

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

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Anna, Illinois

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News Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area



Prices at the pump...as of Tuesday morning, March 8, at one location in Union County...

It's almost time to spring forward: Daylight Saving Time begins early Sunday morning, March 13. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

Filing for the June primary election started on Monday and ends March 14. A News Note in last week's paper had the wrong date about filing...the editor erred.

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Union County has slowed significantly over the past couple of weeks.



Are you looking at me? A male bluebird was keeping a close eye on the photographer last weekend in Union County.

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Primary election pushed back to June due to COVID-19, census delays

2022 Illinois campaign season opens Monday

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois
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SPRINGFIELD — The 2022 campaign season got underway in earnest Monday as candidates lined up in front of election offices to turn in petitions to get their names on the June 28 primary election ballot.

Hundreds of candidates and their aides braved cold wind and snow early Monday to line up outside the Illinois State Board of Elec-

tions office in Springfield to ensure their placement on the ballot.

Monday was the first day established party candidates could file their petitions. The deadline for turning in petitions is next Monday, March 14.

Illinois voters will cast ballots this year for governor and lieutenant governor as well as statewide constitutional officers, all 118 seats in the Illinois House and 59 seats in the state Senate, circuit, appellate

court and state Supreme Court judges, congressional seats, and a U.S. Senate seat currently held by Democrat Tammy Duckworth.

Voters in parts of Illinois (including Union County) will also cast ballots for county board members and various other local government offices.

This year's primary was pushed back from its normal time in early March due to delays in the redistricting process brought about by delays in the release of

2020 census data due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

That revised schedule could have an impact on who turns out to vote in the primary.

The late June date means many college students who would normally vote on campus will be home for summer break while many other voters who would normally turn out in March may be away on vacation.

"I don't know. Hard to tell, to be honest," Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker

said when asked how the revised date might affect the primary. "We haven't had that in Illinois, so long as I can remember anyway, so no. I'm excited. I really think we're in great shape."

Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton are waging their first reelection bid this year. They won the 2018 election with 54.5 percent of the vote over former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti.

(continued on page 2)

Local filing begins

Candidates began to file nominating petitions for the 2022 primary election on Monday, March 7. Filing continues through Monday, March 14. Primary election day is set for Tuesday, June 28.

At the county level, voters will elect two members to the board of commissioners, a sheriff, a treasurer and a county clerk.

Union County Clerk Lance Meisenheimer said the following candidates had filed nominating petitions on Monday:

Democrats

Union County Board of Commissioners, Seat C: Marsha Griffin of Jonesboro.

Union County sheriff: incumbent Dale Foster of Anna.

Republicans

Union County Board of Commissioners, Seat C: incumbent David Gould of Anna.

Union County Board of Commissioners, Seat E: Brandon Bierstedt of Anna. The seat now is held by Democrat Bobby Toler Jr. Toler, who was appointed to the post. Toler previously had said that he will not be running.

Union County treasurer: incumbent Leigh Burns of Jonesboro.

Union County clerk: incumbent Lance Meisenheimer of Jonesboro.

Union County sheriff: Robert J. (Robbie) McGee of Alto Pass and David Wilkins of Jonesboro filed simultaneously on Monday. A lottery will be held to decide their position on the primary election ballot.

A third Republican, Bryan Watkins of Anna, had taken out nominating petitions but had not filed as of early Monday afternoon.

The Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro was closed on Tuesday. Nominating petitions were being brought to the county clerk's office at the courthouse.

On Monday, Union County Sheriff Dale Foster announced that the courthouse would be closed on Tuesday due to work that was being done on a water line. Due to the work, there would be no water in the courthouse.

The county clerk said that filing of nominating petitions would be halted until the courthouse was reopened. The courthouse was scheduled to reopen Wednesday, March 9.



Water valve replacement work in Jonesboro

Work was underway Tuesday, March 8, to replace water line valves in Jonesboro. Aging valves were being replaced along North Main/West Market and Pecan streets. Parts of North Main and West Market streets were closed to traffic while the work was being done. The project was being done by Jonesboro city workers and a contractor, ACI X of Chester. In connection with the work on the water system, Union County Sheriff Dale Foster had announced on Monday, March 7, that the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro would be closed on Tuesday. The courthouse was expected to reopen on Wednesday, March 9. The courthouse is located along West Market Street in Jonesboro, which is the county seat.

