
Wishing you a holiday packed with good wishes. Best wishes to all.
L.K.B. & SONS
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lkbsns@gmail.com

Season's Greetings
May you enjoy the beauty and love that is Christmas and remember the true spirit of this holy time. Peace to all.
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PEACE
Season's Greetings
May Your Days Be Merry & Bright Happy Holidays from everyone at
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M VETERINARY SERVICE
Anna
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Vienna
658-4111

With Best Wishes At Christmas Here's hoping the holiday brings all good things to you and your whole family.
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Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

We're filled with gratitude it's true, For each and every one of you... So without hesitation or further delay, Go our very best wishes for a great holiday!
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We hope the holidays are grand from the first day 'til the end.
Brad's Collision Works, LLC
511 E. Vienna St. • Anna, Illinois • 833-3102

May the age-old Christmas story bring its spirit of love and joy to you and your family during this holy season.
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Jonesboro 833-5937

WELCOME
With Thanks To Our Neighbors At The Holidays
We thank you for the many "great and small" kindnesses you've shown us. We join our prayers with yours for peace and joy throughout the world.
Schaefer Enterprises
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Wolf Lake, IL 62998
800-626-6046 • 618-833-5498
www.sewlparts.com
parts@sewlparts.com

Have yourself a merry little Christmas

Dear Santa,
I love Christmas!
My dirt bike is broken,
I would like to have a new one. Or a hoverboard. I would like a Playstation 5. Or you could always bring me a million dollars. Have a Christmas and hope to see you.
Love, Daultan

Dear Santa,
I want a tablet, a Playstation 5, a Nintendo Switch, a remote control boat or airplane, a smart watch, a dirt bike, a part for my 4-wheeler. And I will give you some cookies.
Love, Colton

Signs of the season are everywhere, but we're glad to be right here, and we couldn't have done it without your support!
Thanks, friends.

Member FDIC

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DELIVERING OUR BEST



Merry Christmas from Jerry Reppert and everyone at Reppert Publications.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday with your family and friends.

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BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

NORTH POLE

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May you have a wonderful Holiday Season!



www.shawneecc.edu 618-634-3200



Merry Christmas

Laborers' International Union of North America

LiUNA! Local 773

REPRESENTING WORKING FAMILIES SINCE 1944

President
Matthew Smith

Business Manager
Jerry Womick

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.

Merry Christmas

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of the Savior of our World Jesus.

Special Thanks

A special thanks to everyone who attended the Honor Wreaths for Veterans ceremony in our Anna Cemetery Saturday.

A special thanks to Phil Ray for leading our ceremony, everyone who was in the ceremony, and who helped lay the wreaths, Dori Bigler, Gary Dahmer, Bessie Mae Ellis, Andrea Dahmer and anyone else who had a part in making this day a special day to honor the memory of all our veterans.

Order of Honor Wreaths Ceremony

VFW Honor Guard Flag-Bearers.

Commander Mark Haddick, Sherry Haddick, Jerry Forcht, Bob Shoemaker, Joel Samuels.

Opening Prayer given by Phil Ray.

National Anthem sung by Jessi Riley Anna Jonesboro High School Concert Choir Student.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Marine Veteran Jerry Hunter.

Wreaths Across America Honor Wreaths For Veterans Message of Honor 2020 by Phil Ray.

We are gathered here today at this American Legion memorial site, and memorial sites all across America to remember that we are one Nation with one flag. We are proud to be Americans that live in a free society made up of many people, many races from many walks of life.

The freedoms we enjoy today have not come without a price. Lying here before us and in cemeteries throughout this Nation are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear. We can worship as we see fit. We can raise our children to believe as we do.

The United States of America was founded on the Ideas of Freedom, Justice and Equality. Our Nation stands as a shining beacon of liberty and freedom to the world.

Today we show a United front of National unity all across the United States as we remember the fallen, and honor those who have

served, and are presently serving.

