

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Anna, Illinois

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\$1.00

Volume 170, Number 10

News

Notes

Items of interest
from throughout
the Union County area



A super moon...almost. A super moon was slated to make an appearance in the night sky on Tuesday. The photograph was taken Monday night, since a cloudy sky was in the forecast for Tuesday night.

As of early this week, the Union County area has had 11.41 inches of precipitation, including 6.12 inches in February.

Early voting for the April elections is scheduled to begin Thursday, today, at the Union County clerk's office in Jonesboro. The clerk's office is located at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Dongola School is planning to host an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, March 8.

The Union County Museum in Cobden is scheduled to reopen on Saturday, March 2. The museum has been closed for the winter.

Union County Republicans are planning to have a "State of the Union" County event Saturday evening, Feb. 23, at Giant City Lodge near Makanda.

Spring clean-up at the Anna Cemetery is scheduled to start March 4.

The annual meeting of the Ebenezer Hall Cemetery board is planned Monday evening, Feb. 25, at the Richard Graham residence near Anna.

A spring community yard sale is scheduled May 11 in Cobden.

Lincoln Heritage Area expansion measure passes

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation on Feb. 19 that was introduced by U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin, both Illinois Democrats, to honor the legacy of the 16th president of the United States – Abraham Lincoln.

The legislation would expand the Lincoln National Heritage Area in Illinois to include Livingston County, the City of Jonesboro in Union County and the city of Freeport in Stephenson County.

Passage of the legislation came a week after the observance of Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12.

The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Amendment Act, which passed the Senate as part of the Natural Resources Management Act, will increase economic opportunities for Illinoisans working to

preserve the historic site and create new recreation, tourism and educational projects.

U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-III, has introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives. U.S. Rep. Mike Bost, R-III., is one of the measure's sponsors in the House.

"President Lincoln is a true American hero who expanded liberty and freedom for many and worked tirelessly to steer our country through some of our most challenging times. Our democracy would not be what it is today without his leadership," Sen. Duckworth said.

"I'm proud the Senate passed our bill to honor his legacy and bring new opportunities for economic growth to local communities across Central Illinois."

"Expanding the Lincoln

National Heritage Area will give future generations of Illinois residents and visitors the chance to learn about President Lincoln's lasting legacy in our great state," Sen. Durbin said.

"This bill will also support Illinois communities and help grow the local economy by increasing access to federal grants for preservation and education. I was proud to work with Senator Duckworth to pass this bill in the Senate."

"I am grateful to Senators Duckworth and Durbin for their efforts to pass this legislation and look forward to working with them and the entire Illinois Congressional delegation to get this bill through the House of Representatives and signed into law," said Looking for Lincoln executive director Sarah Watson.

(continued on page 2)



Lincoln and legislator

Abraham Lincoln reenactor George Buss of Freeport met with U.S. Rep. Mike Bost, R-III., during a visit to Washington, D.C., last week. Buss was voicing support for legislation that will add Jonesboro and Freeport to the Lincoln National Heritage Area in Illinois. Photo provided.



Icicles on a Saturday morning in Anna

Icicles were seen on a sign not far from the intersection of Jefferson and South Main streets in Anna last Saturday morning. The Union County area experienced another round of wintry precipitation last Friday, when freezing rain, sleet and snow fell during the evening and nighttime hours.

Another round of wet, wintry weather for area

The Union County area experienced another round of wet, and sometimes frozen, precipitation during the past week.

A winter storm brought snow, sleet and icy glaze to the area on Friday, Feb. 15. Snow, sleet and freezing rain fell during the evening and night time hours.

A total of 2 inches of frozen precipitation was measured in Jonesboro.

In anticipation of the bad weather, Union County's public school districts dismissed classes early last Friday afternoon.

The frozen precipitation coated area streets, roads and highways just in time for the Friday evening commute.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that on Friday, a low pressure system

tracked east-northeast from the lower Mississippi Valley to the Carolinas.

On the north side of the system, widespread rain changed to sleet, snow and freezing rain during the afternoon and evening.

Some of the total snowfall reports in the region included 5 inches in Murphysboro, Carbondale and near Herrin; three inches in Carterville and Marion; 2 inches near Ware; and

1.5 inches near Cape Girardeau.

More Wet, Wintry Weather This Week

Another round of soggy weather and wintry conditions were expected in the region on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Part of the region just north of Union County was under a winter weather advisory on Tuesday.

The weather service was calling for a chance for a

wintry mix of precipitation on Tuesday, mainly in the evening.

The forecast called for the precipitation to change to all rain overnight on Tuesday.

Once the rains started, they were expected to produce localized heavy totals, especially in far Southeast Missouri and in Western Kentucky.

(continued on page 2)



Anna church celebrates 150th anniversary

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church in Anna celebrated its 150th anniversary last weekend. An open house was held on Saturday at the church. The landmark occasion was celebrated with a worship service and meal on Sunday. The Union County church's 150 years of history were remembered with special exhibits which were on display during Saturday's open house. Barbara Bauer, left, and Sharon Mullins, were among the church members on hand to welcome visitors to the open house. Bauer was holding pictures and information about Rickliff and Mary Cox Johnson, who paid for Mt. Moriah's current building. Mullins was holding a picture of her great-grandparents, James A. and Amanda M. Mullins, who were two of Mt. Moriah's charter members in 1869. More pictures from Mt. Moriah's 150th anniversary celebration last weekend can be found in Section B of this week's paper.



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THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

THE TALK AND COBDEN REVIEW

Serving Union County Since 1849

(USPS 215-280)

112 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 529

Anna, Illinois 62906-0529

Phone: 618-833-2158

Fax: 618-833-5813

Email: news@annanews.com

Periodical postage paid at Anna, Illinois 62906-0529

PUBLISHED THURSDAY

Jerry L. Reppert.....Publisher

Geof Skinner.....Editor

Lonnie J. HintonProduction Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Union County.....\$35.00 Six months out of area.....\$40.00

Elsewhere in 629 Zip Code.....\$37.00 Students (nine months).....\$36.00

Out of area.....\$45.00 Armed services.....\$36.00

Six months in county.....\$32.00 Single copy.....\$1.00

Six months in 629 Zip Code.....\$33.00 Mailed copy.....\$5.00

e-edition.....\$35.00 • With print subscription.....\$7.00

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The Gazette Democrat, P.O. Box 529, Anna, Illinois 62906-0529

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0.9852: county’s tentative multiplier

Union County has been issued a tentative property assessment equalization factor of 0.9852, the Illinois Department of Revenue, IDOR, reported on Feb. 14.

The property assessment equalization factor, often called the “multiplier,” is the method used to achieve uniform property assessments among counties, as required by law.

This equalization is particularly important because some of the state’s 6,600 local taxing districts overlap into two or more counties.

Overlapping districts can include school districts, junior college districts and fire protection districts.

If there were no equalization among counties, substantial inequities among taxpayers with comparable properties would result, IDOR noted.

State law requires property in Illinois to be assessed at one-third of its market value.

Farm property is assessed differently, with farm homesites and dwellings subject to regular assessing and equalization procedures, but with farmland and farm buildings assessed accord-

Company among top places to work

Financial services firm Edward Jones ranks No. 7 on the 2019 Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For list, according to global research and consulting firm Great Place to Work and Fortune magazine. This year marks the firm’s 20th year on the list.

Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in St. Louis, provides financial services in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. The company has offices in Union County.

The company shared in a news release that “every aspect of the firm’s business, from the investments its financial advisors offer to the location of its branch offices, caters to individual investors.”

The firm’s 17,000-plus financial advisors serve more than 7 million clients and care for \$1 trillion in assets under management.

Great Place to Work is a global people analytics and consulting firm that helps companies produce better business results by focusing on workplace culture.

ing to standards based on productivity.

The equalization factor is determined annually for each county by comparing the sales price of individual properties sold over the past three years to the assessed value placed on those properties by the county supervisor of assessments/county assessor.

If this three-year average level of assessment is one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be 1.

If the average level of assessment is greater than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be less than 1.

If the average level of assessment is less than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be greater than 1.

Assessments in Union County are at 33.83 percent of market value, based on sales of properties in 2015, 2016 and 2017, IDOR reported.

The equalization factor currently being assigned is for 2018 taxes, payable in 2019.

Last year’s equalization factor for the county was 1.0000.

The tentative factor is subject to change if the county board of review takes actions which significantly affect the county assessments or if local officials or others can present data showing that IDOR’s estimates of the average level of assessments in the county should be adjusted.

A public hearing on the tentative multiplier will be held between 20 and 30 days after the tentative factor is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county.

IDOR noted that a change in the equalization factor does not mean total property tax bills will increase or decrease.

Tax bills are determined by local taxing bodies when they request money each year to provide services to local citizens.

If the amount requested by local taxing districts is not greater than the amount received in the previous year, then total property taxes will not increase even if assessments may have increased.

The assessed value of an individual property determines what portion of the tax burden a specific taxpayer will assume. That individual’s portion of tax responsibility is not changed by the multiplier.

Lincoln Heritage Area



Lincoln site in Jonesboro
A statue of Abraham Lincoln stands at the Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro. The picnic grounds were the site of an 1858 U.S. Senate campaign debate between Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas.

Governor: Lincoln’s spirit continues to run through Illinois

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois
phancock@capitol-newsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. J.B. Pritzker and other state officials joined American Legion officers from across the country Tuesday, Feb. 12, to lay wreaths at the tomb of Abraham Lincoln and pay homage to the 16th president of the United States on the 210th anniversary of his birth.

It was the American Legion’s 85th annual pilgrimage to the iconic monument in Springfield’s Oak Ridge Cemetery.

But it was the first time Pritzker took part in the ceremony as governor, and he used the occasion to invoke Lincoln’s legacy to talk about how he wants to address the challenges facing Illinois today.

“President Lincoln led with an unyielding pursuit of justice that guided our nation through one of the darkest times ever. And that spirit, his spirit, continues to run through this state,” Pritzker said.

“I pledge to pay close attention to Lincoln’s legacy of action, and his legacy of compassion, to lead a state guided by the pursuit of justice.”

The ceremony took place in the normally somber and silent burial room where a seven-ton red marble stone marks the spot where Lincoln is buried.

Dignitaries and observers crowded into the small room, standing in front of a wall where the bodies of Lincoln’s wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and three of their four children are entombed.

Over the years, though, the annual ceremony marking Lincoln’s birthday has become an occasion for state and local elected leaders to stand with American Legion officers in remembering Illinois’ favorite son.

Most, like Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder,

confined their remarks to praising the former president, citing a few of his more memorable quotes, and paying respect to the service of the American Legion and other military veterans.

Pritzker, however, did not shy away from commenting on political issues of today.

“It’s no secret that our state, which Abraham Lincoln once called home, faces some real challenges right now,” he said.

“We face a fiscal situation, fed by years of mismanagement that will take years to overcome.

“Too many of our communities are being left behind. Children in certain ZIP codes are shut out from opportunity before they even have a chance.

“You can work hard at two or even three jobs and struggle to put food on the table, let alone afford quality health care.”

But just as Lincoln put his faith in “the ultimate justice of the people,” a reference from Lincoln’s first inaugural address, Pritzker said he would put his faith in the people of Illinois.

“I place my faith in the human service providers who worked overtime during our budget crisis to make sure that those they served never felt the impact,” Pritzker said.

“I place it in people all across our state who want to come together to build something better.”

Kornthal service set

A monthly worship service is planned Thursday, today, at Kornthal Church in Union County. The service begins at 7 p.m.

Kornthal Church is located 2 1/2 miles south of Jonesboro, just off Illinois Route 127.

(continued from page 1)

“By expanding the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area to 43 counties in central Illinois and the communities of Freeport and Jonesboro, we continue to increase the economic benefit of Heritage tourism through telling the national significant story of the life and times of Abraham Lincoln’s 30 years in Illinois.”

Looking for Lincoln is the coordinating entity for the 42-county Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, the organization’s website explained.

Looking for Lincoln works in partnership with the Lincoln Home National Historic Site to tell the story of Lincoln’s almost 30 years in Illinois where he worked, traveled and lived.

Lincoln came to Union County in September of 1858 for a U.S. Senate campaign with Stephen A. Douglas.

The U.S. Forest Service’s Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro are located on the site of the debate.

Lincoln stayed in Anna when he came to Union County for the debate. The home where he stayed still stands along South Main Street.

The legislation unanimously passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year and it would not add a dime to the deficit according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The legislation which

passed in the U.S. Senate received support from Abraham Lincoln reenactor George Buss, who is from Freeport. Buss was in Washington, D.C., to recommend that the measure be passed.

Buss was in Union County to portray Lincoln during the recent Civil War Week-end at the Anna Arts Center in Anna. He also came to Union County to portray Lincoln during last fall’s bicentennial celebration in the City of Jonesboro.

The existing Lincoln National Heritage Area was established in 2008 and preserves the rich legacy of President Lincoln.

The region includes 42 counties across Central Illinois, stretching from the Indiana border to the Mississippi River, and is one of the largest heritage areas in the nation.

The site generates approximately \$260 million in economic impact, supports more than 3,000 jobs and generates \$255 million in tax revenue.

The counties that would be added to the Lincoln National Heritage Area under this legislation are of special significance to President Lincoln’s personal and professional life. These areas are where Lincoln developed his legal career within the Eighth Judicial District.

They are also home to two more sites of the historic Lincoln-Douglas debates: Jonesboro and Freeport.

Wet, wintry weather

(continued from page 1)

Flooding Continues

The weather service reported that minor to moderate flooding was continuing this week on most area rivers.

A flood warning continued this week for the Big Muddy River near Murphysboro.

The Big Muddy River borders part of northwestern Union County.

At 8 p.m. Monday, the Big Muddy River’s stage was at 26.6 feet. Flood stage is 22.0 feet.

Weather: Snow, sleet, icy glaze

Snow, sleet and an icy glaze highlighted Union County’s weather from Feb. 12 through Feb. 18.

The frozen precipitation was seen Friday, Feb. 15. The precipitation totalled 2 inches (.66 of an inch when melted), which included ice, snow and a glaze of ice. Another .26 of an inch of rain was recorded on Feb. 12.

Minor flooding was occurring and was in the forecast.

The river was expected to fall to a stage of 24.3 feet by Wednesday morning. Additional rises are possible later this week.

Local Outlook

The weather service noted on Tuesday that there is “another chance for heavy rainfall late in the work week and over the weekend. “Additionally, the Storm Prediction Center indicates a risk for strong to possibly severe storms Saturday.”

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

	H	L
Tuesday, Feb. 12	54	35
Wednesday, Feb. 13	50	32
Thursday, Feb. 14	54	43
Friday, Feb. 15	50	23
Saturday, Feb. 16	34	22
Sunday, Feb. 17	41	31
Monday, Feb. 18	34	26

Academic competitions set at Cobden High School

Cobden High School is scheduled to host two upcoming academic competitions.

Academic Bowl

The 36th annual Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl sectional tournament is set for Saturday, Feb. 23, at Cobden High School.

The competition is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. An awards ceremony is planned at about 3:30 p.m.

The tournament initially was scheduled for Feb. 16, but had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather.

Teams which are scheduled to participate will represent the following high schools:

Cobden, Galatia, Pope County, Joppa, Gallatin County, Marissa, Sesser-

Valier, Century and Shawnee.

Scholar Bowl

Cobden High School also is scheduled to host an Illinois High School Association, IHSA, regional Scholar Bowl tournament on Monday, March 4.

The tournament is slated to begin at 4 p.m. An awards ceremony is planned at about 7:45 p.m.

Teams which are scheduled to participate at the regional will represent the following high schools:

Cobden, Belleville Althoff Catholic, Campbell Hill (Trico), Goreville, Marissa (co-op), Nashville, New Athens, Sparta and Shawnee (Wolf Lake).

The public is welcome at both events and there is no admission fee.

Area legislator named to minority spokesperson post

State Rep. Terri Bryant, R-Murphysboro, has been named the minority spokesperson for the Illinois House Committee on Judiciary Criminal Law.

Bryant represents the 115th District in Southern Illinois. Part of Union County is in the district.

The fourth-term Republican state representative said she is honored to serve as the ranking minority member of the committee.

“Thank you first of all to Leader Jim Durkin for the opportunity to serve as the Minority Spokesperson on this critical House Committee,” Bryant said in a news release.

“The Judiciary Criminal Law Committee considers legislation that reviews and amends laws regarding gun control, criminal sentencing, and criminal justice reform.

“The committee also regularly interacts with staff and administration from the state’s many correctional centers.”

Bryant has served on the Judiciary Criminal Law Committee twice before, in the 99th and 100th General Assemblies.

Oil painting workshop set

The Rosemary Berkel and Harry L Crisp II Museum at Southeast Missouri State University’s River Campus in Cape Girardeau plans to host a “Still Life in Oil” workshop March 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 9 a.m. to noon.

During the workshop, taught by visiting artist Cleda Curtis, participants will be guided through a basic still life set up, culminating with a painting completion during this four- week class.

The workshop is limited to those 18 and older. Registration is required by Feb. 26. The cost for this event is \$25.

For more information, call 573-651-2260 or email museum@semo.edu.

The Crisp Museum is in the Cultural Arts Center at Southeast Missouri State University’s River Campus, which is located at 518 S. Fountain St. in Cape Girardeau.

The
Gazette-
Democrat
on line at
annanews.com

Bryant said she gained valuable experience as an administrator for the Illinois Department of Corrections prior to her election in 2014.

“I spent 20 years, my whole career, in the Department of Corrections, where my job required me to regularly interact with and implement policies handed down from Springfield,” Bryant said.

“I have the unique opportunity to stand up for what is best for public safety, what is best for our correctional officers, and what is best for those who are incarcerated as the minority spokesperson on the Judiciary Criminal Law Committee.”

Bryant has also been named as a regular standing member of the following Committees: Appropriations-Higher Education, Health Care Licenses, Higher Education, Human Services and Insurance.

“My committee assignments for this General Assembly couldn’t be better,” Bryant said.

“I really want to thank Leader Durkin for recognizing that my participation in these Committees will help me to be the best representative for local interests and concerns that I could possibly be.

“I will have the opportunity to fight for SIU Carbondale and our many Community Colleges as a member of the Higher Education and Higher Education Appropriations Committees.