National Weather Service reports February colder, much wetter than normal in region

The month of February was colder and much wetter than normal in Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that monthly average temperatures ranged from 1.5 to 3 degrees below normal.

The most pronounced colder periods were Feb. 3-5 and 23-25, when high temperatures were routinely in the 20s and 30s.

The warmest stretch of the month occurred from Feb. 15-22, when most areas reached into the 60s for highs on six of the eight days.

Local weather observer Dana Cross recorded a high temperature of 66 degrees during February in Jonesboro. The high was recorded on Feb. 1 and Feb. 16. A low temperature of 11 degrees was recorded on Feb. 13.

The weather service reported that February finished much wetter than normal across the entire region.

Amounts of 5 inches to 8 inches were observed, with some locally higher amounts of 9 inches to 10 inches. This was 2 inches to 6 inches above normal for February.

Paducah, Cape Girardeau

and Poplar Bluff, Mo., all observed one of their top 10 wettest February's on record.

Carbondale most likely would have too, if not for an equipment malfunction that resulted in no precipitation measured from Feb. 2-4.

Surrounding reports observed anywhere from 1.5 inches to 2 inches of precipitation during that three-day period.

The highest observed amount was a CoCoRaHS station in 4.5 miles southwest of Paducah that received 10.03 inches for the month.

In Paducah, four of the 10 wettest February's on

record have now occurred in the past five years.

Precipitation in Jonesboro during February measured 8.08 inches. The most rain in a 24-hour period was 3.53 inches, recorded on Feb. 17.

A map posted on the weather service website showed a February rainfall total of 9.19 inches at a location in Union County.

Two winter weather events produced significant sleet and ice accumulations on Feb 3-4 and 23-24 in the region. Widespread heavy rain produced flash flooding on Feb. 17 and severe thunderstorms produced damage on Feb. 22.



Daffodils in the sunshine

Daffodil flowers are one of the signs of spring time in Union County. These daffodils were seen along a rural road near Cobden as the sun was shining Friday afternoon, March 4.



Illinois campaign season

(continued from page 1)

It is not believed they will face any primary opposition this year but a full slate of Republican candidates are lining up to challenge them.

Among the challengers for governor are Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin; State Sen. Darren Bailey, of Xenia; former State Sen. Paul Schimpf, of Waterloo; Chicago-area businessman Gary Rabine; and venture capitalist Jesse Sullivan, of Petersburg, among others.

Speaking at a campaign kickoff rally at a local union meeting hall in Springfield shortly after submitting his petitions, Pritzker touted his efforts to improve job and economic opportunities for middle class workers and marginalized populations in the state.

“In a world that increasingly feels like us versus them, this campaign is about what we can do together. And our vision for a better Illinois doesn’t happen without a fight,” Pritzker said.

Republicans, meanwhile, have so far been attacking Pritzker for the state’s rising rate of violent crime and the impact that his response to the COVID-19 pandemic had on the state’s economy.

“We’re killing small business in the state like no other state and we’ve got to stop that,” Rabine said during an interview outside the ISBE office. “We’ve got to bring businesses and jobs

and people back to Illinois instead of chasing them away.”

Outside of the governor’s race, the most high-profile race in state government this year may be the contest for secretary of state, where incumbent Jesse White is retiring after six terms in office.

On the Democratic side, former state treasurer Alexi Giannoulias has the support of some of the state’s largest labor unions and the Cook County Democratic Party, while other high-profile Democrats, including Pritzker and White, have thrown their support behind Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia. Also in the race is Chicago Alderman David Moore.

On the Republican side, the race appears to be between John Milhiser, a former U.S. attorney for the Central District of Illinois, and State Rep. Dan Brady, of Bloomington.

Irvin tops a list of Republican candidates running as a slate for statewide office.

The slate includes attorney general candidate Steve Kim, of Deerfield; treasurer candidate Rep. Tom Demmer, of Dixon; and comptroller candidate Shannon Teresi, of Crystal Lake. Milhiser is the secretary of state candidate on the slate.

Those GOP slate candidates were scheduled to host a kickoff event Monday evening in Springfield. They will vie to unseat

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs and Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza, all incumbent Democrats.