Thank you Phil Ray. Symbolic Wreaths.

Moment of Silence and Taps Honoring Deceased Veterans by VFW Bugler Sherry Haddick.

Closing prayer given by Phil Ray.

Wreaths Across America Match Campaign

We are now starting a new year for Honor Wreaths for Veterans sponsored by Wreaths Across America.

For a short time Wreaths Across America will match any Honor Wreath bought from now until Jan. 15, 2021. This will be for our Anna ceremony next December 2021.

If you buy your wreaths

now for every wreath bought from Dec. 19, 2020, to Jan. 15, 2021, we will be able to have double for our Anna Cemetery so please think about buying your wreath now so we can hopefully cover every veteran's grave next December.

Please mail your check to me, Martha Ann Webb at 118 W. Monroe St., Anna, Ill. 62906, or take it to Anna City Hall and ask them to put in my mail box. You can also pay on line but if you do please make sure you put for our Anna Cemetery.

Thanks so much to everyone who donated to honor our veterans.

Honor Wreaths 2020

Golda Kesler donated Honor Wreaths for Veterans

for her husband Donald Kesler, for Jack Bennett and for Bernoid Freeze.

Honor Wreaths 2021

These Honor Wreaths for Veterans will be doubled by Wreaths Across America. Shirley Page for Paul Page Army and a veteran that doesn't have anyone to buy for them.

Carlene Tripp for her husband Don Tripp, Susan L. Prestia wreaths for veterans who doesn't have anyone to buy for them.

Martha Ann Webb for her husband Glen J. Webb, Korean War, Uncle Mark Keller, WWII and Irven E. (Mac) McKibben WWI and 2 door hangers.

Kevin, Bridgette, Ethan and Alexis Williams for Kevin's dad Bobby J. Williams.

Surprise Wedding Party

Dorothy Mitchell hosted a surprise wedding party for Jerry June Zappa and Roger Carroll, who were married



Peggy Bittle from Cape Girardeau and formerly from Anna attended the Honor Wreaths for Veterans ceremony in Anna to lay a wreath on her brother-in-law Jerry R. Mertes' grave. Her sister-in-law lives in Indianapolis. She is pictured with one of her former students, Bessie Mae Webb Ellis.



Stephen Burns came from St. Louis to help lay the Honor Wreaths for Veterans at our Anna Cemetery.



Jim Koonce from Carterville, founder of Honor Wreaths for Veterans, with Martha Ann Webb and Phil Ray Saturday at the Anna Cemetery. Jim had stopped at cemeteries at Carterville, Colp and was on his way to Mounds National Cemetery when he stopped to visit for a while at the Anna Cemetery. It was so nice to see him.



Dori Bigler with her son Jack and Anna city commissioner Michael Bigler, who helped lay the wreaths.



Coming from Benton to help lay Honor Wreaths for Veterans at our Anna Cemetery were Kevin and Bridgette Williams and children Alexis and Ethan. Kevin's dad was veteran Bobby J. Williams.



A very special thanks to Phil Ray for leading our Honor Wreaths for Veterans ceremony Saturday at our Anna Cemetery and to Jessi Riley for singing our National Anthem. Pictured with them is Rachel Norton A-JCHS band director and concert choir director.



Moment of silence and Taps honoring deceased veterans by VFW bugler Sherry Haddick with Phil Ray closing prayer at Honor Wreaths for Veterans ceremony at Anna Cemetery Dec. 19.



A special thanks to Willie and Terrie Rhymer and Lorie Loker for helping lay our Honor Wreaths for Veterans last Saturday.



Gary Dahmer, public works manager for the City of Anna, Martha Ann Webb, Anna city commissioner and coordinator for Honor Wreaths for Veterans, Phil Ray, who led in the Honor Wreaths ceremony, and Dori Bigler, Anna City administrator, were setting everything up and getting ready for the service early last Saturday morning Dec. 19.