“I will be working to help nurses and doctors by reducing the time it takes for qualified people to get their licenses as a member of the Healthcare License Committee.

“And, I will be proud as a member of the Human Services Committee to stand up for those that are on government assistance and those that provide critical mental and health care services to all Illinoisans. Access to mental and physical health care is a critical issue in Southern Illinois, especially.”

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Avenue Q - February 22 -24

Avenue

The Musical

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Skyline Creek Productions

February

22 - 24

For Mature Audience Only

Public Record from the files at the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro

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

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Shayne P. Stephens. Grantee: Justin M.B. Brock, Miranda D. Brock. Tract Section 36 Township 13S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Dennis L. Maze, Theresa L. Maze. Grantee: Elvis C. Cameron, Kristen S. Cameron. Tract Section 20 Township 12S Range 1W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Heather Faber, Steven J. Faber Jr. Grantee: Eva L. Foggs, Randore M. Foggs. Tract Section 17 Township 11S Range 2W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Megan Griffith, Bryan Lyles, Megan Lyles. Grantee: Whitney M. Beanland, R. Logan F. Mille. Tract Section 10 Township 12S Range 2W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Dishona C. Stamp. Grantee: Jeffrey L. Stamp. Tract Section 15 Township 11S Range 3W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Jeffrey L. Stamp. Grantee: Dishona C. Stamp. Name: Grammers Add. of Jonesboro. Lot 60. Portions 62, 70. Lot 71. Portions 62, 70. Lot 71.

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

Melissa J. Winterberg, Ava. Jared A. Anderson, Karnak. Terrance Dewayne Campbell, Omaha, Neb. Thomas Matthew Pisano, Griffith, Ind.

Jose de Jesus Mancilla Campos, Chicago. Amber Samantha Hopkins, Herrin. Vanessa Lemon Buie, Chicago. Misael Marcelino Diaz Cruz, Chicago.

Brian Keith Clover, Jonesboro. Francisco Javier Dominguez, Marion. Kimberly A. Reiniche,

IGGVA annual conference set
The Illinois Grape Growers & Vintners Alliance, IGGVA, is planning to have its annual conference Feb. 24-26.

The conference will be at Walker’s Bluff Winery in Carterville.

The conference is being held in Southern Illinois for the first time and will include an annual awards banquet.

Bourbonnais. Thomas S. Caldwell, Effingham.

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

Terry E. Hill Jr., Fenton, Mo., disregard stop sign, \$120. Jessica Marie Cook, Jonesboro, seat belt required/driver, \$60.

Jordan Anthony Hughes, Carbondale, following too closely, \$120. Steven L. Crowden, Daisy, Mo., seat belt required/driver, \$60.

Nolan Ellis Knupp,

Jonesboro, seat belt required/driver, \$60. Luis Alfonso Ibarra, Rio Grande City, Texas, speeding, 21-25 mph limit, \$140.

Charles R. Evans III, Jonesboro, seat belt required/driver, \$60. Brian S. Raben, Evansville, Ind., seat belt required/driver, \$60.

Lauren Katie Alyce Goodes, Aurora, speeding, 21-25 mph above limit, \$140. Zecheriah Joseph Cohen, Jonesboro, electronic communication device, \$120.

Rachel C. Clover, Anna, fail right-of-way/intersection,

\$120. Klay Allen Greenwood, Cobden, obstructed front windshield, \$120.

Susan Barry, Makanda, speeding, 21-25 mph above limit, \$140. Mario Kentrez Bonner, Bolivar, Tenn., transport/carry alcoholic liquor/passenger, \$120.

Marriage Licenses
The county clerk’s office issued a marriage license to:

Lenis Mizaël Cruz, 39, of Cape Girardeau, and Hogla Faviola Murillo, 35, of Cape Girardeau.

Micheal Eugene Roberts, 35, of Dongola, and Kristie Marie Deroe-Jones, 29, of Anna.

Annual meeting conducted
The annual meeting of the Anna-Jonesboro National Bank stockholders was conducted last week. Directors and officers are, seated, from left, Scott Wilson, president, and Jerry L. Reppert, chairman. Standing are Larry Carter, Gregory Wood, Dr. Steven Beatty, Clyde R. (Dick) Hodges and Phil Hileman. Stockholders voted in the election of directors and were given a report on the status of the bank.

EARL MILLER

for

City of Anna

Mayor

Vote on April 2nd

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Union County Republicans

"STATE OF THE UNION"

COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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Saturday, February 23, 2019

Come meet our newly elected County Officers, Commissioners and State Representatives

Giant City Lodge

460 Giant City Lodge Road • Makanda, IL

Cocktails at 5 p.m. • Dinner at 6 p.m.

\$30 per person • \$50 per couple

Text or message your RSVP to Stan Hunter at 314-422-5557

10G

10GP

Sports

Wildcats’ Hart, Kisat wrestle at state tourney

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School wrestlers Arojae Hart and Nate Kisat were in action at the Illinois High School Association Class 1A state wrestling tournament last weekend in Champaign.

Hart, who finished 26-7 overall in the 106-pound weight class, decisioned LeRoy’s Ethan Matlock, 10-5, in first round action at state.

Hart then lost his next two matches in a 3-1 decision in overtime to Chicago Hope’s Giovanni Amira and was eliminated in the quarterfinals by a 6-4 decision to Belleville Althoff’s

Saluki Sports Update

By Fred Huff

Regular readers of this column know that I seldom write in the first person, which is becoming more and more common in today’s standards.

This will be an exception, as turning a fairly big 90 years of age last week has brought back some memories. All good.

When “growing old” at 15 (1944) and writing sports for Du Quoin’s high school paper, I wanted to be like Merle Jones, the most respected sports writer in Southern Illinois.

That didn’t happen, but years later, Merle and I became close friends. Although no longer among us, he’s still my idol.

One of my fondest memories is leaving a Herrin club, telling Merle I had to leave, Merle walking me to the door, putting his arm around me and saying, “Fred, you’re my friend. I don’t think we ever argued over anything and I could always count on you for help.”

I’m sorry today’s young sports fans never had an opportunity to know Merle, to read his stories, his columns.

Older fans and all of the area’s older coaches, know what I’m referring to as Merle had a style all his own. He was not necessarily clever just honest and interesting.

I have no idea how many times I’ve heard older coaches talking about Merle, taking notes of their conversation on a match book and reading about it the next day. Perfecting quoted.

When I was hired at SIU in 1960, one guy offered that I must have had a lot of political support. Wrong.

I had the backing of Merle Jones and another close friend, Bill Brown of West Frankfort. They both convinced SIU’s athletics director Don Boydston that I could handle the assignment.

Brown, a one-time everything type of guy every place he worked, was Boydston’s assistant at the time and probably was responsible for more young guys getting their first jobs in coaching than anyone.

What a guy. What a pair. Jones and Brown. Fortunately I didn’t disappoint them.

Boydston, too, soon joined them on the top of my list. Boydston was a magician. He knew college sports and what it took to transform SIU, a run-of-the-mill sports program in the 1950s, into the talk of the Midwest.

Saluki teams, all of them, were so good that the Salukis were asked to leave the Interstate Intercollegiate

Shawn Minick.

A-J’s Nate Kisat, who finished 20-6 overall in the 145-pound class, lost in first round action 11-2 to LeRoy’s Carson Schaefer and then 16-12 in overtime in a wrestle back to Prairie Central’s Carbin Moser.

“Both had great seasons,” A-J coach Eric Massey said. “Both of them were injured during the regular season, but still made it through sectionals.”

The A-J wrestling team, which won its own Class 1A regional earlier, advanced to the Class 1A sectional earlier this week to take on host Vandalia.

Athletic Conference. More accurate, they were told to.

SIU had won nine of the 10 sports three seasons in a row. That’s when their efforts to join the Missouri Valley Conference started.

Unfortunately, Valley members were not excited about having a sports powerhouse from the Division II ranks among them. It took many national championships and winning the 1967 NIT to seriously consider the Salukis and accept them in 1975.

One of my biggest disappointments ever was not completing my book on SIU’s sports history prior to Boydston’s death. He had become one of my best fans and supporters. I was five months late in publishing the 440-pager which was successful...and still is.

Eventually replacing Boydston was Gale Sayers. Yeah, Gale Sayers the best running back in the NFL. I can’t prove that, but in my mind, he was.

Gale never replaced Boydston as a brilliant SIU sports chief, but he became far more than just a close friend to us as he hired me as his assistant at SIU after I had spent the previous seven years working at the Du Quoin State Fair, our second love.

Oh, there have been many individuals along the way. The problem in even mentioning a few is that others will be missed.

However, when I think of nice guys. Good guys. One that always jumps off the page is Ron Herrin, the former area high school coach and brother of Rich. Ron Herrin, what a guy. Almost a perfect man. In our mind, he was.

The others I’ll never, ever forget are Saluki coaches like Lew Hartzog, “Itch” Jones, Rey Dempsey and Bruce Weber. There are so many others in the business, not to mention the media types.

And, that brings up the “fair business” at Du Quoin. We liked and respected our boss man there, Bill Hayes. Didn’t always agree, but he made us fair manager after just one year of full-time help there and generally agreed with our decisions on hiring night-show talent. That particularly held true after a trio of “not-so-big-names” grossed \$80,000 and had cost us just \$22,500.

The fair business became big in our life in the 1970s before returning to SIU and again later after retiring from Saluki-land following 35 years.

Our mind says “let’s do it again,” but...

Thanks for understanding our situation and accepting the pledge that we will not do this again.

Commentary

A-J girls’ basketball team on the way up

By Mike Estel

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School girls’ basketball coach Matt Denny says his team is headed in the right direction.

The team finished with an impressive 23-10 record and topped one of its best wins of the season in the first-round of the regional.

The Lady Wildcats knocked off Fairfield, which had defeated them twice during the regular season.

To top that game off,

A-J hosting sub-regional

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School is hosting an Illinois High School Association Class 2A boys’ basketball sub-regional this week.

Chester is hosting the other Class 2A sub-regional.

Pinckneyville was seeded No. 1, followed by Chester, West Frankfort, Du Quoin, A-J, Sparta, Vienna, Johnston City, Trico and Red Bud.

The schedule for the A-J sub-regional follows:

Monday, Feb. 18, Vienna was scheduled to play Johnston City.

Tuesday, Feb. 19, Pinckneyville was scheduled to play the winner of Monday night’s game.

Wednesday, Feb. 20, A-J was scheduled to play Du Quoin.

The sub-regional championship is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22.

Trivia night support school’s music program

The Dongola School Music Department plans to host its third annual dinner and trivia night fund-raiser on Saturday, Feb. 23, starting at 5 p.m. The event will be in the small gym at Dongola School.

The theme of the night is “fandoms” and will include questions from categories like Harry Potter, The Walking Dead, Sports, Friends and others.

Dinner will begin at 5 p.m., with trivia to follow. Dinner will cost \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. The trivia competition will cost \$80 for a table, with a maximum of eight people per table.

Proceeds from the event will go towards the purchase of new instruments and music for Dongola students.

For more information or to register for the event, contact Rebecca Washington at rwashington@dongolaschool.com or at 217-779-7422.

the Lady Mules’ coach protested so much that she was tossed out of the game. She apparently was upset because her team would fall short and wouldn’t be able to claim that third win of the season over an opponent.

A-J claimed a convincing win over Fairfield with a 51-33 triumph.

The Lady Wildcats really came close in the regional championship game before bowing out to Harrisburg, 35-34.

Denny will lose regulars Angel Helm, Jacee Woodward, Morgan Wendling, Sydney Heath and Julia Ellis to graduation from this year’s squad.

But the cupboard is not bare and he will return with a good nucleus to build around.

A-J players who saw a lot of varsity playing time that Denny will attempt to build another winning team around next season are junior Mikayla Bundren; sophomores Jaley Watkins and Anna Hess and freshmen Kristin Edmonds and Kaya Coleman.

And this is not to even mention some of those incoming freshmen next season from Anna, Jonesboro and Lick Creek junior high schools that could add more depth to the Lady Wildcats’ squad next year.

The foundation has apparently been laid and now the team will have to prove on the floor next season that their confident coach is correct in his assessment.

Cobden posts 21st win of season

The Cobden High School boys’ basketball team built a first quarter lead on its way to a 63-38 win over visiting Crab Orchard on Senior Night on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Josh Franklin led the way with 19 points for Cobden. Joe Brumleve and Chandler West had 10 points apiece, followed by Dylan Lewey and Landon Britt with 8 each and Cody Weiseman and Zane Nance with 4 apiece.

Cobden, 21-9, is scheduled to play in the Goreville Class 1A regional this week.

The Appleknockers were scheduled to play Wednesday against the winner of Tuesday’s game between Cairo and Shawnee.

In the other game at Goreville on Tuesday, Egyptian was scheduled to play Dongola. The winner advanced to play Goreville on Wednesday.

Wednesday night’s winners tip off in the championship game at 7 p.m. Friday.

Wildcats end regular season with road loss

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School boys’ basketball team closed out regular season play with a 73-44 loss to host Sparta in Southern Illinois River-to-River Conference Mississippi Division action Saturday, Feb. 16.

The game had been rescheduled from Friday, Feb. 15, because of bad weather.

The Bulldogs pulled ahead 9-0 before the Wildcats scored a bucket with 5 minutes remaining in the opening quarter.

Tyler Smith led A-J with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Noah McFarland had 10 points and 3 rebounds.

Blessings to be theme of spring concert choir

A reflection on life’s blessings is the theme of Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s upcoming spring concert choir performance.

The event is set for 7:30 p.m. on March 7 and will feature over 35 students from across all degree majors on campus.

Held at the Epiphany Lutheran Church on 1501 W. Chautauqua St. in Carbondale, the concert is free and open to the community.

The concert combines a variety of musical selections that all speak about blessings.

The concert will feature pieces sung in three different languages and spanning over 400 years of musical history.

As a mixed ensemble

Maple Syrup Festival set at Touch of Nature

Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s Touch of Nature Environmental Center is planning to host its annual Maple Syrup Festival and pancake breakfast on Feb. 23-24.

Breakfast is scheduled to be served from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are available online at www.ton.siu.edu.

While tickets are required for the breakfast, the rest of the festival is free and open to all.

Festival activities are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at Touch of Nature Environmental Center, which is located about 8 miles south of Carbondale on Giant City Road.

The event features a wide variety of activities, including maple syrup making demonstrations, a climbing wall and interpretive hikes around the center.

For more information about the festival, or to get tickets for the pancake breakfast, visit <http://ton.siu.edu/events/maple-syrup-festival.php>, call 618-453-1121 or email tonec@siu.edu.

Blake Pena added 10 points, Cameron Tweedy 3 points and Nate Belcher a point.

A-J was 17 of 29 in shot attempts from the field, 1 of 7 from 3-point range and 7 of 13 from the free throw line.

The Bulldogs were 23 of 32 in shot attempts from the field, 6 of 18 from 3-point range and 9 of 11 from the charity stripe.

A-J finished regular season play at 8-20 overall and 2-8 in the conference.

The Wildcats are hosting a Class 2A regional this week and were to have played Du Quoin on Wednesday.

with a long-standing tradition at SIU, the concert choir works to bring well-crafted music to the community, said Susan Davenport, director of choral activities.

“People will hear music all the way from the Renaissance, to a fun little arrangement of a popular childhood song,” Davenport said. “There is great variety in this concert.”

Whether the music is from 400 years ago or just last month, the goal is to create an atmosphere that people will leave feeling encouraged and grateful, Davenport explained.

Jenny Kirby will accompany the group on the piano and organ, while students will join in on the violin, cello, percussions and special solos.

The spring concert serves as a precursor to two other upcoming musical events this spring.

The SIU Concert Choir is scheduled to accompany the Southern Illinois Dance Company for a performance on April 12-13 at Shryock Auditorium on the SIU campus.

The two groups will connect live music with the dance concert in a collaboration that is all new to SIU.

The semester is scheduled to conclude with a monumental performance of “Verdi Requiem,” a work from the Romantic era.

Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau is scheduled to join SIU’s Symphony Orchestra, Choral Union and Chamber Singers for the event on April 25 at Shryock Auditorium.

Tickets for “Verdi Requiem” are available online at events.siu.edu.

Check out
The Gazette-Democrat
online at
annanews.com



Dongola High School homecoming celebrated

Dongola High School had its annual homecoming coronation and dance on Saturday, Feb. 9, at the school. Robert Hammond Jr. and Shaylee Lingle were crowned as homecoming king and queen. The theme of this year’s celebration was “Your Year to Shine.” In the first row are, from left, Megan Theis, Matt Aden, Connor Pind, Robbie Hammond, Shaylee Lingle, Huntley Hilliard, Hunter McCommons and Ben Smith. In the second row are Charlie Duty, Cody Crider, Nathan Williams, Billy Thomas Jr., Zach O’Neal, Cameron Hogue, Chris Tellor, Cameron Halphen, Autumn Dixon, Michelle Wolford, Dailee Cummins, Chelsea Brown, Natalee Chauvin, Hailey O’Dea, Bethany Qualls and Journee Rushing. Photo provided.

Illinois Senior Hall of Fame accepting 2019 nominations

The Illinois Department on Aging, IDoA, is accepting nominations for the 2019 Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame Awards.

The awards recognize adults, 65 years of age and older, and highlight the meaningful contributions they have made in Illinois.

Award nominations are being accepted for the following categories:

Community Service: awarded to Illinois senior citizens who have shown support for the general public and community-based programs in their area or at large.

Education: awarded to Illinois senior citizens who have shown a dedication to instruction and the world of academia.

Labor Force: awarded to Illinois senior citizens who have a record of accomplishment in their employment or professional career.

Performance/Graphic Arts: awarded to Illinois senior citizens who have a commitment to health and the promotion of well-being

or a record of accomplishment in artistic expression.

The Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame was created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1994 to honor Illinois residents ages 65 and older for their personal achievements in four separate categories.

Since then, 117 people have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, May 31. Eligibility is based on the nominee’s past and present accomplishments.

The candidate must be a current Illinois citizen, or a former Illinois citizen for the majority of their life. Posthumous nominees will also be considered.

Nomination forms are available by calling the Senior HelpLine at 800-252-8966 or by visiting our website www.illinois.gov/aging.