According to this year’s election calendar, voters can request mail-in ballots starting March 30 by contacting their local election authority. Those applications must be received by the election authority by June 23.

News Notes

(continued from page 1)

Old Man Winter doesn’t seem quite ready to say goodbye. The forecast early this week was calling for the possibility of light snow Friday through Friday night. As of Tuesday morning, the National Weather Service office in Paducah was saying that it was “too early to speculate about any accumulations...”

...and, in addition to the possibility of snow, the weather service advised that “very cold air will overspread the region Friday night.” The low Friday night is expected to be around 16, with strong north northwest winds, too.

Union County Sheriff Dale Foster reports that thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles in the area are an ongoing problem.

A local business owner voiced concerns to the Anna City Council last week about a recent significant increase in the cost of a video gaming license.

The City of Anna is looking at a proposal that would involve the painting of a mural (or murals) with a local history theme.

Special activities are being planned during April in Anna in conjunction with the observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Anna Police Chief Bryan Watkins noted at last week’s Anna City Council meeting that the local ZX gas station/convenience store was helping to support the Shop with a Cop/Firefighter program.

Anna City Council member Martha Ann Webb is very proud that the city’s flag once again is on display in front of city hall.

The 2022 River to River Relay is planned April 23. The relay was not run in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. The popular running event begins in Union County.

Mail-in ballots must be postmarked or returned in-person to the election authority by Election Day, June 28.

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

Southern FS has sold its facility at 307 E. Davie St. in Anna to L & P Crabtree Investments.

Nice “Saluki Pride” story about Union County resident Rachel Frazier on the news.siu.edu website. The article notes that Frazier is interim director of the SIU Office of the Registrar.

Through a partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Southern Seven Health Department has acquired the use of the state department’s Wellness on Wheels van to provide health screenings and other services to those living in high health-risk areas.

The U.S. Forest Service conducted a prescribed burn March 2 in northern Alexander County.

Kevin Hunsperger is the new executive director of public information and marketing at Shawnee Community College.

The Illinois Department of Transportation was doing maintenance work/patching late last week along old U.S. Route 51 in the Anna and Cobden areas.

A Lenten season mission with Father Steven Beatty is planned for the evenings of March 28-30 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Anna.

Breakfast with the Easter bunny is planned Saturday morning, April 2, at the Cobden Elementary School.

The 2022 Dirty South Roubaix bicycling event was held Saturday, March 5. Alto Pass was a focal point for the event, which had registration that capped at 500 participants.

The Southern Illinois Earth Science Club plans to host a gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry show Saturday and Sunday, April 9-10, at the Pavilion of the City of Marion.

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Schools recognized for FAFSA completion

High schools across the state have received a Recognition of Excellence designation for their efforts in supporting students and families through the financial aid process.

The schools have been commended by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, ISAC, and by Gov. JB Pritzker for their achievements.

More than 400 high schools will receive a Recognition of Excellence banner for Class of 2021 financial aid application completions.

Schools earning recognition included Cobden High School, Meridian Senior High School in Mounds and Vienna High School.

State officials said the schools’ support for their students helped put Illinois in the number six spot nationally for high school senior FAFSA completion rates last year.

While filing was down more than 4 percent nationally, Illinois filing was up by almost 4 percent, which ranked first among only three states that actually increased their high school FAFSA completion rates year over year.

“I’m proud that Illinois is one of the top states in the nation for FAFSA completion – an achievement that wouldn’t be possible without leaders in our school communities advocating for their students,” the governor said.

“I offer my congratulations to all our Recognition of Excellence schools. Completing the FAFSA gives students a full picture of what doors they have to

continue their education, and my administration is committed to ensuring our graduating seniors and life-long learners have access to the support they need to build a good career and a good life.”

Through ISAC’s Financial Aid Application Completion Initiative, the commission is able to share data with local school districts on a weekly basis to identify students who have not filed a financial aid application (the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, or, if eligible, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid).

This information is used to help reach students who might otherwise not complete an application.

This data-matching initiative has been so successful that it was used as a model by the U.S. Department of Education for a nationwide program for schools around the country.

ISAC is currently highlighting high schools each week on its website and on social media that reach designated platinum, gold, silver and bronze levels for financial aid application completion.

Cobden High School earned silver level designation, with 75 percent of eligible students completing the FAFSA application.