A special thanks to Luke Sadler, Maelin Walker and Kalynn Grant for helping lay the Honor Wreaths for Veterans at our Anna Cemetery last Saturday, Dec. 19, and also for helping at our first ceremony in 2019.



Molly Seibert, Martha Ann Webb, Elijah Glen, Bessie Mae and Curt Ellis at Glen J. Webb Army Korean War veteran's grave: Martha Ann's husband, Bessie Mae's dad, Elijah's grandfather; everyone helped lay wreaths last Saturday after the Honor Wreaths for Veterans ceremony.



City of Anna public works manager Gary Dahmer with driver of Wreaths Across America Truck unloading our Honor Wreaths for Veterans for our Anna Cemetery.



Barbara Bauer and Emily Boyd Meyer at the Honor Wreaths for Veterans Ceremony at Anna City Cemetery at their great-uncle World War I veteran Maj. Tullie Van Boyd's grave.

Barbara Bauer placed Honor Wreaths for Veterans donated by the General Federation Illinois Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club honoring World War II veterans Lt. Carl N. Garrott and Lt. Col. Oard Orrin Garrott World War II and Korea.



Gary and Emily Boyd Meyer placed an Honor Wreath for Veterans in memory of World War I veteran Maj. Tullie Van Boyd, Emily's great-uncle at the Anna Cemetery Saturday.



A special thanks to our Anna City Police Chief Bryan Watkins and Megan Livesay for helping lay Honor Wreaths for Veterans in our Anna City Cemetery last Saturday.

in Mississippi.

Dorothy and family invited Jerry and Roger to what they were told was a family reunion to surprise them with a party for their recent wedding.

After they ate Dorothy's son Wayne Brown from Vasdale, Ill., took Jerry and Roger for a ride on Dorothy's golf cart.

While they were gone everyone decorated and put the surprise wedding cake on the table so they were really surprised when they came back from their ride on the golf cart.

Everyone was standing in front of the table and when they got close all stepped aside and they were surprised with the cake.

Thanks

A special thanks to Dorothy Mitchell for telling me she was giving me credit when she renewed her subscription to The Gazette-Democrat and her son's Wayne Brown.

Dorothy then also sent The Gazette-Democrat to two other family members with the coupon she got out of the paper.

Guests

Tuesday night, Dec. 15, an impromptu dinner was held at Will Bracken's home.

Robert and Amber Mayberry and children were there, Tina Bryant and Mary Dew.

The little Mayberry girls put up a small tree for their papa. Their Nana, (Pam Bracken) called it her "little Charlie Brown tree."

Pam really liked Charlie Brown and she'd just got the tree last Christmas. Everyone had a nice time.

Trip

Michelle Bono, her daughter, Julia Peeler and granddaughter Laken Peeler went to Talon Falls Adventure Park in Melber, Ky.

Laken received a certificate that she is on Santa's Nice list, she made a Christ-

mas ornament and wrote a letter to Santa. They went on a train ride to the North Pole and saw Santa.

Julia Peeler also celebrated her 21st birthday Dec. 18.

Christmas

Good to hear from my friend and classmate Connie Kessler, who lives in Tallahassee, Fla.

She said they would be staying home and not going to Houston because they would have to fly there. Not ready to get on plane yet.

On Thanksgiving they picked up food and took it to the park to eat. Met friends there too. Had a really nice lunch and rain held off until they finished chatting. Very low key but really good day.

Request

With so many people staying home because of the scare of the coronavirus and afraid to say they went to another state because of having to get tested for the virus I have decided I would like to hear from all my readers of a special Christmas they remember, as a child or in recent years. Please send this special news to me.

I would have a hard time telling about one Christmas in my life because all my Christmases have been very special.

I was very blessed to be raised by Christian parents who always put God first so our very special Christmases were first celebrating at our church.