For more information on how to nominate someone, contact Purnell Borders at Purnell.Bordersiii@illinois.gov.

State opioid alternative pilot program launches

Individuals who are looking to register for the Opioid Alternative Pilot Program, OAPP, can now do so on-line through the Illinois Cannabis Tracking System at <https://etk.icts.illinois.gov>.

The OAPP, which is part of the Medical Cannabis Pilot Program, MCPP, was created through the Alternative to Opioids Act of 2018.

The OAPP allows access to medical cannabis for individuals who have or could receive a prescription for opioids as certified by a physician licensed in Illinois.

The Opioid Alternative Pilot Program was designed to provide people with an option to manage their pain.

Opioids can be highly addictive in a very short period of time and this program offers qualifying individuals an alternative.

The first step is for individuals to see their physician.

The patient’s physician must complete a certification using the Illinois Cannabis Tracking System.

After the physician certification, patients will create a user account to register online, at a licensed medical cannabis dispensary, or at a local health department that offers assistance.

Along with the physician certification, a passport-like photo, copy of driver’s license/state ID, proof of Illinois address and \$10 payment are required.

Once all the required information is uploaded into the system and the payment is submitted, the individual will receive an electronic medical cannabis registry card.

The registered patient must present the eRegistry card at the dispensary they selected to purchase medical cannabis as soon as the same day.

The OAPP registration is valid for 90 days. If the physician agrees the patient should continue to use medical cannabis, a new registration can be submitted for another 90 day period.

At this time, the OAPP and MCPP are two separate registration systems. An individual cannot be enrolled in both programs at the same time.

Should an individual who is registered in the OAPP want to apply to the traditional MCPP, their OAPP registration will be cancelled at the time they submit an application to MCPP, state officials explained.

Beginning Feb. 1, individuals who have applied for the traditional MCPP will receive provisional access to dispensaries for a period of not more than 90 days while IDPH reviews their application.

Individuals who applied to the MCPP on-line between Dec. 1, 2018, and Jan. 31, will receive notification about their provisional access to a dispensary provided they applied with an email.

If they did not provide an email, they can obtain more information about how to update their application information on the Illinois Department of Public Health’s website.

More information about the OAPP and the MCPP can be found on the www.dph.illinois.gov website.



Robin in the snow
A robin paused for a stop on a stone step which was surrounded by snow last Saturday afternoon in Union County.

Helpline for Opioids reaches 10,000 calls

The Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances has reached 10,000 calls.

The milestone was announced Feb. 14 by the Illinois Department of Human Services, IDHS.

The 24-hour helpline is confidential, free and provides caring and non-judgmental support to people with substance use disorders, families and anyone who needs help.

The Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances launched in December 2017.

The Helpline has been connecting callers with treatment for opioid and other substance use disorders ever since.

In addition to the phone line, IDHS launched the Illinois Helpline website, ILHelpline.org, in June last year and it has been visited over 14,000 times.

The Illinois Department of Public Health’s data shows that opioid overdoses killed 2,202 people in Illinois in 2017 alone – more than one and a half times the number of homicides and nearly twice the number of fatal motor vehicle accidents.

Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of death in the United States for people under the age of 50.

Illinois continues to implement measures which are aimed at combating the opioid crisis and reducing the amount of deaths that result from opioid overdoses.

IDHS has expanded a successful program that helps patients with opioid use disorder at hospitals receive immediate treatment after their hospital visits.

The IDHS Hospital Warm Hand-off Program connects recovery support specialists directly to patients with opioid use disorder while they are in the hospital recovering from an overdose or receiving other hospital treatment.

Participating hospitals in the Warm Hand-off Program include three Southern Illinois Health-care facilities: Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, Herrin Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital in Murphysboro.

With the advent of the Helpline, hospital social workers now have clear access to resources for discharge planning.

In addition, the Warm Hand-off Program goes beyond providing a written referral or scheduling an appointment.

The program establishes a collaborative relationship between the patient and the recovery support specialist, providing practical, personalized support for entering and adhering to treatment and delivering ongoing recovery support services.

Five IDHS providers currently operate the program in 14 hospitals and multiple Cook County Health and Hospital System locations in Illinois.

The program has successfully connected 75 percent of participants (1,095 individuals) to treatment for substance use disorders since its inception.

IDHS will now partner directly with eight new hospitals to join the program from cities across the state.

The Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration through the Opioid State Targeted Response grant administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery.

If you or someone you know is experiencing opioid use disorder, call the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances at 1-833-2FINDHELP or visit HelplineIL.org.

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SNAP benefits to be issued early to Illinois customers

The Illinois Department of Human Services, IDHS, has reported that March Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, benefits will be issued early to Illinois customers.

March SNAP benefits will be loaded into customers’ accounts on March 1.

SNAP is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and distributed through IDHS in Illinois.

Because of the way the USDA funded SNAP during the recent federal shutdown, February benefits were issued in January. These benefits are typically issued in February and intended for use in February.

To reduce the time in between February and March SNAP issuances, IDHS created a new SNAP issuance schedule for March and April. IDHS will be issuing all March benefits on March 1.

Customers typically receive their SNAP benefits at different times during the month, so this will be on schedule for some SNAP customers and early for others.

IDHS plans to issue April benefits between April 1 and April 10. May benefits will be on the regular schedule.

March SNAP benefits were funded through a recent federal stopgap budget.

However, April and May SNAP benefits will depend on a new federal budget deal being reached.

There is no need for customers to visit the local IDHS offices or call their caseworkers.

IDHS staff will be working in the upcoming days to implement the necessary changes to issue benefits early. SNAP customers will receive the normal amount of monthly SNAP benefits on their Link cards, the debit-like cards used to spend SNAP benefits and other cash assistance.

IDHS will be working to communicate the new issuance dates to SNAP customers in the upcoming weeks through the IDHS website, Link website and phone line, a social media campaign and community outreach.

Congressman supports appropriations measure

A Southern Illinois Congressman has voiced support for a Fiscal Year 2019 federal appropriations package.

U.S. Rep. Mike Bost, R-Ill., said in a news release that the legislation, paired with a potential national emergency declaration from the president, would ensure the federal government has the resources necessary to build a wall and enhance technology to combat drugs and human trafficking at the border.

“I am pleased that Congress averted another costly government shutdown, while providing resources to build more than 55 miles of new physical security barriers along our borders,” Bost said.

“This agreement will help provide certainty that government services will be funded. That being said, it’s a shame that Nancy Pelosi and the open borders wing of her party have put us in a position of choosing between funding essential government services and securing our borders, especially when they supported these barriers in the past.”

Bost shared highlights of the bill, which he said secures America, supports agriculture, enhances economic security and invests in infrastructure.

He said the bill “addresses the humanitarian and security crisis at the southwest border by including \$1.375 billion for 55 new miles of wall or physical barrier, as well as additional technology to combat human and drug trafficking.”

Bost said the bill “supports Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), including funding for additional detention beds, allowing flexibility to address surges in illegal immigration and apprehensions.”

The package reduces the immigration case backlog by increasing the number of immigration judge teams from 395 to 534, Bost said.

He said the package “combats the financing of terrorism and terrorist groups and strengthens the development and enforcement of sanctions against Iran, North Korea, Russia and Cuba.”

In terms of agriculture, Bost said the package:

Increases funding in agricultural research programs.

Gives agricultural producers certainty by funding the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund.

Bost said the package “encourages economic development and job creation in rural communities like Southern Illinois by providing nearly \$4 billion for rural development programs.”

He said the measure also “reins in the EPA’s economically harmful regulatory agenda by cutting funding for regulatory programs by \$15 million.”

In terms of infrastructure, he said the package:

Includes over \$72 billion in transportation infrastructure funding.

Provides \$660 million in rural broadband expansion to unserved/underserved rural communities.

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FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: 4 miles north of Cobden off of old route 51, 3 bedroom home and a mobile home with a new roof on 3 acres, \$85,000. Call (618)-969-2451.

18-087109

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

J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP. PLAINTIFF, -vs- JERALD D. HOFFMAN; JONESBORO LIMITED SERVICE BRANCH F/K/A FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF JONESBORO; PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES LLC; DEFENDANTS NO. 18 CH 17

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above entitled matter on October 18, 2018; Scott Harvel, Sheriff, 307 W. Market, Jonesboro, IL 62952, will on March 13, 2019 at 9:00 AM, at Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market Street, Jonesboro, IL 62952, sell to the highest bidder for ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Union County, Illinois.

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

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

Said property is legally described as follows:

Commonly known as 409 North Green Street, Anna, IL 62906
Permanent Index No.: 05-19-03-343
Improvements: Single Family Residential
The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes

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

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association PLAINTIFF Vs. David Short a/k/a David E. Short; et. al. DEFENDANTS 2018CH6

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 7/18/2018, the Sheriff of Union County, Illinois will on April 3, 2019 at the hour of 9:00AM at Union County Courthouse 309 West Market Jonesboro, IL 62952, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Union and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

PIN 06-01-04-250-A
Improved with Single Family Home
COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
2695 Big Creek Church Rd
Dongola, IL 62926
Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-18-03790. I3112790 10-12g

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with Section 17-20 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/17-20), notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2019, in the offices of the Department of Revenue, 101 West Jefferson Street, Springfield, Illinois, for the purpose of taking evidence which may be pertinent to the Department's estimate of the percent to be added to or deducted from the aggregate assessment of locally assessed property in Union County for the assessment year 2018. This hearing is required by the Property Tax Code.

Based on the comparison of assessed valuations, the analysis of property transfers, and other available information, the estimated percentage to be subtracted from the aggregate assessment of locally assessed property other than property assessed under Sections 10-110 through 10-140 and 10-170 through 10-200 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/10-110 through 10-140 and 10-170 through 10-200) is -1.48%. Accordingly, the tentative equalization factor is 0.9852.

This meeting will be accessible to handicapped individuals in compliance with Executive Order #5 and pertinent state and federal laws upon notification of anticipated attendance. Handicapped persons planning to attend and needing special accommodations should contact Charles Hulett, either by telephone (217-785-6619), email at charles.a.hulett@illinois.gov or letter (Department of Revenue, Property Tax Division MC-3-450, 101 West Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 19033, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9033), by Thursday, March 14, 2019, to inform of their anticipated attendance.

David Harris
Director of Revenue

CD 10G

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

THE BANK OF CARBONDALE, Plaintiff, v. JASON SHORT a/k/a DEAN JASON SHORT a/k/a JASON D. SHORT, DELANEY JADE SHORT, CITY OF ANNA, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. No. 18-CH-24

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered by the court in the above entitled cause the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder at public venue.

The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is:

Mr. Kevin Klaine
Executive Vice President
The Bank of Carbondale
216 E. Main St.
Carbondale, IL 62901
618-549-2181
OR
Ms. Nancy Watkins
Re/Max Southern
301 S Main Street
Anna, IL 62906
(618) 697-1516
nancy.watkins@remax.net
The common address and other common descriptions, if any, of the real estate is:
506 S Main Street, Anna, IL 62906
A description of the improvements on the real estate is:

The parcel is improved with a residential home.
The real estate may be inspected prior to sale.
The time and place of the sale are:
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., inside the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, Illinois 62952
The amount due under the judgment is \$157,940.51.
The terms of the sale are: 25% down in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sale and the remaining balance due within 24 hours, also in certified funds. The property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. Prospective bidders are admonished to

check the Court file to verify all information.
Title will be conveyed subject to all unpaid general real estate taxes and special assessments, if any, and ordinances, easements, restrictions and covenants of record or apparent, and all encumbrances not foreclosed herein.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND THAT ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM YOU IN MY ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THIS DEBT WILL BE USED FOR PURPOSES OF COLLECTING THE DEBT.

Scott P. Hendricks
Cynthia A. Hagan
Hendricks & Hagan
206 W. College, Ste. 12
Carbondale, IL 62901
phone: (618) 529-2274
fax: (618) 529-1638
shendricks@globaleyes.net 9-11g

FOR RENT

NOTICE: All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination."

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

FOR LEASE: Commercial Property. Retail Space, 1,105 sq. ft. Available 1/1/2019. 125 Leigh Avenue, Suite B, Anna, IL 62906. Call (618)-833-5636 for an appointment to view.

FOR RENT: Homes, A-Frames and Mobile Homes For Rent in East Cape. Call (618)-661-1118.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom duplex in Anna. No pets. Appliances included, plus washer/dryer. \$500.00/month, \$400.00 deposit. Call (618)-967-6019.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, bi-level, fenced-in backyard. \$600.00 per month. 117 Young Avenue, Anna. Call (618)-615-3676.

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WANTED TO DO: Mending & sewing - buttons, zippers, misc. repair, simple patterns, doll clothing, misc. Call (618)-697-0977.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Looking for an individual with computerized parts inventory experience to work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Valid driver's license required. Forklift operation necessary and mechanical aptitude beneficial. Apply in person at Schaefer Enterprises in Wolf Lake, IL.

HELP WANTED: Direct Support Person to assist in providing training to individuals with developmental disabilities in a vocational, day training & residential program. High school diploma or GED required. Must be 18 years of age or older. Benefits for full-time staff of dental, vision, life insurance, and medical insurance are available. Workshop starting salary \$9.50/hour and residential \$10.00/hour. We have a dollar an hour differential increase for working the midnight shifts (\$11.00/hour). Overtime hours available. Training and certification provided. Experience preferred. Apply at Rave, Inc., 214 W. Davie Street, Anna, IL 62906. EOE.

LPN for developmentally disabled individuals in a residential/day training setting. Duties include medication administration, quality assurance, on call duties & following nursing care plans. Position is Monday through Friday with paid medical insurance, dental, vision, life insurance and paid holidays. Must have valid driver's license and transportation. Apply in person, mail resume, or fax to: Rave, Inc., 214 West Davie Street, Anna, IL 62906; fax to: (618)-833-4222.

WANTED: Mature Caretaker/DSP/CNA (we will train you): MULBERRY MANOR is accepting applications for the DSP position. We will train you. No prior certification required. Those interested may apply in person or email a resume. 612 E. Davie Street, Anna, IL 62906. (618)-833-6012, mulberrymanor@keltechmanagement.com. EOE.

further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

IFYOUARETHEMORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-18-03790.

I3112790 10-12g

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

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

vs

GREGGORY MOORE, MICHELLE MOORE F/K/A MICHELLE LYERLA, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TAX LIEN UNIT A/K/A STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No.: 2019CH4

PUBLICATION NOTICE

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

EXHIBIT A

Lots Number Seven (7) and Eight (8) in Block (11), Village of Alto Pass, Union County, Illinois.

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

Now, therefore, unless you, the said Defendants, Gregory Moore, Michelle Moore f/k/a Michelle Lyerla, State of Illinois Department of Revenue Tax Lien Unit, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, file your answer to the Complaint in the suit, or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, in the County Courthouse in the City of Jonesboro, Illinois, on or before the **21st Day of March, 2019**, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Tiffany Busby
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Prepared by:
JOHN R. SCHNEIDER
JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C.
212 North Main Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Tel: (573)-335-3300
Fax: (573)-335-1978
10-12g

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

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

vs

RICHARD A. ISAACS, DONALD W. DAILEY, JR., MELISSA L. MURPHY, UNKNOWN OWNERS And NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No.: 2019CH3

PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, Richard A. Isaacs, Donald W. Dailey, Jr, Melissa L. Murphy, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants in the above entitled suit, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, by the said Plaintiff against you and other defendants to foreclose a certain Mortgage covering the following described premises, to-wit:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: SITUATED IN AND A PART OF THE SOUTH-WEST QUARTER OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 13, RANGE 1 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

DETAIL DESCRIPTION: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; THENCE SOUTH 86° 41' 30" WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 1 A DISTANCE OF 1211.09 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG THE SAID NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 1 A DISTANCE OF 955.11 FEET TO A SURVEY MONUMENT; THENCE SOUTH 0° 00' 00" EAST A DISTANCE OF 407.17 FEET TO AN IRON ROD IN THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE PUBLIC ROAD; THENCE ALONG THE SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE ON A CURVE TO THE RIGHT OF RADIUS 439.25 FEET A DISTANCE ALONG THE ARC OF 48.59 FEET TO A CONCRETE RIGHT OF WAY MARKER, THE LONG CHORD OF SAID CURVE BEING 48.56 FEET LONG AND BEARING SOUTH 52° 02' 32" EAST; THENCE SOUTH 48° 52' 36" EAST A DISTANCE OF 60.24 FEET TO A CONCRETE RIGHT OF WAY MARKER: THENCE ON A CURVE TO THE LEFT OF RADIUS 788.51 FEET A DISTANCE ALONG THE ARC OF 405.29 FEET TO A CONCRETE RIGHT OF WAY MARKER, THE LONG CHORD OF SAID CURVE BEING 400.84 FEET LONG AND BEARING SOUTH 63° 35' 53" EAST; THENCE SOUTH 78° 19' 25" EAST A DISTANCE OF 316.33 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE NORTH 14° 33' 35" EAST A DISTANCE OF 799.72 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THE TRACT CONTAINING 12.689 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

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

Now, therefore, unless you, the said Defendants, Richard A. Isaacs, Donald

W. Dailey, Jr, Melissa L. Murphy, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, file your answer to the Complaint in the suit, or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of Union County, Illinois, in the County Courthouse in the City of Jonesboro, Illinois, on or before the **21st Day of March, 2019**, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Tiffany Busby
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Prepared by:
JOHN R. SCHNEIDER
JOHNSON, SCHNEIDER & FERRELL, L.L.C.
212 North Main Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Tel: (573)-335-3300
Fax: (573)-335-1978
10-12g

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

ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK f/k/a ANNA NATIONAL BANK, an Illinois Banking Corporation, Plaintiff,

v.

CHARLES F. MORGAN, JR and ELLEN MORGAN, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No.: 2017-CH-38

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above captioned matter on November 26, 2018, the Sheriff in Union County, will by public sale on the **20th day of March, 2019, at 9 a.m.** in the Union County Courthouse, in Jonesboro, Illinois, sell at public venue to the highest and best bidder, for cash, or cashier's check drawn on a federally or state chartered bank or savings and loan, the following described real estate:

EXHIBIT A

LOT NUMBERED 6 IN GATTINGER'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ANNA, SITUATED IN UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Potential buyers may contact John R. Schneider of the law firm of Johnson, Schneider & Ferrell, L.L.C., 212 North Main Street, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, Phone Number (573)-335-3300 for information regarding this real estate.