Meridian Senior High School earned bronze designation, with 73 percent of eligible students completing the application.

Vienna High School achieved gold designation, with 85 percent of eligible students completing the application.

Weather

High 78, low 30; 2.01 inches of rain; flood warning issued Sunday night

Temperatures warmed into the 70s during the first seven days of March in the Union County area.

During the period of March 1-7, temperatures ranged from a high of 78 degrees to a low of 30.

Precipitation during the period totaled 2.01 inches of rain, including .79 of an inch on March 6 and 1.22 inches on March 7.

The Union County area was under a flood warning for part of Sunday night. The warning was issued by the National Weather Service office in Paducah.

The flood warning was issued for parts of Southern Illinois, including Union, Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski and Williamson counties.

The weather service reported on its website that as of 8:59 p.m. Sunday, Doppler radar and automated rain gauges indicated very heavy rainfall had fallen across the warned area. Between 1 and 3 inches or

rain had fallen.

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

	H	L
Tuesday, March 1	71	30
Wednesday, March 2	78	34
Thursday, March 3	64	41
Friday, March 4	70	37
Saturday, March 5	72	42
Sunday, March 6	71	51
Monday, March 7	69	36

Job fair set

An annual job fair is planned at Shawnee Community College.

The job fair is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to noon on March 16 in the Edward M. Smith Gymnasium on Shawnee Community College’s main campus near Ullin.

The event will be hosted by Shawnee Community College Career Services.

The job fair is open to the public. The college has been working with local employers to increase their participation.

Always by your side.

Welcome

Cassie Henninger, DO

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Cleveland Clinic Akron General, 2021
Akron, OH

Medical School
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Undergraduate:
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Updated COVID-19 executive order released by governor

With Illinois continuing to see vast improvement in recent weeks of COVID-19 hospitalizations and transmission, Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday, March 4, released an updated executive order which lifted the school exclusion requirements, shifting schools back to the ordinary processes for handling infectious diseases.

The executive order was initially put in place to standardize CDC requirements for schools and alleviate the burden on overwhelmed local health departments from having to provide individualized recommendations.

10,462 new COVID cases in Illinois

The Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, on Friday, March 4, reported 10,462 new confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including an increase of 271 deaths since reporting on Feb. 25.

On March 5, IDPH was reporting a total of 3,037,199 cases, including 32,926 deaths, in 102 counties in Illinois, since the start of the pandemic.

As of Thursday night, March 3, 843 people in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19.

Of Illinois' total population, 76 percent had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, more than 67 percent of the state's total population was fully vaccinated and more than 49 percent had received a booster, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC.

All data are provisional and will change, IDPH reported.

Union County COVID Cases Update

March 6: 5,336 total cases. 63 deaths.

March 3: 5,335 total cases. 63 total deaths.

March 2: 5,334 total cases. 63 total cases.

March 1: 5,334 total cases. 63 deaths.

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health website. Numbers represent statistics since the start of the pandemic.

Weekly new COVID-19 cases reported in Illinois

March 4: 10,462
Feb. 25: 13,028
Feb. 18: 20,896
Feb. 10: 29,939
Feb. 4: 60,389

Jan. 28: 123,812
Jan. 21: 183,722
Jan. 14: 207,203
Jan. 7: 201,428
Dec. 30: 128,246

Dec. 23: 77,246
Dec. 17: 59,312
Dec. 10: 49,668
Dec. 3: 42,559
Nov. 24: 21,034
Nov. 19: 28,280
Nov. 12: 22,600
Nov. 5: 17,462

Oct. 29: 14,616
Oct. 22: 15,131
Oct. 15: 15,669
Oct. 8: 19,244
Oct. 1: 18,735

Sept. 24: 21,787
Sept. 17: 25,956
Sept. 10: 26,062
Sept. 3: 30,319
Aug. 27: 25,636
Aug. 20: 24,682
Aug. 13: 21,334
Aug. 6: 16,742

July 30: 11,682
July 23: 7,983
July 16: 4,449
July 9: 2,945
July 2: 2,120
June 25: 1,744
June 18: 928

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health

Now that the COVID-19 surge has subsided, schools and local health departments can return to exercising their long-standing authority to address infectious disease cases among students and staff.