Oh we also had fun with Santa and his reindeer, candy, presents, big meals and lots of laughter and fun but we knew Santa was only pretend but God was real and Christmas was the day his son was born and that is the reason why we celebrate Christmas or any season.

I remember lots of school plays. My dad being a teacher and principal and getting to open all the presents he got from his students. Christmas parties at Teen Town with all my friends and Margaret Choate.

Pink iced cookies with Santa, snowmen, Christmas trees, bells on them and all the other goodies from Davis Pastry.

We always ordered the Christmas tree coffee cake and a beautiful decorated Christmas cake from Davis Pastry also. I am very thankful that we still have Davis Pastry.

The fun of making fudge and making several batches to get it just right. A sunny day to make divinity.

Dad always made date rolls and mother and dad would have a Christmas Eve get-together at our home and make chicken salad and bologna salad for everyone along with all the other goodies.

Then we had the big turkey or ham for Christmas or pot pie from Coles Market. Bessie would also tell me to wake her up if it was snowing no matter what time it was. Lots of good memories.

So many of my family have gone on to heaven but I cherish all the memories of growing up in a Christian home and as for me and my family we will serve our Lord.

United Methodist Church, Anna

Sympathy to the family of Barbara Anderson who went to be with our Lord last week. Barbara loved playing the piano and worshipping God.

Sunday morning Rev. Tim Gossett's sermon on Facebook was on Lessons and Carols, The Christmas story with scripture from Luke.

Marcy Morris played her flute. Carla Anderson played the organ and sang solos.



Shop with a Cop/Firemen: Because of COVID they had to do things a little different this year. The firemen and police shopped for 50 children this year. The teachers at District 37 were asked to pick the needy kids. Those kids were sent forms home and they wrote down their needs and wants. The shoppers went by what the kids had on the forms while shopping. After the children's items were checked out they put them in white bags and attached a ribbon along with their name to the bag. The following week parents brought kids to the fire station to pick up their packages. Pam Needling said even though they provided for the kids they sure did miss shopping with them this year. A special thanks to all those who give to the Shop with a Cop/Firemen.



Phil Ray honored Melinda Clary and the memory of her son Sgt. Brian Romines, who lost his life fighting for our country in Iraq in the U.S. Army June 6, 2005, at our Honor Wreaths for Veterans service last Saturday, Dec. 19.



A special thanks to Boy Scout Troup 44 for placing the large America flags at the entrances to our Anna Cemetery for our Honor Wreaths ceremony Saturday.



David and Barbara Cox attended the Honor Wreaths for Veterans service in our Anna Cemetery and helped lay wreaths on family members in Anna then traveled to Marion to lay a wreath there.



Martha Ann Webb, coordinator for Honor Wreaths for Veterans, and her daughter Bessie Mae Ellis put the flags on the symbolic wreaths for the Honor Wreaths for Veterans ceremony in our Anna Cemetery sponsored by Wreaths Across America.



Gary and Andrea Dahmer unloaded the Honor Wreaths for Veterans around the Anna Cemetery so there could be social distancing when laying the Honor Wreaths at our ceremony Saturday.

Brinley Corbit lit the Advent candle. The hand bells were played by Rev. Tim, Marcy and Kristin.

The church was decorated with beautiful poinsettias.

There was a free food give away Monday evening for Loaves and Fishes. Christmas service will be on Facebook. There will be no in services until announced.

Christmas in Australia

My cousin Gretchen and family are enjoying 100 degree weather for Christmas. Shopping and seeing Santa riding a golf cart in shorts and flip flops!

Anna Heights Baptist Church

Anna Heights will have a Christmas Eve service Thursday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.

Pastor Darryl Williams continued his sermon series: Born for This. This week Jesus was born to Save.

Be sure to look on their social platforms, Facebook and YouTube for up to date Bible studies and Sunday morning 10:30 a.m. worship service and Wednesday Bible study at 7 p.m. www.annaheights.com.