At said sale, the Court will give the purchaser a certificate showing the amount of the bid, a particular description of the property sold, and the time when the purchaser will be entitled to a deed for such property unless same shall have been redeemed according to law.

Tiffany Busby
Circuit Clerk

Document prepared by:

John R. Schneider Johnson, Schneider & Ferrell, L.L.C.
212 North Main Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Tel: (573)-335-3300
Fax: (573)-335-1978
www.johnsonschneider.com
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ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED NETWORK

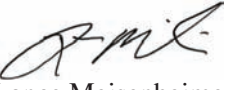
ESTATE AUCTION February 23rd 10am 10303 E. Hagner Rd., Beardstown, IL ANTIQUES - ADVERTISING TOYS - COINS - VINTAGE SCOOTER - TOOLS - RIDING MOWER - HOUSEHOLD - WATCHES - MORE! 217-320-3676 www.MitchWebsterAuctions.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Registration and voting aids are available under the Federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act and of the availability of assistance in marking the ballot and procedures for voting by absentee ballot and procedures for early voting by personal appearance. (10ILCS 5/12-1) Dated February 19, 2019.



Lance Meisenheimer
Union County Clerk/Recorder

10G

Early & Grace Period Voting Schedule

2019 Consolidated Election April 2, 2019

Early Voting Schedule

Starting Thursday, February 21, 2019, through Monday, April 1, 2019, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Excluding weekends except dates listed below:

Saturday, March 30, 2019 - 8 a.m. to Noon
Sunday, March 31, 2019 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

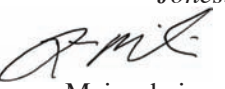
Grace Period Voting Schedule

Starting Wednesday, March 6, 2019, through Monday, April 1, 2019, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Excluding weekends except dates listed below and Tuesday, April 2, 2019, Consolidated Election Day.

Saturday, March 30, 2019 - 8 a.m. to Noon
Sunday, March 31, 2019 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Consolidated Election Day is Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Early and Grace voting will be held at the Union County Clerk's Office, located at:
309 W. Market Street, Room 116
Jonesboro, IL 62952



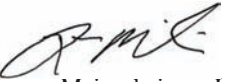
Lance Meisenheimer
Union County Clerk

10G

UNION COUNTY POLLING PLACES		
Union Co. Precincts	Polling Places	Location
Anna 1 & 2	Main Street Center	400 S. Main St., Anna
Anna 3 & 4	Anna City Hall Com. Room	103 Market St., Anna
Anna 5 & 6	Nazarene Church	100 Kirk St., Anna
Anna 7	Jo-Co Pools	1009 Enterprise Dr., Anna
Jonesboro 1 & 2	First Baptist Church	201 W. Walnut St., Jonesboro
Jonesboro 3	Jonesboro Fire Station	102 W. Market St., Jonesboro
Cobden 1 & 2	First Baptist Church	200 S. Walker St., Cobden
Dongola 1 & 2	Community Center	105 Oak St., Dongola
Alto Pass	New Alto Pass Civic Center	19 Elm St., Alto Pass
Mill Creek	Mill Creek Baptist Church	8525 St. Rt. 127 South, Mill Creek
Balcom	Big Creek Baptist Church	485 Big Creek Church Rd., Anna
Lick Creek	Lick Creek School	7355 Lick Creek Rd., Buncombe
Stokes	Camp Ground Church	50 Tunnel Lane, Anna
Union	Wolf Lake Community Center	4720 St. Rt. 3N, Wolf Lake

The polling places will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Dated February 19, 2019


Lance Meisenheimer, Union County Clerk

10G



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The Gazette-Democrat

Capt. Thomas Oral Norton Jr.

Thomas Oral Norton Jr., 89, of Cape Girardeau, died Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019, at Saint Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau.

He was born on March 14, 1929, in Neely’s Landing, Mo., the son of Thomas and Grace Rumfelt Norton, Sr.

He and Peggy Rendleman Norton were married on March 4, 1951, in Piggott, Ark.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy; a son, Thomas III; and his parents.

Mr. Norton lived, graduated and met his love in Grand Tower. They moved to Wolf Lake into a house he built himself. They later moved to East Cape Girardeau, and then on to Gordonville, Mo., Jackson, Mo., and he finally moved to Cape Girardeau.

They loved to travel with family and friends, and had a place in Florida where they loved to snowbird in the winter. He dedicated his life to taking care of his family and friends.

He served his country as a first sergeant in the Heavy Mortar Company in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He was a riverboat captain and worked on the river his entire career. Mr. Norton was a member of the Zion United Methodist Church in Gordonville, Mo.

Many months after Peggy’s death, an old high school friend reached out to offer condolences and comfort. Those conversations turned into a rekindled friendship that ended up in a marriage of over 12 years that would last until his death.

Survivors include his wife Aldeane; three daughters, Jana Norton of Paducah, Susan Floyd of Millersville and Becky Foster of Perryville; a son, Jason Norton of Webster Groves, Mo.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sisters; a brother; many nieces and nephews; and many friends.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with Bill Littrell and the Rev. Joel Kidwell officiating.

Interment was in the Jonesboro Cemetery. Graveside military rites were conducted by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna and the Illinois Army National Guard honor team of Marion.

Memorials can be made to the building fund of the Zion United Methodist Church in Gordonville, to a local VFW post or to the American Diabetes Association.

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

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

Milton D. Eiselmeier

Milton D. Eiselmeier, 91, of Anna, died Friday, Feb. 15, 2019, at Integrity Healthcare in Anna.

He was born on July 26, 1927, in Olmsted, the son of Carl Stephen and Leona Erdbruegger Eiselmeier.

He is survived by his two sisters, Darlene (Wayne) Douglas of Anna and Audrey (Larry) Hartsock of O’Fallon, Mo.; nieces Sharilyn Koch of Knoxville, Tenn., Brenda Minick of Salem and Tanya Womick of Anna; great-nieces and nephews; and great-great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his paternal and maternal grandparents; aunts and uncles; and one niece, Lisa Douglas-Hess.

He was a faithful member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Anna. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked for 28 years for the Ford Garage in Anna and then worked for 14 years as the custodian at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro until his retirement.

Memorial graveside services are pending and will be announced at a later date.

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

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

Bill T. Smith

Bill T. Smith, 73, of Cobden, died Friday, Feb. 15, 2019, at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

He was born on Dec. 22, 1945, in Grand Tower, the son of Velma L. Smith. He married Georgia Niblack.

He is survived by his wife, Georgia Smith of Cobden; one son, Bill Wright of Ozark; one brother, John Smith of Jonesboro; other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, and by 10 brothers and sisters.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was a life member of Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna and served on the ritual team for many years.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with the Rev. Mike Smith officiating.

Interment was in the Alto Pass Cemetery. Graveside military rites were conducted by Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna.

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

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

Obituaries

Ernest ‘Speedy’ Elder

Ernest “Speedy” Elder, 85, of Cobden, died Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019, at the Marion VA Medical Center in Marion Community Living Center.

He was born on Nov. 12, 1933, the son of David and Clara Robertson Elder.

He married Chris Garan on Sept. 5, 1992, in Sherman Mills, Maine.

Mr. Elder is survived by his wife of 26 years, Chris Elder of Cobden; sons John (Stephanie) Elder of Arizona, Gene (Gabbie) Elder of Germany and Charles (Allison) Elder of Hew Hampshire; stepsons Michael (Jessica) Garan of Maine and Andrew (Stephanie) Garan of Maine; many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; one sister, Grace E. Garner of Cobden; two brothers, David E. (Tana) Elder of Peterburger and Raymond (Mary Ellen) Elder of Mattoon; many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Debra Kay Moreland-Thibodeau; and two sisters Rose Marie Sellars and Katherine Jane Ballance.

He was a life member of Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna and the DAV. He was a member of the Anna Moose Lodge and Elks Lodge, and the Mason Lodge of Maine. He loved to go fishing, hunting, golfing and morrell mushroom hunting.

He served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years as an electrician on various submarines. After retirement from the Navy, he moved to Maine and was a Master Maine Guide for hunting and fishing.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 3, at Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna.

Memorials can be made to the Marion VA Community Living Center or to the American Parkinson Disease Association.

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

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

Vincent Newton Gross

Vincent Newton Gross, 84, died at 4 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019, at the Marion VA Medical Center, after an extended illness.

He was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in Lancaster County, Pa.

After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he married Alma Sensenig, and they raised their family in Lititz, Pa.

He worked for over 20 years at Woodstream Corporation. He continued his career in the injection molding industry in Southern California after moving there in 1980.

Vince and Alma moved to Arizona and subsequently to Creal Springs during retirement. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, motorcycle riding, technology and movies. He was happiest when making others smile and laugh.

He is survived by his sons, Michael and Nathan; daughters-in-law Kim and Laurie; grandsons Andrew and Bryan; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by the love of his life and wife of 52 years, Alma Gross.

His family voiced appreciation to the staff at the Illinois Veterans Home in Anna for the care and love they gave to Vince during the last years of his life.

There will be no services and cremation will be accorded.

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

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

Virginia Marie Scutt

Virginia Marie Scutt, 83, of Buncombe, died Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019, at the Jonesboro Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

She was born on March 24, 1935, in Lansing, Mich., the daughter of Dewey and Lelah Hulliberger Tupper.

She married Murlin D. “Dink” Scutt, who preceded her in death on Feb. 11, 2018.

She is survived by her stepson, Terry (Joann) Scutt of Key West, Fla.; grandchildren Jim, Amy, Jerimah and Jessica Scutt, Teressa Pengress and Ryan Sims; and great-grandchildren Austin and Ryder Scutt, Regan and Riley Kind and Sally Sims.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Dewey and Lelah Hulliberger Tupper; her husband, Murlin D. “Dink” Scutt; a daughter, Jodie File; and her close friend Carolyn Sue Sims.

She worked for 25 years at the Florsheim Shoe Factory in Anna until her retirement.

Funeral services were at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro, with Mike Miller officiating. Interment was in Mt. Zion Cemetery in Buncombe.

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

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

Ronald Cain

Ronald Cain, 71, of Tamms, died on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019, at Monticello House in Jackson, Mo.

He was born on July 21, 1947, in Cairo, the son of Henry Edgar and Margaret Elaine Brown Cain.

Mr. Cain retired from Proctor and Gamble, where he was a dedicated technician for 32 years.

He was a passionate hunter and horseback rider. He and his dad shared their passion for horses. For many years, if he was not at Proctor and Gamble, he was on a horse. After retirement, he became a hunting guide at Doctorman’s.

He is survived by his son, Tim Cain; grandchildren Maisson Cain, Sydney Cain, Samuel Cain and R.J. Edwards; a brother, Kevin (Amy) Cain; a sister, Elaine (Kevin) Lasher; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Mr. Cain was preceded in death by his parents, Ed and Margaret Cain.

Funeral services for Ronald Cain were at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Crain Funeral Home in Tamms, with the Rev. Mike Perry officiating. Interment was in St. John’s Cemetery near Dongola.

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

Crain Funeral home Crain Funeral Home in Tamms was in charge of arrangements.

Roy ‘Sonny’ Basler Jr.

Roy “Sonny” Basler Jr., 82, of Cobden, died Monday, Feb. 18, 2019, at his home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 22, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cobden. Interment will be in the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Cobden.

Friends can call from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, today, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden. A prayer service will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, today, at the funeral home.

Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or to Hospice of Southern Illinois.

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

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

Reynoldsville News

By Sue Eudy

Sue Eudy of Anna visited Thursday, Feb. 7, with Ervina Johnson of Jonesboro and Berniece McRaven at River to River in Anna.

Happy belated birthday wishes to Ernie Rhodes of Jonesboro, whose birthday was Monday, Feb. 11.

Kevin and Emma Eudy and Jonathan Bohnert were dinner guests of Sue and Steve Eudy on Sunday, Feb. 10.

Visiting with Dolores and Jack Reynolds of Reynolds-ville on Saturday, Feb. 9, were Justin, Brandi, Gracie and Paxton Wilson of Cape Girardeau and Sara, Luke and Ady Choate of Grand Tower.

Dolores and Jack Reyn-

olds helped their great-grandson, Bryce Reynolds, celebrate his 18th birthday Sunday at the home of Rodney and Vicki Reynolds, his grandparents, in Wolf Lake. Others present were his parents, Adam and Marissa, and his brother Brock, Lara, Titan and Rylie and Sara, Luke and Ady Choate.

Gary Gibbs of Jonesboro visited with Maxine and Fred Pender of Fair City.

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.

✝

"The Preaching Pen"

How did Enoch walk with God?

We don't know very much about Enoch. Gen. 5 tells us he was the son of Jared, the father of Methusaleh, and he's referenced in Heb. 11 and Jude 13. What's noteworthy about Enoch is, as the question mentions, that he walked with God, and the question specifically asks, "How? How did Enoch do that?" Gen. 5:22 & 24 both tell us that Enoch walked with God, and the Hebrew word translated "walked" is, "halak" and means, "to live; manner of life."The word walk implies a steady, growing relationship and not just a casual acquaintance.

The preposition translated "with" means, "together; close relationship." Thus, there was an intimacy, a close fellowship, between Enoch and God. By faith Enoch walked with God for 300 years and pleased the Lord (Heb. 11:5). It seems that the birth of his son had a very positive influence on his life which brought about a transformation from a lifestyle that was indifferent to God to one that was in close communion with God (v. 22a). Enoch lived to be 365 years old, begat Methuselah at age 65, and from that point, lived his remaining 300 years in lockstep with God's will. To walk with God is the most important thing that a man can do, and it must be done for a lifetime, not just for an hour, or intermittently, as some will do.

We can rightly infer that Enoch walked with God by seeking His will, by doing His will, by listening to God, and by speaking with God. We can do the very same things today. God communicates His will to us through His all-sufficient Word (II Tim. 3:16 & 17), we can understand it (Jn. 8:32), and we can communicate with Him through prayer (Jn. 9:31; Phil. 4:6). May the same be said of us as was said of Enoch.

We invite you to learn more this Sunday at the Anna church of Christ, 104 Nile St. We meet at 9:30 a.m. for Bible study; 10:30 a.m. & 5 p.m. for worship. We hope to see you soon!

✝

R.W. McAlister, Minister

Anna church of Christ

10G

Marion event will support Family Counseling Center

Family Counseling Center Inc. in Vienna is planning to host a Glo Bingo event Friday evening, Feb. 22, in the Diamond Club at Rent One Park in Marion.

Doors are scheduled to open at 6 p.m. Play starts at 7 p.m.

Funds raised throughout the evening will go toward all of the human service programs provided to individuals by the agency.

The programs include 22 different types of services to nearly 2,000 clients in the southern seven counties of Illinois in three separate divisions, including:

Behavioral Health: adult/youth outpatient and crisis intervention services, substance abuse outpatient, 24/7 residential, psychiatric services, hospital and school-based services.

Developmental Services: crisis, therapy, 24/7 residential, developmental training/workshop, school transition and home-based.

Supportive Living: Autumn Ridge Supportive Living Facility, a 46-apartment complex for independent senior living.

Glo Bingo is described as a high-energy version of the classic bingo game.

Individual tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door and include six bingo cards for 10 game rounds, as well as a Glo Hat and Glo Dobber and the chance to win over \$1000 in cash prizes.

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities or additional information, contact Kerie Moore at kerie@fccinconline.org or 618-658-3079.

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Musical, Avenue Q.**

**February 22, 23 & 24
at the
Marion Cultural
& Civic Center**

Shawnee Development Council, Inc.
**announces Special Saturday Hours
for utility assistance through LIHEAP**

February 23rd from 9-1
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530 W. Washington, Karnak

March 2nd from 9-1
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**EARLY VOTING
STARTS
FEBRUARY 21.**

Voters can cast their ballots for the 2019 election at the Union County Clerk's office. The Clerk's office is located on the first floor of the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

The County Clerk's office hours are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. During Early Voting Days, the Clerk's office will not close for lunch.

Election Day is April 2. On Election Day, voters will cast their ballots at their regular Polling Place.

Please feel free to call Bryan at 618-527-0687 with any questions about Early Voting.

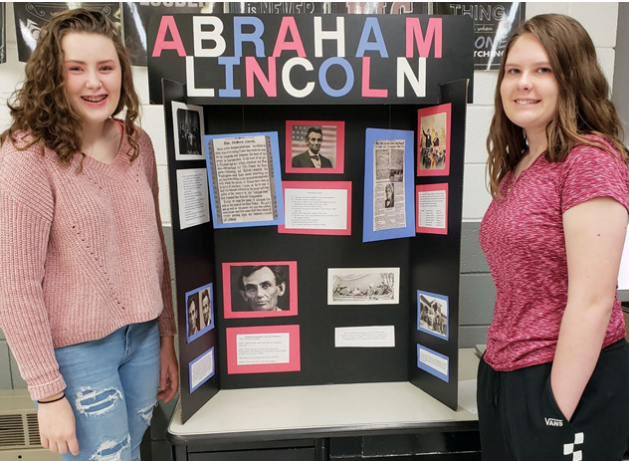
★★★ **BRYAN** ★★★
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for
Anna City Council
Our Community, Our Future

Lick Creek School hosts history fair

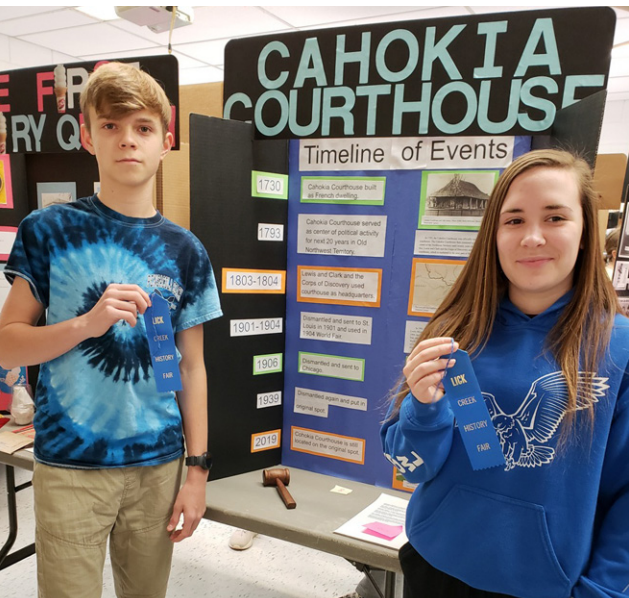
A history fair was held Tuesday, Jan. 29, at Lick Creek School. Six judges reviewed nine projects presented by 8th grade students and 11 projects from 6th grade students. The students' teacher is Angie Alsip. Cash prizes were awarded. The history fair was sponsored by the Union County Historical and Genealogy Society. Winning entries are featured in the accompanying pictures. Photos provided.