The CDC and IDPH continue to strongly recommend that students, teachers and staff stay home when they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have signs of any infectious illness, including COVID-19.

Schools should also continue to recommend that close contacts stay home and will continue to coordinate with their corresponding local health department to determine whether a close contact should stay home based on CDC guidance.

News from

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Anna



This past Sunday was Girl Scout Sunday and the celebration of 110 years of Girl Scouts. Girl Scout cookies were served during fellowship time after worship. Cookies were for sale, too. Photos provided.

Lent services schedule: Wednesday, March 9, services and a meal were planned at Mt. Moriah. Wednesday, March 16, 7 p.m., Salem Lutheran Church in Jonesboro, with dinner at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 7 p.m., Mt. Moriah, with dinner at 6 p.m.

"As we move forward in our fight against COVID-19, schools should continue to look to their local health departments, IDPH and the CDC for guidance in dealing with this virus as they do for all communicable diseases," the governor said in a news release.

"By getting vaccinated and staying home when sick or when deemed necessary by local health departments, school communities can help ensure their classrooms are a safe place for all."

"We are at a stage in this pandemic where we have more tools than ever before to help prevent severe illness due to COVID-19, including safe and effective vaccines and new treatments," Illinois Department of Public Health, IDPH, di-

rector Dr. Ngozi Ezike said. "With almost half of the entire Illinois population not only vaccinated, but boosted and up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, as well as high levels of population immunity from both vaccination and infections, the risk of outbreaks causing severe illness is reduced."

"In-person learning is important for the social, emotional, and mental health of students, and schools should continue to work with their local health departments to assess risks and implement mitigations as needed to protect their students and staff."

All schools continue to have long-standing authority under Illinois law to address confirmed, suspected and contacts of infectious disease cases, including COVID-19. Just as they do with chickenpox, schools should send students with COVID-19 home.

CDC Guidance
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, recommends that everyone who has presumed or confirmed COVID-19 should stay home and iso-

Cell phone donations welcomed

The Union County state's attorney's office and victim advocate unit have partnered with the 911 Cell Phone Bank to accept donations of cell phones.

Cell phones can be dropped off at the Union County Courthouse, which is located at 309 W. Market St. in Jonesboro.

Donated cell phones will benefit victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking and other unsafe practices.

Cell phones, even those without a service plan, can be used to call 911 in the event of an emergency.

Emergency 911 cell phones are seen as an important part of overall safety plans for persons who may need help and cannot get to any other phone.

late from other people for at least five full days (day zero is the first day of symptoms or the date of the day of specimen collection for the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons). They should wear a mask when around others for an additional five days.

For close contacts: CDC guidance continues to recommend that individuals who are not up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations stay at home and quarantine for at least 5 days after exposure to COVID-19 and wear a mask until day 10.

The CDC recommends that close contacts who are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines or who are within 90 days of a COVID-19 infection do not need to quarantine.

Vaccination Progress
The executive order has no impact on the State of Illinois' vaccination or testing requirements, which align with current CDC

Opioid medication virtual town hall meeting scheduled

Southern Seven Health Department is planning to host an opioid medication virtual town hall meeting from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on March 31.

The health department said in a news release the event, sponsored by the Alexander Pulaski County Action Council, APAC, is designed to help participants better understand the current opioid crisis in Southern Illinois and how to respond.

The meeting is scheduled to include a 40-minute viewing of the Oscar-nominated film "Heroin(e)" that highlights the devastating opioid epidemic.

The movie will be followed by a discussion with a panel of professionals who will answer questions and provide additional information.

Panelists are scheduled to include a pharmacist, an overdose prevention specialist, law enforcement, a

recommendations to screen unvaccinated school staff.

Additionally, school districts and private businesses can continue to require masks at their discretion.

The CDC issued revised guidance on Feb. 25 to lift its recommendation for universal indoor masking, including in K-12 settings.

Illinois continues to lead the Midwest for school-aged vaccination rates. No state has a higher percentage of fully vaccinated 5- to 17-year-olds.

Additionally, Illinois is home to the highest percentage of residents who have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccines continue to be readily available at pharmacies across the state, many local health departments, doctor offices, federally qualified health centers and other locations.

To find a COVID-19 vaccination location, go to www.vaccines.gov.

state's attorney, a recovering addict and others.