Anna Heights has in person worship also on Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and small group Bible study at 9:15 a.m. on Sun. mornings

In attendance on Dec. 13 there were 56 at the 8 a.m. service and 76 in the 10:30 service. Small group attendance was 150.

Birthdays: Dec. 26 Shelby Colson, Rick Laster Dec. 28 Bob Dover, Dec. 30 Breanna Smith.

Anniversaries: Dec. 30 Dennis and Eva Prater and Jack and Danette Sartin.

A special thanks to Terrie Rhymor for always sending me the Anna Heights Baptist Church news and other news she sends me.

Union County Alliance of Churches

The alliance will be ringing Bells on weekends at Kroger, Walmart and Union County Market through Christmas Eve and Dec. 28-31 at Walmart.

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, Kate Lynn 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.



Anna Heights Mission Women: Judy Halter, Debbie Hess, Ann Pace and Audrey Greer recently traveled to Dallas, Texas, to pack Operation Christmas Child Boxes. They reported having a wonderful blessed time.



New picnic table at the Anna Jo Garden Club Park next to McDonald's in Anna:

New picnic area completed in the Anna-Jo Garden Club Park

The Anna-Jo Garden Club adopted COVID-19 guidelines and adapted new work skills to be effective in 2020.

The club diligently worked in small groups or individually to maintain Anna City Park and Anna-Jo Garden Club Park.

Picnickers enjoyed both parks, especially Anna-Jo Park next to McDonald's. The abundance created a need for more seating.

In early summer a memorial fund for Linda Clutts, a long-time dedicated member was established, a new picnic area was planned.

The Illini Redi-Mix plant and City of Anna donated concrete and public works manager Gary Dahmer and city workers donated the labor and the finished project is lovely.

The Anna-Jo Garden Club adapted their meetings to park settings, field trips, and back yard picnics. We made plans and shared garden information.

In June an Annabelle Drive-by plant sale was successful and in September our social distancing fall plant sale was profitable with sales and two new memberships.

The Anna-Jo Garden Club thanks the community for all your support. Wonderful plans for 2021 are being made.



Lawrenceville trip: Last weekend, David and Lori Ray traveled to Lawrenceville for a pre-Christmas celebration with god son Corrie Ray, his wife Brooke, and their children, son Drake 9, daughters, Taytum 7 and Blake 4.

Arriving on Saturday morning, Dec. 12, David and Lori brought Christmas gifts and Christmas foods and snacks to make it a seasonal celebration.

On Saturday, they celebrated Taytum's 8th birthday, a pre-celebration for her coming Jan. 3 birthday, with a pizza party. On Sunday, they surprised Drake with his favorite meal, KFC, with an extra bowl of his very own mashed potatoes and gravy, his favorite side dish. Drake was 9 on Nov. 8. His birthday was a post-celebration.

Corrie's oldest daughter Bayle, came from Evansville for an afternoon visit. After celebrating Drake's birthday with KFC, and a little more visiting, lots of pictures and goodbyes, David and Lori headed south for the journey home. Happy for the opportunity to see Lawrenceville Rays and to celebrate their first Christmas together.

From left are Drake, Blake and Taytum Ray.

Opinion and Commentary



The light from a candle was shining on a December afternoon when the photograph was taken at Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis. File photo.

'Good news of great joy'

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." From the Gospel of Luke

Merry Christmas

Our Union County Roots

from the Union County Historical and Genealogy Society

Our Union County Roots is a monthly column by the Union County Historical and Genealogy Society. The society owns and operates the Union County Museum in Cobden. Material for these columns comes from the society's extensive archives. Check them out on Facebook at Union County, IL Historical and Genealogy Society & Museum. ***

Happy New Year

The Anna-Jonesboro Rotary Club celebrated the coming of a new year on New Year's Night 1925.

A special publication called, "Rumblings," detailed the events of the evening.

Wives, or Rotary Anns as the women were referred to, were the guests of their husbands. Membership, at the time, was restricted to men.