8th grade, first place: Bald Knob Cross, by Timothy Plott.



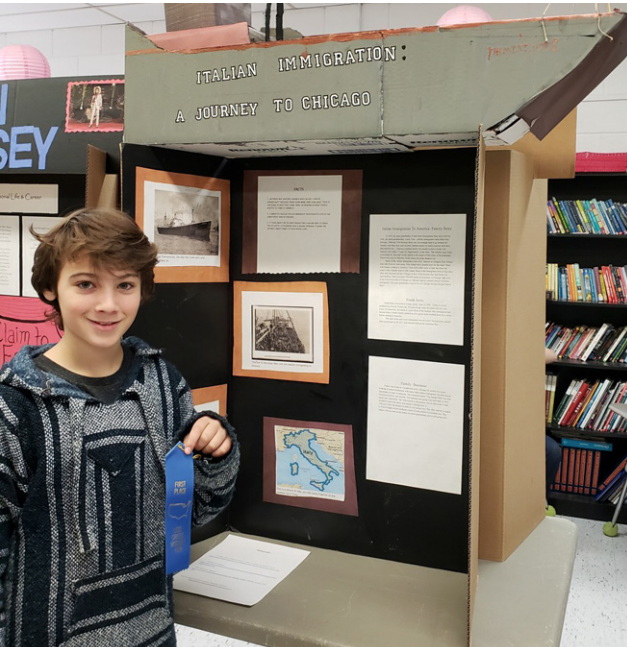
8th grade, second place: Abraham Lincoln, by Macie George and Aniyah Graham.



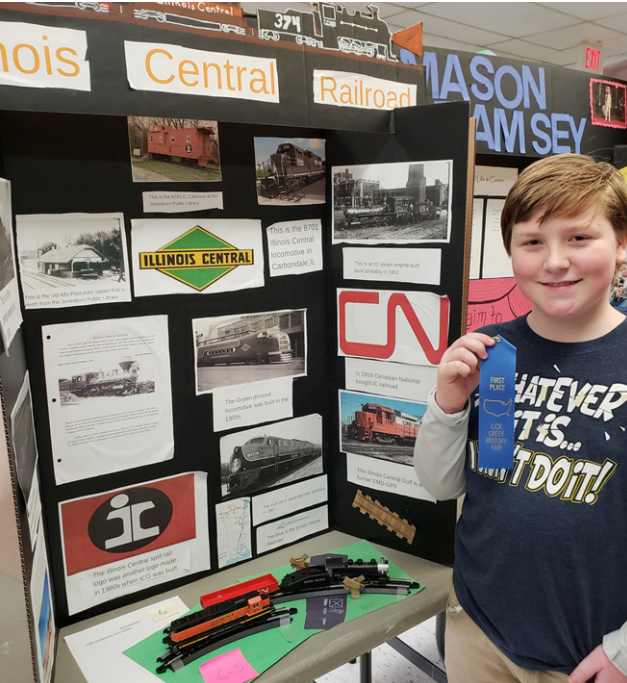
8th grade, third place: Cahokia Courthouse, by Louis Van Muylder and Brodie Denny.



6th grade, first place: Dr. Keeley's Gold Cure, by Sophie Smith.



6th grade, second place: Italian Immigration: Journey to Chicago, by Luke Vaughn.



6th grade, third place: Illinois Central Railroad, by Kady Grant.

Foundation supports field trips to visit Lincoln Library, Museum

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – More than 750 children from across Illinois will get to visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the nation's premier institution dedicated to the 16th president, as the result of contributions by the Winnick Family Foundation.

"Abraham Lincoln's remarkable life can be an inspirational force for young people, and we are grateful to the Winnick Field Trip Initiative for helping students from underserved areas study that life," said Alan Lowe, the presidential library and museum's executive director.

The Winnick Field Trip Initiative supports the transportation costs of visiting the presidential museum for schools with limited resources.

To qualify, the schools must have a low-income enrollment of greater than 30 percent. The students who get to visit can be anywhere from 4th grade to 12th.

Galatia Elementary School in Southern Illinois is one of the schools which is receiving support through the Winnick Field Trip Initiative.



Spreading the love
Students in the Anna Junior High School Art Club delivered hand-made cards and gifts to the residents of the Illinois Veterans Home in Anna. Junior high art teacher Josh Shearer and his art students distributed the cards during a Valentine's Day visit to the veterans home. Valentine's Day was Feb. 14. Photo by Benjamin Marxer.

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, February 21, 2019

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Section B

Shawnee Hills Arts Council hosts successful Civil War Weekend

By Lee Hackney
Shawnee Hills
Arts Council

Shawnee Hills Art Council/Anna Arts Center sponsored the Civil War Weekend in Anna Feb. 7-10 to learn from the fateful events that occurred from 1861 to 1865.

The event included living history presentations, exhibits, speakers on various battles and interpretive programs.

Barbara Throgmorton shared: "President Lincoln at the Blue and Gray Dinner was very knowledgeable. I was amazed at his ability to answer questions on a variety of topics. The speakers on Saturday were excellent. Lots of history to learn from."

Dr. Susan A. Whitemountain kicked off the event on Thursday, Feb. 7, with her presentation on the locations of the Union encampments in Union County, the role cotton played in the area and rebel sympathizers.

Our story tellers, Bonni Littleton, Pete Housman and Lee Hackney shared ghost stories of the "Old Rebel House" in Jonesboro and the haunted house that was located near where the Davie School Inn is today, as well as others.

President Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by George Buss, and Mrs. Lincoln (Mona Buss) attended the Blue and Gray Dinner on Friday, Feb. 8.

President Lincoln entertained the attendees with his wit and views on how things were in his day compared to today.

Buss is nationally known for portraying Lincoln dur-



Union soldier
Union soldier Joseph Kissel from the 31st Infantry told his story at the 2019 Civil War Weekend on Feb. 9 at the Anna Arts Center. Photo provided.

ing many events around the country to include delivering the Gettysburg Address each November at the Gettysburg National Park. The Kitchen on Lafayette catered the event.

On Saturday, Feb. 9, attendees had a chance to listen to the various speakers and examine the exhibits.

People enjoyed talking to the exhibitors and learning about the Civil War through their exhibits.

The speakers kept the history interesting and some applied the lessons learned from yesteryears to today's affairs.

Leonard Sadler shared his Civil War era guns and the 31st Infantry was represented by Joe Kissell and his son, who showed their various weapons and discussed the life of a soldier in camp.



Talking with the Lincolns
Dr. Susan Whitemountain discussed cotton in Union County with President and Mrs. Lincoln (George and Mona Buss) during the 2019 Civil War Weekend at the Anna Arts Center. Photo provided.

The King's Battery Cannon Company, led by Alan Winthrop, parked their cannon in front of the Anna Arts Center.

The men entertained people with their stories of various battles and the method to fire the cannon.

Gary and Cindy Wright showed their posters on the various battlefields that they had visited and their collection of banners and guns.

Patrick Brumleve's exhibit was about the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army, Union Navy, Marines and the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service.

Marlene Rivero's exhibit gave the history of the Underground Railroad and the role Harriet Tubman played.

Our speakers included:

Mike Estel, author of 11 books and historian, discussed his books and the facts he used about the various events to write his fictional books from Drummer/Bugle Boys to the Colors (flags) Companies.

Dan Haughey from East Moline portrayed Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in a first person, one-act play. Dan is an Illinois Humanities Road Scholar. Dr. Christian Moe shared, "Dan Haughey's performance was incredible. You (the arts center) have lined up some very good speakers for this event."

President Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by George

Buss, discussed the challenges of keeping the country together in his day compared to today's current events. "George Buss was brilliant in bringing Abraham Lincoln to life. He fielded all the questions with ease and made everyone feel welcome," shared Edna Goddard.

Barbara Bauer discussed the Sanitary Commission, various comfort quilts for the soldiers and various quilt squares used to guide slaves to freedom for the Underground Railroad. The United States Sanitary Commission was a private relief agency created by federal legislation on June 18, 1861, to support sick and wounded soldiers of the United States Army during the Civil War.

Glen S. Bishop Jr., a Civil War historian and lecturer, gave a passionate description of the various battles/skirmishes leading to the Union capture of Vicksburg and the involvement of various soldiers from Union County.

On Sunday, Feb. 10, Duane Hileman gave a tour of Civil War historical sites in Anna and Jonesboro.

To conclude the weekend, PAST of Union County hosted an open house at the Heritage House in Jonesboro. Civil War era visitors shared their stories of life back in the day.

Billie Porter shared, "What a great weekend. The speakers and exhibits were very interesting and I learned so much. I am glad I came to all of the events at the arts center."

Shawnee Hills Arts Council/Anna Arts Center thanks:

Glen Bishop for a wonderful exhibit of pictures of various Union and Confederate soldiers, battles and various flags.

Barb Bauer for putting together an exhibit on quilts and the Sanitary Commission.

All the volunteers that made this weekend of history come to life.

The speakers and exhibitors.

The Illinois Humanities Road Scholars.

PAST.

Please note Illinois Humanities is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Illinois General Assembly (through the Illinois Arts Council Agency), as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations.

Program helps with cost of winter utility bills

The Shawnee Development Council notes that federal and state funding is available through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, to assist households with the cost of energy bills for heating their homes.

Walk-in assistance for the program is scheduled to be available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 2 at Shawnee Development Council's Union County office, which is located at 1000 N. Main St. in Anna. Appointments are not needed.

Assistance is available through LIHEAP for those who are using natural gas, propane, electricity, wood or other heating fuels.

Shawnee Development Council reported that as of Feb. 12, a total of 2,989 households had received \$991,112 in assistance for the current program year,

which began on Oct. 1, 2018.

Grant funds still are available for residents of Union, Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope and Pulaski counties.

LIHEAP is an income-based program. Those who want to apply for the program will be asked to present the following items:

Proof of 30-day gross income for all members of the household. A copy of current gas and electric bills.

Photo identification. Social Security cards for all members of the household. Rent receipt, if applicable. Food stamp printout from DHS, if applicable.

Emergency applications require 90 days gross income.

Information about the program is available by contacting the Shawnee Development Council office in Anna, phone 833-7431,

Rural Health Inc. offers health care scholarships

Rural Health Inc. is funding and administering eight health care scholarship opportunities.

Rural Health Inc. offers health care services in Union, Johnson and Massac counties. Services include OB/GYN, medical, dental and psychiatry.

A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior at each of the following schools: Anna-Jonesboro, Cobden, Dongola, Goreville, Joppa, Massac County, Shawnee and Vienna.

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

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

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

Home-schooled students can call Rural Health Inc. at 833-3233 for an application packet.

Rural Health noted that students must comply with the following deadlines:

March 13: return all application packet materials to the guidance counselor at their school/school district.

March 15: all application packets are due at Rural Health Inc. in Anna. Home-schooled students may return their application packet to Rural Health in Anna by March 15.

More information about the scholarship is available by calling Rural Health at 833-3233.

Ullin woman sentenced to two years of probation in federal bankruptcy case

Jessica A. Browning, 44, of Ullin, has been sentenced to two years of federal probation for her convictions on two counts of bankruptcy fraud, Steven D. Weinhoeft, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, reported Jan. 31.

Browning was indicted in August 2018 as part of the U.S. Attorney's Office's continuing effort to crack down on those who commit fraud in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Illinois.

At her plea hearing, Browning admitted that during her federal bankruptcy proceedings, she intentionally failed to disclose a \$12,765.47 award she had recently received in a workers' compensation case.

Browning also admitted that she testified falsely while under oath at a bankruptcy hearing regarding what she had done with those funds.

"I am grateful to U.S. Attorney Weinhoeft and our law enforcement partners for their strong commitment to combating fraud

and abuse in bankruptcy cases as evidenced by yesterday's proceedings," stated Nancy J. Gargula, U.S. Trustee for Southern and Central Illinois and Indiana (Region 10).

The U.S. Trustee Program is the component of the Justice Department that protects the integrity of the bankruptcy system by overseeing case administration and litigating to enforce the bankruptcy laws.

Region 10 is headquartered in Indianapolis, with additional offices in South Bend, Ind., and Peoria.

The charges resulted from a referral by the U.S. Trustee for Region 10 to the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by agents from the Fairview Heights Office of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations, in collaboration with the Southern Illinois Bankruptcy Fraud Working Group coordinated by the U.S. Trustee.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys William E. Coonan and Scott A. Verseman.

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New Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church of Anna

The First Baptist Church of Anna is pleased to announce that Reverend Nick DiMauro has been called to be our Senior Pastor starting on March 1, 2019.

Pastor Nick and his wife, Coco, are from Florida and have recently been living in Waco, TX, where Nick is pursuing his degree as a Doctor of Ministry from Truett Seminary at Baylor University.

While attending Baylor, Nick has also been serving as Senior Pastor at a church in central Texas.

Pastor Nick received the "Outstanding Sermon" award in his graduating class last year with a Masters Degree of Ministry. Also, he has served as a Music Minister, Youth Minister, and Children's Worship Minister at different locations.

Reverend Nick DiMauro and his wife Coco.

The First Baptist Church of Anna invites you to meet our New Senior Pastor and his wife.

We would like to welcome the community to worship with us and meet Nick and Coco. He will preach his first sermon on Sunday, March 3. First Baptist is located at 409 Morgan St. Child care is provided.

Sunday School begins at 9:00 A.M.
Church Service begins at 10:15 A.M.

First Baptist Church of Anna
409 Morgan St. • Anna, IL. 62906
618-833-5416
Visit our website at: annafirst.org for more information or directions.

10G

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

During the Sunday morning worship service, congregational songs were led by Pastor Randy Wright, Abby Barlow, Harley and Madison Schnaare, who were accompanied by Jack and Nina Shepard.

Ushers for the morning worship service were Curly Ralls, Robert Smith, Jason Elkins and Terry Wiseman Sr. Special music was provided by Jacob Wells.

The message, "Holiness Starts In Your Heart," was brought by Pastor Wright from 1 Peter.

The service was closed with prayer by Dorris Johnson.

The Sunday evening worship service was the monthly missionary service held in the fellowship hall, with everyone providing food for the meal.

The meal was followed by information about evangelistic outreach which will begin soon with an opportunity for everyone to serve in different ways as the church reaches out to the community.

William Dixon and his family shared with the congregation about his involvement with the community and how God has allowed him and his family to share the love of God with others and help with their specific personal needs.

Bible study is planned in the fellowship hall every Friday at 6:30 p.m. Those who plan to attend are asked to bring finger foods and snacks to share.

The Alabaster Offering is planned at the morning service on Feb. 24.

During the evening service on Feb. 24, the children's Bible Quizzers will compete against the adult Quizzers at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. Worship services are Sunday at 10:35 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Youth services are at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Children's Bible quizzing is planned at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday and 5 p.m. on Sunday.

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

Pastor Perry Williams brought the messages on Sunday, Feb. 17.

Dee Rose led the worship. Special music was presented by Gerry and Cynthia Boehne.

Women on Mission plan to meet at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, today.

The Titus 2 ladies plan to meet for Bible study at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23.

A monthly potluck meal is planned after morning worship on Sunday, Feb. 24.

Birthdays: Betty Tutt, Feb. 18; Jackie Dillow, Feb. 19; Kenmore Rowe, Feb. 20; Larry Ridenhour, Feb. 21; James Dillow, Feb. 22; Edna Dallas, Jean Eudy, Feb. 23; Alma Osterholm, Feb. 24.

The schedule for worship at the church for this coming week includes Bible study at 9 a.m. on Sunday, and worship services at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Youth meet at 5 p.m. on Sunday. Dig-In Children's Ministry is planned from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday and is for children from 3 years of age through 6th grade.

An adult Bible study and prayer meeting is planned at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

Since Rev. Betts was out of town, his wife, Sarah, brought the message Sunday.

For the message, which was titled, "God's Peace," Sarah's main scripture was from Philipians.

The message asked: "How do we have peace when everything under the sun is going on in our lives? We must come to a personal relationship with the Peace Maker.

"The world gives false peace; God can give us real peace: the choice is up to us. The peace of God will guard our hearts, and our minds from the fear Satan tries to instill within us.

"If whatever the world tells us doesn't measure up to the Word of God, then we should not put our trust in it. The Word of God is our weapon against Satan.

"God knows what we have need of before we ask, but He wants us to humbly bring our concerns to Him."

Prior to the sermon, Sarah sang a solo, "Oh, How He Loves Us."

Receiving the offering

Sunday were Tanner and Tymber Roach, assisted by their grandfather Rodney Miller.

Sandy Boaz is elder of the month during February.

After morning worship, everyone gathered in the fellowship hall for the church's Valentine potluck.

After the meal, games were played that had been planned by the junior high class. Addison Bonner announced the winners and gave the prizes.

Those winning were Raelynn Bonner, Lara Crane, Donna Williams and Sarah Betts.

Those having birthdays this week are Jonah Simmons on the 19th and Maudie Miller on the 20th.

Rev. Phillip and Linda Brown will have a wedding anniversary tomorrow, the 22nd.

Camp Ground invites everyone to join them in study and worship. Fellowship is at 9:30 a.m. Bible study is at 10 a.m. Worship is at 11 a.m. The church is located at 50 Tunnel Ln., east of Anna.



A-JCHS teacher receives SIEC grant

Chris Boyd, director of member services for the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, SIEC, presented a check for \$500 to Anna-Jonesboro Community High School Spanish teacher Grace Darmour-Paul. Darmour-Paul was joined by her Spanish students after receiving the donation when Boyd visited the school last week.

The donation was part of SIEC's Classroom Empowerment Grant program. The program helps to finance school projects that aren't eligible for, or are too expensive for, standard funding. Every year, SIEC gives seven \$500 donations to fund school improvement projects. School districts in the five Southern Illinois counties are eligible to apply for these grants.