The health department noted that the first 35 participants who register and complete the entire presentation will receive a \$20 gift certificate to a small business in Pulaski County which includes restaurants, grocery stores and convenience stores.

For more information, or to register for the opioid medication virtual town hall meeting, visit the Southern Seven Health Department website at www.southern7.org and click on the Events tab located at the top of the home page.

Information and registration also are available by contacting Natalie Sawyer at the health department by phone at 618-634-2297, extension 9136, or Gabrielle Harris at 618-967-2987.

Registration also is available on Southern Seven Health Department's Facebook page.

In today's world we are more connected than ever- not only to each other but to our devices.

Here are 6 steps to protect yourself and your devices:

1. Change default passwords - On devices that are connected to your network you should always make sure you change your default password.
2. Automatic Patches and Updates - In today's "set it and forget it" society, many electronic devices can take care of themselves. Quite often technology has a setting that allow for automatic updates. This is an important setting to turn on when securing internet devices.
3. Set-up Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) - This is as simple as receiving a text or code that you need to type in while signing on to a system.
4. Utilize a Password Manager - Keep user names and passwords unique. Most password manager applications can generate a random password for you, and will allow you to store them safely.
5. Update Default Settings - Check to see which settings are turned on by default, especially if don't know what they mean.
6. Avoid Public Wi-Fi - It may be convenient to connect to public Wi-Fi, but think again! If the Wi-Fi network doesn't require a password, then anyone can listen in on your computer's information.

Remember that just like you lock your front door to protect the valuables inside, these days you also need to lock your devices to protect your information and privacy.



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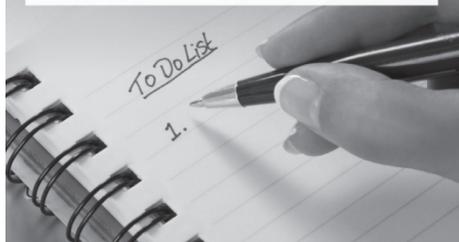
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Sports

Pitching seen as key for Cobden baseball

Cobden High School baseball team headcoach Dana Pearson is looking for pitching to come through this spring for the Appleknockers.

Pearson said he likes what he has seen so far in practice of Cobden's pitching.

"We'll go as far as our pitching goes," Pearson said.

Top pitchers on the squad include the team's returning junior Nolan Hand, who also catches and plays shortstop; senior pitcher/utility player Brock Reynolds; pitcher/first baseman Tyler Franklin; and freshman pitcher/infielder Reese Hand.

Other seniors on the squad are right fielder John Fuhrhop, center fielder Amon Ingold and outfielders Noel Fabian, Tristin Brummer and Kyle Hall.

Juniors are second baseman Dawson Short and outfielders Jake Tally, Xach Roberts, Jesus Zamora and Noah Bible.

Sophomores are infielder/catcher Hunter Pitts, infielder/pitcher Jace Wyatt, infielder Alberto Amezcua and first baseman Steven Brown.

"We'll probably have three or four sophomores in the lineup," Pearson said.

Freshmen include first baseman Tomas Colman, outfielders Jackson Rendleman, Kohen Moore and Sam Ingold and infielder/outfielder Omar Martinez.

"We feel we'll be pretty strong up the middle," Pearson said. "But our hitting needs to get better than it was in the fall."

Pearson said there is a drawback to spring baseball.

"The big thing in the spring is getting rained out," Pearson said. "We need to play to get that experience. Hopefully, we will be able to make a run for the conference."

Cobden is scheduled to play Tuesday, March 15, at home against Anna-Jonesboro.

Only two seniors on Shawnee baseball roster

The Shawnee High School baseball team only played a few games last season before canceling the remainder of its schedule due to a lack of players.

Shawnee started with only nine players last season and when one was lost to injury the season was over.

"We're going to be young," Shawnee baseball team head coach T.C. Schaefer said.

Only two seniors are on the squad in pitcher/shortstop Braden Freeman and outfielder/infielder Dustin Smith.

Center fielder Austin Kinder is the lone junior.

The team will have seven sophomores, including shortstop/pitcher Chase

Franklin red-shirted

Cobden High School's graduate Noah Franklin was red-shirted this past season for the Southwest Baptist University men's basketball team in Bolivar, Mo.