The menu consisted of fruit cocktail, creamed chicken, potatoes au gratin, creamed peas, Baptist Ladies' Aid salad, ice cream, cake, coffee, salted almonds and mints.

The brochure contained jokes, favorite songs and names of officers of the club.

The jokes were chosen with the women in mind including "How a Rotary Ann may Avoid Quarrels at Home." Go to the nearest drug store, purchase some sarsaparilla root, take it home, boil it down to suit the taste. When hubby comes home all peeved up and starts something, just fill your mouth with the concoction and RETAIN it until he leaves.

A sing-a-long with such favorites as "Sweet Adeline," "Jingle Bells," "There's a Long, Long Trail," "Keep the Home Fires Burning," "Good Night Ladies" and Rotary songs was entertainment for the evening.

Officers of the club were Harry B. Shafer, president; Dan W. Leib, vice president; L. Gam Richardson, secretary; Will Bruchhauser, treasurer; and Fred W. Wicker, sergeant-at-arms.

The directors were Harry B. Shafer, Dan W. Leib, L. Gam Richardson, Will Bruchhauser, Lewis B. Tuthill, Harris A. Schulze and Van Crane.

Heads of committees were W.Davie Wiley, program; Jack Corlis, education; Tom Plemon, publicity; John Gardner Jr., Rotarian; Dave Aston, business methods; Will Bruchhauser, crippled children; Bob Shannon, public affairs; Louie Tuthill, fellowship; Rad Burnett, boy's work; Harris Schulze, stunt; and Harry Hillman, classification.

This club, sponsored by the Cairo Rotary Club, was chartered in 1923. Harris Schultz was the first president.

Community projects included sponsorship of the Anna Boy Scouts and programs working with crippled children.

The club was 60 members strong at one time, but the Great Depression, the exodus of many business people, old age and death took its toll and the club disbanded in the 1930s.

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Critters, Christmas...

Can you believe it? When it comes to the year 2020, we're down to this week...and next week. I'm guessing that it's pretty safe to say that not many people will be disappointed to say farewell to this year...

In keeping with a tradition which began several years ago, this week we're sharing some of the photographer's favorite critter pictures from 2020.

I am so grateful to have been able to get "out and about" this year. It's truly been a blessing to be able to enjoy the world around us...and the critters which are our companions on the Journey Through Life.

It may sound a little strange, but I often share a spoken "thank you" with the critters...a word of gratitude that they were willing to hang around long enough for a photograph. I was especially thankful to be able to spend some time with some red foxes last spring.

Hope you enjoy the photographs. Next week, again in keeping with tradition, I'll share my favorite squirrel photographs from 2020...

A follow up to last week...the yellow kitty I mentioned that paid a visit while yours truly was creating his first column out on our front stoop found his way to a forever home...a home, which it turned out...he already had. Seems that he went on a rather extended kitty walkabout. We're glad he's warm and safe again. Not a bad Christmas gift for the kitty...and for us...

We'll close this week with words from a song written by some folks named John and Yoko. Maybe you've heard of them...

"...A very merry Christmas...And a happy New Year... Let's hope it's a good one...Without any fears..."

Merry Christmas everyone...



June 18



April 29



November 5



April 24



June 2



August 27



March 25

Weather

1 1/2 inches of snow

The Union County area received a light dusting of snow on Wednesday, Dec. 16. An inch and a half of snow was recorded.

Temperatures during the period of Dec. 15-21 ranged from a high of 62 degrees to a low of 18.

The snow on Dec. 16 was the only precipitation recorded during the period. The snow melted down to .10 of an inch of precipitation.

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

	H	L
Tuesday, Dec. 15	38	22
Wednesday, Dec. 16	34	21
Thursday, Dec. 17	38	18
Friday, Dec. 18	44	20
Saturday, Dec. 19	44	38
Sunday, Dec. 20	50	36
Monday, Dec. 21	62	37



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