Darmour-Paul plans to use the donation to convert her room to a deskless classroom model. The foreign language teacher said she believes that this model will help provide less distraction and create a classroom atmosphere more conducive to conversation. Last year, A-JCHS received a grant from SEIC to help fund the implementation of a school-wide recycling program.

Photo by Benjamin Marxer

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Tracks in the snow
Tracks were seen in the melting snow, sleet and slush last Saturday morning at the Anna City Park in Anna. The frozen precipitation had fallen during the evening and night time hours on Friday.

Plan proposed to restore state pension system to financial health

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois
phancock@capitol-newsillinois.com
SPRINGFIELD – Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s administration is putting together what it calls a comprehensive plan to restore the state’s pension system to financial health that might include issuing up to \$2 billion in new debt and selling off state-owned real estate.

Deputy Gov. Dan Hynes discussed those ideas Thursday, Feb. 14, in a speech to the City Club of Chicago, an organization made up of prominent business, civic and government leaders in the Chicago area. “Let’s start with this critical point: These are pensions that workers earned: workers who served as teachers, as janitorial staff, as laborers, as nurses,” Hynes said, according to a text of the speech released by the governor’s office. “These are pensions that were promised to them: and these workers have planned around and relied upon them for their retirement.”

Bryce Osman honor student

Bryce Osman of Anna has been named to the fall semester dean’s list at Millikin University in Decatur. Students who have 12 graded credits during a fall or spring semester and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher earn dean’s list honors.

Safe drinking water focus of programs

Safe drinking water will be the topic of upcoming community education events which are planned in the region. One of the events is scheduled Monday, Feb. 25, in Vienna. The free program is planned from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Public Library. The library is located at 401 Poplar St. Organizers of the grant-funded program noted that they may be able to provide reduced cost water testing services for those who have private water wells. If testing determines the presence of contaminants, volunteers will be available to address the matter. The water testing service is available in the following Southern Illinois counties: Union, Jefferson, Franklin, Hamilton, White, Saline, Gallatin, Hardin, Pope, Johnson, Williamson, Perry, Jackson and Randolph.

In addition to issuing bonds and selling assets, Hynes said the administration hopes to earmark a portion of the governor’s proposed new graduated income tax to fund increased payments into the pension funds, extending an optional pension buyout program that lawmakers authorized last year and extending the period for paying down the state’s unfunded pension liabilities by an additional seven years.

“Collectively, these five actions will expand our tax revenue base, invest in priorities that will grow our economy, and we’ll be able to put our pensions on a sustainable path that keeps our promises to retirees,” Hynes said.

The state’s pension sys-

Beekeeping program set

The basics of backyard beekeeping will be presented during a program which is planned Saturday, Feb. 23, at Giant City State Park near Makanda. The free program is scheduled from 10 a.m. until noon at the visitors center at the park. Local bee enthusiasts Angie and Colin Kuehl will discuss how to get started in beekeeping. Those who plan to attend are asked to register. Registration, and more information, are available by calling 618-457-4836.

tems have a combined \$134 billion in unfunded liabilities. That’s the difference between the value of all the pension obligations the state has incurred, and the current value of the pension funds plus the funds’ expected earnings over the anticipated length of those obligations.

Hynes said the goal of the plan would be not only to pay down the unfunded liability within a reasonable period of time, but also to do so in a way that does not starve other state programs like education and social services for scarce financial resources.

Under the current plan, payments into the pension funds are expected to consume 25 percent of all state general fund spending by 2025.

The idea of issuing what are known as “pension obligation bonds” is that it would provide an immediate infusion of cash into the funds, and the earnings from the funds’ investments would be greater than the interest paid on the bonds.

But he said the administration would consider taking that step, “only if the calculation makes sense for taxpayers: and if the interest rates are lower for the bond than what we are currently paying for the pension debt.”

Hynes was less specific about the possibility of sell-

ing off state assets, a move he said could be worth “tens of billions of dollars.”

Pritzker announced Monday, Feb. 11, that he was forming a task force to study the possibility of transferring state assets to the pension system, but Hynes’ speech on Feb. 14 offered a more detailed glimpse into what the administration is, and isn’t, considering.

When asked by an audience member what kinds of assets they were considering to sell, Hynes jokingly said, “Don’t say tollway; don’t say tollway; don’t say tollway.”

“I joke about the tollway, but like that’s what everyone’s going to think,” Hynes said, according to a video of the event that was posted online. “And you have the Lottery. Any kind of cash-generating asset is a logical place to think of. But it’s not that simple. Those are actually complex because there are bonds attached to it. There are stakeholders.”

More likely, he said, the administration would look at some of its office buildings and other real estate.

“The State of Illinois in 2000 had 80,000 employees. Today, we have 60,000 employees,” Hynes said.

“So not only does that

contribute to the whole unfunded problem because we have fewer people paying into the pension system, but from a capacity and utilization of our properties standpoint, it begs the question: What are we doing with this excess space? Has it been looked at? Have we consolidated office space? Have we sold buildings of the state that we don’t need? And that’s what we’re going to be looking at.”

Pritzker was scheduled to deliver his first budget address to the Illinois General Assembly on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

Weaving workshop set

The Rosemary Berkel and Harry L. Crisp II Museum at Southeast Missouri State University’s River Campus in Cape Girardeau plans to host a spindle weaving and finger weaving workshop Feb. 23-24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During the workshops, taught by textile artist and Southeast alumna Susan Ream Wilson, participants will learn how to use a drop spindle to make yarn and how to finger weave to create a sash.

The workshops are free and open to the public. Participants must be at least 15 years old. Supplies are provided.

Preregistration is due Feb. 22.

Registration is available by calling 573-651-2260 or emailing the Crisp Museum at museum@semo.edu.

Registration also is available online at <https://app.semo.edu/genl/DAPS/Application.aspx?app=CrispMuseum>.

The Crisp Museum is in the Cultural Arts Center at Southeast Missouri State University’s River Campus, which is located at 518 S. Fountain St. in Cape Girardeau.

Sheldon McGrath honor student

Sheldon McGrath of Anna has been named to the fall semester dean’s list at Fontbonne University in St. Louis.

The dean’s list recognizes students whose grade point average for the semester was 3.7 or above on a 4.0 scale.

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Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Anna, celebrates 150th anniversary



Sharing church history

At Mt. Moriah’s open house, hostesses AnnaLee Keller, Serena Hasty and Paula Hasty shared church history by displaying items of memorabilia. Pieces of interest included an antique silver baptismal bowl that was used before the present baptismal font. The worn picture is the only known interior view of the old wood framed church that once stood on South Street in Anna. The well-worn devotional book, “This Is The Life,” belonged to long time Mt. Moriah member Myrtle McGowen Mullins, grandmother of present member Sharon Mullins. The book was written by Rev. Herman Gockle (1907-1996), who began his early ministry in Anna, and according to the book jacket, started his distinguished writing career in Anna. Photo provided.



Past unfolds

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church’s past unfolded at Saturday’s open house as members interpreted 150 years of history. Barbara Bauer, left, represented her great-great-aunt, Mary Craver Cover, who was a founder of the congregation in 1869. Sharon Mullins stands beside a photo of her great-grandparents, James and Amanda Mullins, who were also founders of the early Mt. Moriah Church. At right is Paula Hasty, wife of Mt. Moriah’s present pastor, Mark Hasty. She honors the memory of Mrs. Mary Cox Johnson, who helped organize and found the early Anna church. Photo provided.



Sharing history

Sharon Mullins, center, shared Mt. Moriah history with Denny Goodman, left and Kristie McAllister, right. Sharon’s great-grandparents were founding members of Mt. Moriah in 1869. Her grandparents were sustaining members. The display included vintage service and hymn books, historical program folders and other memorabilia that helped to tell the history of the church. Photo provided.



Children sing

Miss Paula and the children sang “Happy Birthday” to Mt. Moriah in honor of the church’s 150 years.



Special visitors

Special visitors, including Assistant Bishop Ken Tegtmeier and his wife, former Mt. Moriah Pastor Kathryn Montira and Bishop John Roth joined Pastor Mark Hasty for a picture after the worship service. Photo provided.



Former pastor

Former Mt. Moriah Pastor Kathryn Montira visited from her home in Nebraska, to help Mt. Moriah celebrate 150 years of God’s grace in Anna. Pastor Kathy brought her aunt from St. Louis (seated right) and enjoyed visits with many long-time friends, like Thomas Jiminez and Mary Jiminez, at a celebration dinner last Sunday.



Choir sings

The Mt. Moriah choir sang at Sunday’s celebration. Photo provided.



Holy Smokers

The Holy Smokers were “Holy Shovelers” on Saturday, Feb. 16, helping prepare the church for the upcoming 150th anniversary celebration on Sunday. Photo provided.



Welcoming guests

Paula Hasty welcomed guests to Mt. Moriah’s Open House tea table. Displayed were items recalling early church social history. From the founding Mullins family was an antique biscuit jar and vintage wooden plate. The framed sugar cookie recipe was in the hand writing of Myrtle McGowen Mullins. The cookies made from that old recipe were provided by present church member Sharon Mullins. Other old recipes used were raisin-molasses bread and apple bars. Traditions say that peppermint sticks, nuts and gum drops would have been served at special occasions of the early congregation. A plate of Girl Scout cookies was in recognition of Mt. Moriah’s long sponsorship of the Girl and Boy Scout youth groups. Photo provided.



Guests at open house

Guests at Mt. Moriah’s open house included Whitney Beanland and Emily Beanland. They enjoyed the display of Mt. Moriah weddings from over the years. The Beanlands are Mt. Moriah members and relatives of Mt. Moriah’s founding member Mary Craver Cover. According to Mt. Moriah and Craver family historian Barbara Bauer, “Mother” Cover as she is referred to in church records was Emily’s three times great-grand-aunt and Whitney’s four times great-grand-aunt. Photo provided.



Oldest, youngest members

Mt. Moriah’s oldest member, Virginia Housman, and youngest member, Lauryn Stegle, along with her dad, Jeremy, helped to celebrate. Photo provided.



Singing a hymn

The choir assisted Pastor Hasty on his guitar to lead the congregation in the hymn of the day, “Blest are They.” Photo provided.

and fellowship centers and to see exhibits, hear music and have refreshments.

Sunday Celebration

On Sunday, a celebration worship service was held at 10 a.m. under the direction of Pastor Mark Hasty.

The sanctuary was full of current and former members, invited guests, scouts, and Salem members who came to Mt. Moriah on Sunday to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church.

Special guests who attended were Bishop John Roth of the Central Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Assistant Bishop Ken Tegtmeier and his wife and former Pastor Kathryn Montira.

Miss Paula’s sermon to the children explained how the church was begun with Peter, one of Jesus “best friends.”

She also told them that one person told another, and then that person told another and so on and so on, and the church grew and grew.

Mt. Moriah was started 150 years ago, so the children blew whistles and sang “Happy Birthday” to our church.

Bishop Roth delivered the sermon, based on Jeremiah: “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord...”

The message shared that “our life is one of resilience. We are like trees planted by the water to pave the way for others. This was done

for us, and we continue to do so for future generations.”

Bishop Roth also brought his “bishop’s” staff. He said that at the last place where he spoke, the people placed their hands on the staff in order to send blessings to the people of his next visit.

After worship, Mt. Moriah members placed their hands on the staff to send blessings to the people of the Bishop’s next stop.

Prayers for healing were offered for Bob Kohler, Sarah Sims, Ann West, Charlotte Fear, Tasha Faire, Pat Jones, Bill Heisner, Craig Bass and David Wright and Lisa Gammons; and for those grieving for Martha Garrett.

After the service, everyone enjoyed a dinner in the basement of the church.

The church voiced appreciation to everyone who helped in any way to make the celebration a success.

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church: 150 Years and “Climbing”

Mt. Moriah history as compiled by Barbara Bauer: It is not documented just how 150 year old Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church was so named. Mt. Moriah is a place or mountain noted in the Bible.

Present day Mt. Moriah members consider it to mean “mountain of faith” as they declare to be a faith
(continued on next page)

Mt. Moriah

(continued from previous page)

community with the commission to love God and to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

The home of Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church has not always been the prominent, brick castle-like structure at the corner of Anna’s Main and Jefferson Streets.

The first gathering place in 1869 was a rented hall on East Davie Street, and later in a log building on the site of the former Davie School.

Organizers were a small group of Lutherans from other area congregations who needed a worship-place closer to their homes.

Founding members of record were Mrs. Mary (Craver) Cover, Mrs. Mary (Cox) Johnson, James and Amanda Mullins, and Joseph and Margaret Ann (Lingle)Trees.

The fledgling town of Anna was merely 15 years old when Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church was founded on Feb. 9, 1869.

By 1877, the first wood-framed church was built on South Street’s Lot 65, between High and Jefferson streets.

In 1899 the congregation had grown, and it was proposed that a new building would be built at the corner of Main and Jefferson. Principle benefactors to fund the new brick building and to purchase the remarkable pipe organ were Mr. Rickliff and Mrs. Mary Cox Johnson.

Mr. R. Johnson was a successful Anna tailor, clothier, and banker who had emigrated from Germany. It is said that he and his siblings were stowaways as they escaped to America and eventually arrived in Southern Illinois.

Historians G.E. Parks and M. Fuller report that R. Johnson achieved success “by reason of honesty and hard work.”

The Johnson’s built the two-story brick building that housed his tailoring and clothing business in Anna. (In 2019 it is a Chinese restaurant.)

They built the brick Victorian home at 605 S. Main St. across from the high school and provided the building costs for Mt. Moriah Church.

Dedication of the new Mt. Moriah church building was on Aug. 21, 1902. The worship-inspiring stained glass windows were funded by Sunday School classes, service groups and by individual memorial gifts.

In 1954, church membership and attendance had grown to require expansion for an administrative and educational building addition.

Another major improvement to the worship facility came in 1968 with the rearrangement and remodeling of the sanctuary.

At that time the entrance on Main Street was closed and a new entry way was made on Jefferson Street.

Oldest Church Record Book

Mt. Moriah committee members Sharon Mullins and Barb Bauer shared information from their search of the oldest church record book (1867-1945).

Dates and identities of early members including our ancestors were found. We learned about the activi-

ties and life of the church of the past.

In addition to birth, death, baptism, confirmation and marriage records, one can find attendance and communion records to help profile ancestors and persons of interest.

There is a hand-written copy of the first constitution and bylaws, along with names of church leaders and those who served. There are news clippings and vintage program folders.

For example, folks today may remember businessman and historian George E. Parks. His name appears in a Mt. Moriah program folder as a participant in a special service.

It led us to believe he was a Mt. Moriah member. Further investigation revealed that he was a very good friend of the Rev. H. McGill, as well as living in a neighborhood of both Presbyterian and Lutheran church members.

A friendship existed between those church members that caused them to share many faith experiences.

An undated clipping from an unnamed newspaper referred to the dedication of the new church at Main and Jefferson streets in 1902.

Headlines and highlights include: “ Feast Of Dedication. New Mt. Moriah Evangelical Lutheran Church To Be Dedicated Sunday Morning, August 31. Church An Ornament To City. Handsome New Edifice to Be Opened with Appropriate Services – To Continue Four Days.

The lead paragraphs of the article tell dates and times of various services, and visiting clergy from all over Southern Illinois and St. Louis who “will preach at these services.” The new church is referred to as “one of the handsomest in the city and southern Illinois.”

Descriptions of the interior are interesting.

“The main auditorium and class rooms are finished in the rough, but will be frescoed later. The wood work is of cypress, natural finish and is very pretty. The auditorium will be seated with oak pews in circular form. The Sunday School room will also be seated with pews and the entire building will be carpeted.”

“(Barb’s note: I had read that founder, great-great Aunt Mary Cover had gifted to the church ‘frescoes.’ I have looked all over for some sign of “plaster sculptures” and found none. Now I believe she donated the funds to have the class room walls ‘frescoed’ or plastered.)

“The Sunday school and classrooms are separated from the auditorium by sliding doors of art glass;

these may be raised, and the pulpit is so arranged that the speaker can be seen from nearly all parts of the structure. The main auditorium will seat 150, the SS room 100 and the class room in view of the pulpit 25, but many more could be accommodated by the use of extra chairs.”

“The art glass windows are nearly all memorials presented by members of the congregation. The large, handsome triple windows were presented to the church by the Ladies’ and Pastor’s Aid societies. The building itself is a gift to the congregation by Mr. and Mrs. R. Johnson, who are much devoted to the church, and it will stand, in after years, as a monument of their devotion to the cause of the Master.

“The new pipe organ is a handsome affair, manufactured by the well-known builders of pipe organs, M.P. Moeller of Hagerstown, Md. It has 16 stops, 579 pipes and four pedal movements. The casing is

of quartered oak. It is a fine instrument, both in tone and appearance.

“The building will be lighted by electricity by a main chandelier and single lights in different parts of the building.

“Praise is due the members for their perseverance, energy and liberality in the work of providing for the church. Especially notable are the aid societies whose members have been self-sacrificing in their efforts to aid in up rearing this monument to the Lord’s service.”

The last paragraph of the item announcing the new church building, made note that the first church building was built in 1868.

“Rev. Sifferd, Jos. Treece (Carolyn’s Treece Webb’s ancestor)and Samuel Knupp composed that building committee. The structure was used as a place of worship until the present date. It will now be deserted for the more pretentious home in the handsome new church on Main Street.”



Anniversary cake
Bishop John Roth and Pastor Mark Hathy displayed a 150th anniversary cake. Photo provided.



Hostesses at open house
AnnaLee Keller and Serena Hasty helped to host the open house at Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church on Saturday. The open house was part of the church’s 150th anniversary observance. The girls, dressed in period dresses, along with other young people visited and invited guests to enjoy history displays and refreshments with historical references. Photo provided.

An Homage to Hometown Happenings

By Kate B. Jerome

No matter where my travels take me, I always seek out the local newspaper. I know. My smartphone easily provides more detail about a town than I will ever need. But the local paper does so much more. That’s because it fits the many pieces of the community puzzle together. Where else can you get a glimpse of what a citizenry most values and fears – all within a few recyclable pages?

In the tiny town where I grew up, the local paper was a powerful tool – no doubt for many reasons beyond my young comprehension. However, I looked forward to the daily delivery for two simple reasons.

First, I loved to read the personal stories – from tragedy to triumph – about the people in my own community. It was the first inkling I had that I might be part of something larger than the family who lived at 12 Parkview.

Second, I couldn’t wait to hear the interesting dinner conversations that some tidbit in the paper was bound to spark. Of course, my favorites were the most heated discussions. And when my parents resorted to spelling out words? Well, let’s just say the training led to considerable success in my grade school spelling bees!

Decades of educational publishing experience later, I know my hometown paper was just one arrow in the successful child-raising quiver my parents used. But it was an important tool, and the outcomes it helped produce are still of the utmost importance today.

You see, building a strong sense of place plays a key part in a child’s social and emotional development. When children connect with the community around them, it helps them develop their own personal identity. An added benefit is the sense of stewardship it often inspires.

And the value of generating meaningful conversations? In my view, it’s off the charts. Too often in our busy world, dialogue with our kids tends toward the practical (Did you pick up your toys?) rather than the profound (Keep trying even when it’s hard!). So any tool that inspires discussion of such issues as friendship and community should be deeply valued. Why? Because that’s when our own stories of personal grit and resilience begin to flow.

And aren’t those the kind of Hometown Happenings that we really want our children to remember?

Kate B. Jerome is the author and series creator of two new Read Together/Do Together children’s book series from Arcadia Kids that are designed to jump-start meaningful conversations between kids and their favorite adults. A seasoned publishing executive, an award-winning children’s book author, and a recent Fellow in Stanford’s Distinguished Careers Institute, Kate is a passionate supporter of intergenerational communication.

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Whereas, FFA and agricultural education provide a strong foundation for the youth of America and the future of the food, fiber and natural resources systems; and

Whereas, FFA promotes premier leadership, personal growth and career success among its members; and

Whereas, agricultural education and FFA ensure a steady supply of young professionals to meet the growing needs in the science, business and technology of agriculture; and

Whereas, the FFA motto, "learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve," gives direction of purpose to these students who take an active role in succeeding in agricultural education; and

Whereas, FFA promotes citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism and cooperation,

Therefore, the sponsors on these pages join in saluting FFA, FFA chapters at local schools and the many positive contributions of FFA during National FFA Week, February 16-23, 2019.

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Local FFA chapters celebrate 2019 National FFA Week February 16-23



NATIONAL FFA WEEK | FEB. 16-23, 2019

Anna-Jonesboro FFA Chapter

The Anna-Jonesboro FFA Chapter has planned the following activities:

Monday, February 18: Presidents' Day
Tuesday, February 19: Freshman Breakfast, Flannel Day
Wednesday, February 20: Sophomore Breakfast, Camo Day
Thursday, February 21: Junior Breakfast, Boots and Hat Day
Friday, February 22: Senior Breakfast, FFA T-Shirt Day

Anna-Jonesboro FFA Officers are:

Logan Rich - President	Julia Ellis - Vice President
Kim Duty - Secretary	Nicole Nance - Treasurer
Grace Rendleman - Reporter	Tyler Shepard - Sentinel

Century FFA Chapter

The Century FFA Chapter has planned the following activities:

Monday, February 18: Presidents' Day
Tuesday, February 19: Camo Day
Wednesday, February 20: John Deere vs. Case (Wear Green or Red)
Thursday, February 21: Dress Like a Farm Animal or Farmer-Rancher
Friday, February 22: Blue and Gold Day, Wear Blue or Gold to Support Century FFA

Century FFA Officers are:

McKenzie Reagor - President	Alyssa Essex - Secretary
Aryn Malone, Allison Wilburn, Carli Junker, Taylor Anderson - Vice Presidents	
Blake Ryan - Treasurer	Mindy Leek - Reporter
Caleb Atherton - Sentinel	Umarra Winfield - Parliamentarian
Mady Dillow - Historian	Kelton Richardson - Chaplain
Brent Miller - Student Advisor	

Dongola FFA Chapter

The Dongola FFA Chapter has planned the following activities:

Monday, February 18: Presidents' Day
Tuesday, February 19: FFA Jacket and/or Shirt Day
Wednesday, February 20: Farm Boot, Carhartt & Flannel Day
Thursday, February 21: Camo Day
Friday, February 22: Truck Day (Bring your truck to school), Hat Day and Tractor or Truck Shirt Day

Dongola FFA Officers are:

Zach O'Neal & Shaylee Lingle - Presidents	
Owen Kennedy, Evan Treat - Vice Presidents	
Megan Theis - Secretary	Alyssa Flores - Treasurer
Colin Hall - Reporter	Matt Aden, Jacob Whitney - Sentinels

Egyptian FFA Chapter

The Egyptian FFA Chapter has planned the following activities:

Monday, February 18: Presidents' Day
Tuesday, February 19: Teacher Appreciation Day, Chapter Visits
Wednesday, February 20: Elementary Fun Assembly, Ag Olympics
Thursday, February 21: 8th Grade Recruitment Program
Friday, February 22: FFA Equipment Day and Petting Zoo

Egyptian FFA Officers are:

Nick Mitchell - President	Brooke Sinn - Vice President
Jolie Hill - Secretary	Daniel Klingeman - Treasurer
Jordan Reeves - Sentinel	Kolton Pitts - Reporter
Trevor Bigham - Student Advisor	

Meridian FFA Chapter

The Meridian FFA Chapter has planned the following activities:

Monday, February 18: No School, Volunteering in Pulaski County
Tuesday, February 19: Fish Fry for Staff, "Merica Dress Up Day"
Wednesday, February 20: Ag Olympics for Elementary, Middle and High School vs. Teachers
Thursday, February 21: Drive your Tractor, Truck or ATV/UTV to School Day, Pet Day, Chicken Poop Bingo, Dress Like a Farmer or Cowboy
Friday, February 22: Corn Hole Tournament, Ag in the Classroom, Wear Blue or Yellow or the T-Shirt FFA is selling

Meridian FFA Officers are:

Treston Masters - President	Sydney Walker - Vice President
Wyatt Helton - Secretary	Kaycee Nichols - Treasurer
Tyshawyn Miller - Reporter	
James Lang, Cameron Moore-Rushing - Sentinels	

Shawnee FFA Chapter

The Shawnee FFA Chapter has planned the following activities:

Monday, February 18: Presidents' Day
Tuesday, February 19: Tacky Tourist Dress Up Day, Tug-O-War
Wednesday, February 20: American/Camo Dress Up Day, Pie an Officer
Thursday, February 21: Back at the Barnyard Dress Up Day, Relay Race
Friday, February 22: Blue & Gold, Chapter T-Shirt Dress Up Day, Fish Fry

Coin Wars - Classes will be given a jar and students will be asked to bring in spare change all week. The class with the most points will win an ice cream party. All funds will benefit Puppy Rescue 911.

Shawnee FFA Officers are:

Katie Charles - President	Nick McAlister - Vice President
Jayclynn Presutti - Secretary	Jasmine Graham - Treasurer
Hannah Sichling - Reporter	Jeremiah Hale - Sentinel
Angela Dodson - Historian	Ms. Kayla Riedle - Advisor

Cobden FFA Chapter

The Cobden FFA Chapter has planned the following activities:

Monday, February 18: Presidents' Day
Tuesday, February 19: Pie an Officer Fundraiser, Flannel Day
Wednesday, February 20: Ice Cream Party for Lunch, Scholarship Night
Thursday, February 21: Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Kahoot FFA and Ag Trivia at Lunch, Hat day
Friday, February 22: Elementary Ag in the Classroom, Recruitment Night-4 Way Volleyball

Cobden FFA Officers are:

Christian Pitts - President	Lexi Miller, Tori Brummer - Vice Presidents
Guadalupe Zamora - Treasurer	Zane Nance, Brayden Clark - Secretaries
Layryn Mittchel - Reporter	Gunnar Groves - Sentinel
Emma Staley, Historian	



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Anna-Jonesboro Community High School FFA members at the national convention included, from left: Logan Rich, Grace Rendleman, Julia Ellis, Nicole Nance, Kim Duty and Tyler Shephard.



The Cobden FFA hosts a bicentennial Tractor and Equipment Show.



Meridian FFA members participated in a Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Kentucky.



Sixteen Century FFA members hold tickets to the rodeo they attended while attending the national FFA convention.



Shawnee FFA Greenhands, from left: Jasmine Graham, Caleb Gableman, Mariah Faire and Alexx Walters, work together to complete the FFA Break Out Box.



Cobden FFA members Emma Staley and Brayden Clark assisted the Union County Farm Bureau with Ag in the Classroom lessons at the Union County Fair.



Dongola High School FFA Officers. Front row from left: Shaylee Lingle, Megan Theis, Alyssa Flores, Mathew Aden and Jacob Whitney. Back from left: Zach O'Neal, Evan Treat, Owen Kennedy, Colin Hall.



Shawnee High School FFA members show their spirit on FFA Day. Front row from left: Hailie Kinder, Olivia Clover, Jordan Pendexter, Jasper Rohlfing and Jasmine Graham. Middle row from left: Mariah Faire, Madisen Luttrull, Jayclynn Presutti, Hannah Sichling and Kalyn Mouser. Back row from left: Koby McLane, Justin Kaufman, Ryan Schaefer, Holden Criddle, Anthony Buie, Trace Faire, MiKayla Sichling and Hailie Casper.



Egyptian FFA members in the front row are, from left: Trevor Bigham, Brooke Sinn, Jolie Hill, Daniel Klingeman, Kolton Pitts and Jordon Reeves. Back row from left: Maissie Sitton, Ethan Warren, Hunter Smith, Brent Borren, Michael Foltz, Adam McCrite and Aaron Bagby.



Shawnee FFA officers are, from left: Jeremiah Hale-Sentinel, Angela Dodson-Historian, Jayclynn Presutti-Secretary, Jasmine Graham-Treasurer, Katie Charles-President, Hannah Sichling-Reporter, Nick McAlister-Vice President.



Shaylee Lingle participated in the Union County Fair Junior Livestock Auction and received plaques for Champion Dairy and Dairy Showmanship.

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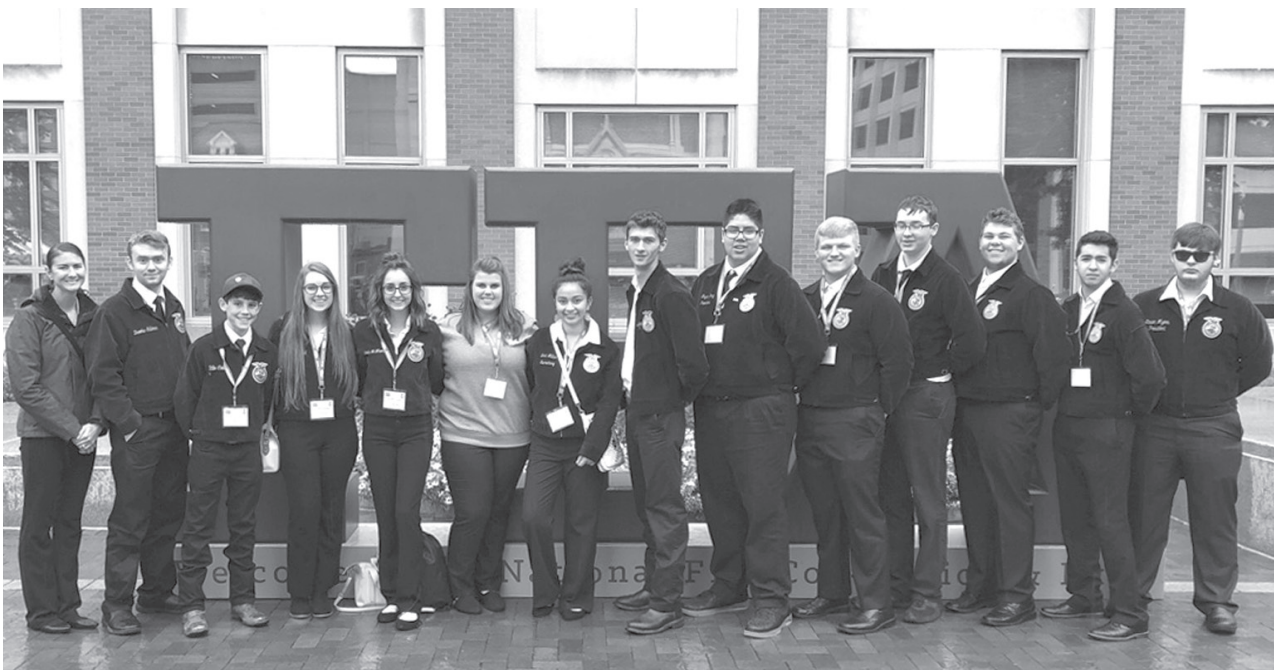
Dongola Horse judging team at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.



Anna-Jonesboro Community High School FFA members on their float in the Homecoming parade held September 28 in downtown Anna,



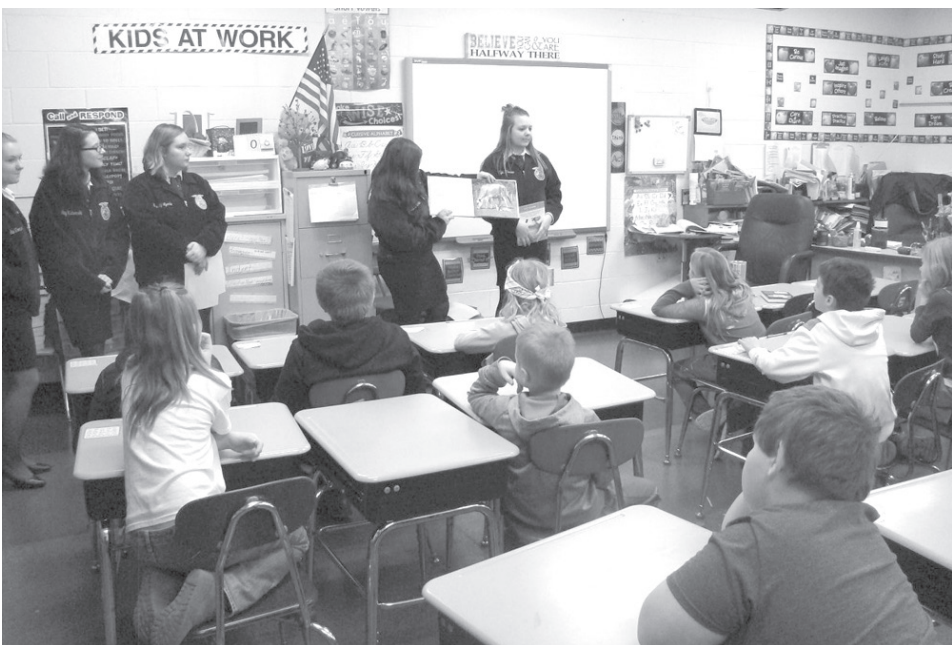
Century High School FFA members attended the Union Trades Expo.



The Cobden FFA Chapter was well represented at the National FFA Convention this year. From left to right: Mrs. LeFevre, Gunnar Groves, Brock Clover, Emma Staley, Lauren Lyerla, Layryn Mitchel, Carla Guerrero, Christian Pitts, Bryan Diaz, Brayden Clark, Noah Walker, Tori Brummer, Noah Godinez, lonaton Menese.



Meridian FFA members won first place with their float in the Mounds Fall Festival.



Shawnee High School FFA Members read a story about barnyard animals to Mrs. Lomax's 1st grade class. FFA members from left to right Jasmine Graham, Hallie Casper, Angela Dodson, Brinna Coomer and Kalyn Mouser.

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Anna News

By Martha Ann Webb

Please have news to me by Sunday night. Email me at marthanews@frontier.com, mail to me at 118 W. Monroe St., leave news in the back of the green box at the right of my front door or call me at 833-5717.

Valentine's Day

Willie and Terrie Rhymer started their Valentine's Day eating at the Route 45 Cafe in Carrier Mills, then they went to Century schools for two of their grandchildren's Miles and Violet Yates Valentine's party.

They ended the day at Shawnee College for the Shawnee Pride Honor Band, where their grandchildren Mason and Ruby Yates along with others from the surrounding area schools had a concert.

Iraqi Christian Relief Council

Pastor David Fischler and his wife Maryanne of the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church traveled to Chicago this week to attend a meeting of the board of directors of the Iraqi Christian Relief Council, of which Pastor Fischler is chairman.

The ICRC is involved in humanitarian and advocacy work on behalf of Christians in Iraq who were the victims of the ISIS campaign of genocide against them from 2014-2018. Contact Pastor Fischler at 833-5225 for further information.

Charleston Trip

Brenda Allen visited her dad in Charleston, Mo., for Valentine's Day then took her mother out to eat.

Garden Show

Fred and Linda Clutts attended the Midwestern Herb and Garden Show in Mt. Vernon. Linda is the district president of the garden clubs.

Thanks

A special thanks to Fred and Linda Clutts and Gaylon and Clara Cates for giving me credit when they renewed their subscription to The Gazette-Democrat.

16th Birthday

Noah Pearman celebrated his 16 birthday Feb. 12.

Engaged

Congratulations to Macayla Palmer and Abe Go-

dinez who were engaged Valentine's Day.

Birthday Celebration

Verna Mae Finney will be honored on her 85th birthday with a party given by her family. The celebration will be Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall at the First Pentecostal Church in Herrin.

Civil War Monuments

As I was thinking back over the Civil War weekend I wanted to thank Crain's Funeral Home for restoring the Civil War monuments at the Anna Cemetery.

If anyone remembers how bad they use to look broken and you couldn't read the names on some of them.

It was wonderful the care and time given by Crain's at the Civil War veterans section, which is located in the original section of Anna City Cemetery.

Crain's offered their services to make the restoration possible: 46 markers were involved, most were not legible, many had just weathered and broken over time.

Over the course of a year, Crain funeral directors worked obtaining the information from the old markers and coordinating with the Veterans Administration to order replacements, this time the markers were made from granite, not marble.

As the new markers arrived a few at a time, the setting crew for Crain's would go to work, pulling the old and broken markers with their boom truck, then installing the new ones. Now there is a nice Civil War veterans section at our Anna Cemetery.

Paducah Garden Club Open Meeting

The Paducah Garden Club will host award winning gardener, author and lecturer Jon Carloftis on Friday, March 15, at the Country Club of Paducah. The event begins at 1 p.m.

and is free to the public.

Renee Tilley invites everyone to join them for an information and entertaining afternoon.

Retired Teachers

Marie Samuel and Cathy Ziegler had dinner with their retired teachers' union group Tuesday, Feb. 12, in Carbondale. Cathy then went to see her husband Howard, who has been moved closer to home in Benton.

PAST

What this stands for. Promoting Appreciation of Structural Treasures.

They strive to tell the fascinating stories of these buildings and the people connected to them.

PAST is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization which receives no funds other than individual donations, which may be mailed to PAST, P.O. Box 778, Jonesboro, 62952.

Valentine's Day

Earl Miller took Bessie, Curt, Elijah Ellis, Elijah friend Molly and Martha Ann Webb out to eat for Valentine's Day at Great Boar and the food was great.

Fund Raiser

The doors will open at 1 p.m. March 2 to 12 p.m. at the Anna Moose Lodge for a fund raiser for Katharine Turner. If there are any questions please call Amy at 618-570-4648. Donations may be made to Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home or to the Anna Moose Lodge.

Anniversary

Michael and Cathy Freeman celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day on Feb. 14.

Friends of the Theater

The A-JCHS library room was full of excited family and Friends of the Theater waiting to hear how they can help with the upcoming musical "Disney's The Little Mermaid" which will feature 60 cast and crew.

Brad Stamp, Amy Casper, and Kathy Capel led the group in plans for the musical that will be March 29-31.

Donations are needed for the musical if anyone would like to make a donation they



Linda Clutts, District VII director of The Garden Clubs of Illinois, held the installation for new officers for 2019 -2020 for the Anna-Jo Garden Club. From left are Debby McKibben, treasurer, Darlene Lingle, secretary, Shari Sweeney, president, Nancy Kucera, vice president, and Linda Clutts, District VII director.

can contact Brad Stamp at school.

The fund raisers will be at Jus 10's March 8, McDonald's Pancake Supper, TBA, Cardinals game tickets raffle.

Tickets for the musical: Adult tickets \$10. Children tickets \$7. Tickets will be available in the superintendent's office March 18 until the show. You may also purchase tickets the day of the show.

Please put on your calendar and attend the performance. The students work very hard to make each year the best.

A special thanks to all the sponsors. If you would like to be a sponsor and have your name and business listed in the playbill here are the prices \$25 Sebastian's Orchestra, \$50 Prince Eric's Shipmates, \$100 King Triton's Court.

Please made checks payable to Friends of the Theater. Please mail checks to Anna-Jonesboro National Bank, attention: Sarah Clinton, 201 S. Main St., Anna, Ill. 62906

Friends of the Theatre board members are Kathy Capel, Brad Stamp, Steven and Jackie Beatty, Jennifer Cleghorn, Amy Casper, Sarah Clinton, Bessie Mae Ellis, John and Stacy Earnhardt.

The students and staff practice many long hours for the musical. It is open to the public so please put on your calendars and attend to help support them.

World Day of Prayer

On March 1 the Union County Alliance of Churches will be hosting the World Day of Prayer/Women of Faith prayer luncheon at the EPC Main Street Center from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Anna Eastern Star 522

Anna Eastern Star will meet Thursday, today, at 6:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge in the Anna park across from the swimming pool.

State Retirees Meeting

AFSCME Retirees Chapter 90 will meet at 1 p.m. Feb. 26 at Anna Heights Baptist Church.

Military Prayer List

Tanner Anderson, Hayden Young, Garrett Goines, Nick Harvel, Nona Elizabeth Luke, Lucas J. Strickland, William Nathaniel Frankell, Ethan Maze, Lukas W. Davis, Kiefer Stull, David Jordan Glasco, Ryan Hampton, Brittany Michelle Lence, Killian Jesse, Molly Noyes, CJ Youngerman, Freddy Morse, Reagan Morrison, Josh Steveson, Josh Williams, Faith Odom, Tommy Goff and family Janette, Jamison and Kaylynn, Creighton Laster, Jim Bonner, Jacob Schaefer, Jerod Schaefer, Jennifer Ann Bishop, James McWhorter, Arin Whitemountain.

United Methodist Church, Anna

Barbara House and Marilyn Sullins led the singing. The choir special was Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho, led by Carla Anderson and playing the piano.

Rev. Richard Sullins' sermon was Sermon On the Plain.

Guests of Lovella Craig Sunday morning was her



Jessie Wright had the program, "Dried Flower Extravaganza," at the Anna-Jo Garden Club on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

friend Tina from Chicago and her son-in-law Todd from Montana.

Bonnie Sullivan told about her and her family's cruise and how beautiful it was to look at the sky and sea, God beautiful creation.

Barbara House told about her friend Judy, whose husband had died on Valentine's Day. Barbara asked Judy what she would like for a memorial and she told Barbara to use the money on a meal for Loaves and Fishes. Barbara asked Judy what her husband's favorite food was and she said he loved meat loaf so in the future one of the Loaves and Fishes meals will be meatloaf in memory of Barbara's dear friend Judy Hodnik's husband. Barbara and Judy sang together for 25 years in a choir.

Guests

Guests of Darryl Parks were Steve and Cheri Hayes from Northern Illinois.

Anna VFW Post

Friday, Feb. 22, there

will be bingo at the Illinois Veterans Home at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to stop by, help and visit with the veterans living there.

Saturday, Feb. 23, the Cobden Band Boosters plan to host a fund-raiser beginning at 5 p.m. For a \$10 donation there will be a spaghetti dinner with salad and dessert. The band will play. Stop by and support them.

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Anna

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church had a 150th anniversary open house last Saturday.

Our city had ice Saturday morning but the church men were out early in the morning to clear the steps and parking lot.

Some of the members got there a bit after 10 a.m. They had guests by 11 a.m. and were busy until 2 p.m. It was about half members and half guests to hear about and share the 150 year history.



Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club, represented by Martha Ann Webb, presented a check to A-JCHS Safe Celebration. Pictured are parents of seniors from left, are Bryan Miller, Jennifer Cleghorn, Reid Morrison, senior, Martha Ann Webb, publicity for Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club and parent of senior Amber Detering.



Tammy and Lyle Woodrum said even though it is a little late, they wanted to say thank you to the Anna Police Department. They were traveling out of the area for over five weeks during December and January. During that time, a police car would come by the Davie School Inn every few days and ensure everything was OK. Being on the road and far away, this gave Lyle and Tammy tremendous peace of mind. So, on Friday, Tammy made cookies and took them to the station. Detective Watkins, Officer Leek and Officer Tripp accepted the cookies and their personal thanks for a great job done by the department.



Wanda Hase was honored on her 88th birthday Sunday, Feb. 17, celebrating with 20 family members for dinner. The celebration was at Las Maria's in Karnak.



Janice Tweedy Lewellyn celebrated her birthday Saturday with a breakfast with friends.



Dave Nimmo and Kay Eaton were crowned king and queen at the Anna Vista Valentine's party.

Opinion and Commentary

George Washington, America’s first statesman

By John F. Gilligan

History reveals that great and noble leaders are forged in adversity. Valley Forge was that crucible for George Washington, where the mettle of his character was tested to the limit.

During that winter of 1777-1778, a German newspaper from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, perceived that formation of a statesman. It described Washington as Des Landes Vater, “Father of the Country.” And we have known him thus ever since.

Valley Forge was “a place of squalid and horrendous conditions,” as Bob Drury and Tom Clavin have written in their latest book “Valley Forge.” “Men dying every day from famine, malnutrition, cold and disease.” Like a poisonous gas, the stench of fetid air from the rotting carcasses of starved horses, nearby latrines and the daily collection of corpses hung over all.

Alexander Hamilton, never one to mince words, attributed these conditions to the government the Continental Army was fighting for. Congress, he said, “was our greatest antagonist.”

Talk about gridlock, Congress and state governments had become experts in kicking the can down the road. Solutions to crises such as feeding, supplying, recruiting, equipping and paying the army were shuttled off to 114 committees. A new Congress, noted Hamilton, of “mediocre men” had replaced the leaders of 1776. This self-destructive behavior was about to cause the first budding democracy since 500 B.C. to wither.

Yes, there was an external enemy to be driven off the continent. The British had the greatest, most skilled, experienced, disciplined and well-equipped military in the world. Just the things Washington’s outnumbered forces lacked. Yet internal enemies were the greater threat.

Washington had to contend with a dysfunctional Congress and a conspiracy among some legislators and three of his top generals to replace him. Civilian control of the military was invested in Congress to appoint top officers.

Washington honored the principle of a government legitimized by the consent of the people. That’s what the war was about. But democracy is different. The freedom it secures with one hand can be unwittingly used to destroy itself with the other.

The conspiracy failed. Yet the entire logistic system of military supplies including food, clothes and arms, was driven by corruption. War profiteering was pandemic among citizens and some legislators.

Was there any unity among Americans to win the War of Independence?

Historians estimated that 20 percent of the population were Loyalists, 40 percent followed self-interests and 40 percent were committed Patriots.

Furthermore, the newly proclaimed “Free and Independent States” could barely collaborate. Some state militias worked at cross purposes to the strategies of the Continental Army. At times, they were within a hair’s length of a civil war.

Antipathies and animosities brewed among regiments from the 13 colonies.

Virginians refused to fight with New Englanders, especially with free black soldiers. Ethnic and religious divisions plagued the army: Scots, Irish, German, Quakers, Catholics and Jews.

Divisiveness and discord are the deadly pathogens of every democracy. In this case, Washington was the only antigen.

Conditions were exacerbated at Valley Forge where hunger and cold ate at every man, every minute of the day. A week of famine coincided with Washington’s 46th birthday. Only 10 percent of the food necessary to feed the army was available. And several hundred officers resigned their commissions.

Washington was able to solidify and inspirit his army. He lived with them with fortitude and conviction on the campground and fought with them on the battleground. He risked his life for them and they for him. He forged the only unified body in a fragmented America. And at the end of the Revolutionary War, all Washington had to do was nod his head and his troops would have made him King.

But fame and fortune was not the vision for which Washington risked his life. His “Great American Cause” was to create a united nation of free and independent people. He touched the hearts of all and never resorted to inflaming their passions. It’s what inspired the men he led and persuaded Congress to fulfill its responsibilities.

After the war, Washington humbly submitted his resignation to Congress.

The Valley Forge lesson: Good and effective governments depend upon the virtues possessed by those who lead it. They’re called statesmen and stateswomen. But their elections depends upon the virtues of those who elect them.

John F. Gilligan, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist, is president emeritus of Fayette Companies/Human Service Center. He resides in Groveland. He can be reached by email at jfgilligan@hotmail.com. Sources for this article include “Valley Forge” by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin book and Gilligan’s own books, “The American Revolution 1607-1801: A Cultural History for Teachers, Parents, and Children” and “The Soul of America: Essays on the Fouth of July.”

Editor’s Note: The accompanying story was shared by the Illinois Press Association as part of an Illinois Important Dates series. The series is an ongoing project of the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors and the Illinois Press Association. The series is scheduled to include stories related to important dates and events. Washington’s birthday, on Feb. 22, was commemorated with this week’s observance of Presidents’ Day.

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Old Man Winter can hop, or maybe fly, away...

Don’t know about you, but this writer is about ready to see Old Man Winter pack up his bags and head off to wherever he goes when the seasons change.

Last Thursday, when this prize-winner was started, the National Weather Service was calling for yet another round of mixed precipitation...as in snow, sleet and what-ever else “mixed precipitation” entails.

Enough whining about the weather...soon enough, we’ll be griping ‘cause it’s too hot, too humid and the “skeeters” are sucking us dry. Let’s move on to some cute animals...

One day last week, as I was out for my daily stroll, a rather welcome...and somewhat surprising...sight was seen.

There, in a yard off to my right, was a bunny rabbit. We exchanged pleasantries. I looked at him (or her), and he (or she) kept on nibbling on some winter green stuff growing in the yard.

Last summer, I often saw a bunny, or two, in the vicinity of the same yard where the critter was spotted last week. I think that the last time the bunnies had been spotted was last fall.

Daughter, who was visiting at the time, and yours truly went for walk and saw two bunnies grazing in the green. She suggested, based on the appearance of the bunnies, that they might well have been, um...livestock. As in future rabbit stew. In the weeks...and several months...which followed, I guessed that her observation may have been correct.

Then, I saw the bunny last week. Spotting the critter led me to wonder: Just where had the bunny gone?

And that was when I figured it out...the bunnies had flown south for the winter. And now, at least one of the bunnies had flown back to Southern Illinois...a sure sign that spring is coming.

Now, you may be wondering yourself: Has this guy been out in the chill of the polar vortex one time too many? Rabbits can’t fly.

My response: Have you ever seen a rabbit fly? No, you have not. So, how do you know that they don’t fly?

After all, squirrels can fly. Especially flying squirrels. (At this point, please conjure up an image of Bullwinkle the Moose with his compadre Rocky, the Flying Squirrel. I would have liked to have included an image of Rocky with this column; however, such images are protected by some sort of copyright thing, and I don’t want to go to jail over a squirrel.)

Flying squirrels, as you may know, are real, live things. And we even have such critters right here in Little Egypt. I know this, because a fellow traveler on The Journey Through Life shared some pictures of flying squirrels with me last fall.

Initially, the traveler noted, the appearance of the flying squirrels in our corner of the world was treated as a UFO sighting, as in an Unidentified Furry Object. The fellow traveler then surmised that they were chipmunks, which, as far as we know, do not fly, unless they purchase airplane tickets.

Upon further inspection, and picture taking, it was determined that the critters which had been sighted were, indeed, flying squirrels.

Seems that flying squirrels, as well as other squirrels, like acorns. I’m guessing that flying squirrels probably like bird seed and the treats folks put in their suet feeders, too.

The traveler mentioned that flying squirrels also are called fairy diddles. Quite honestly, fairy diddles is a much more imaginative name than flying squirrels.

Some in-depth research online led yours truly to the online version of The West Virginia Encyclopedia, which, I am assuming, is a real thing, ‘cause it was found online.

The encyclopedia explained that in West Virginia, “the term fairy diddle refers to a near-mythic creature, and may be used for various woodland rodents, including tree squirrels, flying squirrels, ground squirrels, and even baby groundhogs.” Hmmm.

Wonder if there might be flying groundhogs..or, flying woodchucks. That, indeed would be mythical. And, it could lead one to ponder: How far could a woodchuck fly, if a woodchuck could chuck and touch the sky?



This was one of the bunnies seen by the photographer on a walk way back in 2018, during a time of the year when the weather was much, much warmer.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ website is much more practical when it comes to the kind of information it has about flying squirrels. There’s no mention of fairy diddles or flying groundhogs.

The website explains that the southern flying squirrel actually is a native critter in Illinois, and quite common, too. And, just so you know, flying squirrels do not have feathers. “There is a flap of loose skin between the front and hind legs that makes a gliding surface when the legs are extended,” the website explained. The critter’s tail is “broad, flat and furred” and the “nose is slightly up-turned,” which I guess makes a flying squirrel cute...and snooty. The tail, by the way, “acts like a rudder” to steer the squirrel while it is gliding...and not really “flying” in the strictest sense of the word.

The fellow traveler shared a comment from another traveler on the Journey Through Life who has never seen a flying squirrel in the wild. Same goes for yours truly. However, that being said, we have seen regular old gray squirrels who appear to be flying as they leap from a tree onto the bird feeder outside our kitchen window.

Well, enough for this week. Stay warm. And keep an eye out for flying rabbits...I understand that they fly in a “v” formation and quite often are mistaken for Canada geese...



A picture of a real, live flying squirrel which was seen right here in Union County.

A Page from the Past

from the files of The Gazette-Democrat

Thursday, February 20, 1969

A 113-acre tract known as the Troy Easter property in northern Pulaski County has been chosen as the permanent site for Shawnee Junior College.

The first annual Southern Illinois Ducks Unlimited Chapter Benefit Dinner will be held this Saturday night at the new Post Home of the Veterans of Foreign Wars north of Anna (and) is a complete sell-out.

Two men from Union County have been called for induction in the Armed Forces during February and two for physicals.

Union County received its second snow of the winter season this past week end. It started a little after 6:00 a.m. Saturday and continued to fall until late evening. It was a beautiful snow with huge feathery flakes but not at all the type which is good for sled riding.

The Union County Hospital Auxiliary held their annual meeting Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the Hospital Nursing Home. A delicious fried chicken dinner was served to 20 people by some of the Hospital kitchen staff.

The Bald Knob Christian Foundation Annual Meeting was held at the Shawnee Cafe Tuesday with a dinner meeting at 6:30 and a meeting following the dinner with 25 in attendance.

Open house was held at Anna-Jonesboro Teen Town on Monday, Feb. 17, for band and choral students participating in the annual High School Music Festival, sponsored by the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School Music Department.

Zi Gamma Nu Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi entertained the patients at the Union County Nursing Home February 13 with a Valentine party.

From the Jonesboro News: Residents of our community were surprised when they awakened Saturday morning to see a blanket of snow on the ground. This was our second

big snow of the season. Area ball games were cancelled due to the deep snow. We are grateful to those who used the snow plow, cleaning the snow off the streets in our community. Due to the deep snow and some cases of flu, the attendance at our churches Sunday was very small.

From the Camp Ground news: My, I’m sure we had lots of happy youngsters over the week end, when we got the snow. It was rough on Sunday School and church attendance, though. There were 11 who ventured out, over the hills and valleys.

Political letters to the editor

All letters to the editor endorsing, opposing or pertaining to political candidates must be published as paid election letters. They will be subject to a publication fee of \$50.

A paid election letter must be paid for by the writer. If the letter is paid for by another individual or organization, that information must be stated, according to election laws.

A letter must be signed and must contain the name of the person who wrote the letter, the writer’s address and the writer’s telephone number. The telephone number will not be published, but must be included for verification purposes.

The deadline to submit a paid election letter, and payment for the letter, is noon on the Thursday prior to publication of the letter.

Letters will not be published during the week immediately prior to the election because there would no opportunity for a response. The newspaper reserves the right to edit a letter for clarity, brevity and legal purposes.