Franklin is a 2021 Cobden graduate.

Franklin, who is on a basketball scholarship at Southwest Baptist, will now have four years of eligibility remaining in his college career.

Noah's brother, Tyler, will be a senior next season on the Cobden basketball team, which finished 22-8 this past season.

Woodard, right fielder Ethan Smith, outfielder/second baseman Luke Chocate, catcher Kayman Ford, first baseman Ryan Libbert, second baseman/outfielder Brody Wills and shortstop/pitcher Zac Bell.

Freshmen are second/third baseman/pitcher Cole Pender and right fielder Noah Mayberry.

Schaefer said the team has a good attitude and is ready to start the season.

"They're all young and eager," Schaefer said.

Shawnee is scheduled to play Wednesday, March 16, at home against Elverado.

Dongola softball has new coach

Veteran Dongola High School softball coach Barry Keller has stepped down after 16 years of coaching the Lady Demons.

The new Dongola softball coach is Hannah Thomas, who is a teacher at the high school.

Keller, who works full time for Southern FS, said he will now be watching his daughter, Maddie, play college softball. She is a freshman on the Mineral Area College softball team of Park Hills, Mo.

Keller said he wouldn't mind returning to coaching in the future.

Dongola is scheduled to open its season Wednesday, March 16, at Pope County.



A-J baseball team practices

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School baseball team was practicing Wednesday afternoon, March 2. Practice was taking place on Kiwanis Field at the Anna City Park. Kiwanis Field is where A-J plays its home games. A-J is scheduled to open the spring 2022 season Monday afternoon, March 14, with a game against host Egyptian High School in Tamms.

10 seniors on A-J baseball roster this spring

Experience will play a big role this spring for the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School baseball team.

"We've got a ton of experience back," A-J baseball team head coach Aaron Roberts said. "It's the most I've had returning in my seven years at A-J."

Ten seniors are on the A-J squad this season.

The seniors include five returning starters: pitcher/first baseman Ethan Adams, outfielder/pitcher Nathan

Watkins, shortstop Luke Lasley, pitcher/utility Kyle Jerrell and catcher Gavin Osman.

Others seniors are outfielders Matthew Wright and Landon Trammel, pitcher/first baseman Kollyn Grant and outfielders Zach Miller and Harrison Ford.

Juniors on the squad include catcher/pitcher/first baseman Hayden Ralls, pitcher/first baseman/outfielder Dylan Ahlberg, second baseman Jake Merri-

man, pitcher/utility player Brett Smith and outfielder Ayden Dillman.

Sophomores who started last year and are returning this spring are second baseman/pitcher Dylan Harvel and pitcher/utility Drake Hartline. Outfielder/pitcher Nick Hannan is another sophomore on the roster.

The lone freshman is pitcher/third baseman/outfielder Aaron Sheffer.

Roberts said the Wildcats should be strong on the

pitching mound.

"And, we should be able to score some runs," Roberts said. "Our coaches and players expectations are high for the upcoming season."

With an experienced squad taking to the field, the Wildcats have beefed up their schedule and are set to play several top baseball teams out of the conference.

A-J is scheduled to open its season Monday, March 14, at Egyptian.

A-J softball team will rely on young pitchers

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School softball team will be looking to rely on a young pitching squad this spring.

Two seniors from last year are returning to play on head coach Rodney Seip's squad.

The two are first baseman Payton Seip and pitcher/utility player Abigail Dahmer.

Juniors in the mix are outfielder Avery Osman, shortstop/outfielder/pitcher Jenna Sadler, catcher/infielder Shea Thorn and utility player/pitcher Carmin Smith.

Seip and Osman are both returning All-State players.

Sophomores on the roster are outfielder/first baseman Jadeyn Biggerstaff and utility/first baseman Whitley Quick.

Freshmen include outfielders Brooke Carmack, Chassidy Janke and Maddie Clark and third base-

man/catcher Ariana Turner, pitcher/outfielder Chesney Marx, outfielder/catcher Olivia Schaefer, outfielder/first baseman Scotti Murray, second baseman/outfielder Hallie Plott and pitcher/first baseman Ruby Yates.

Seip noted that freshmen on the roster have played junior high and summer league softball.

Despite having a lot of underclassmen who will be in the lineup this season, Seip feels the team could be competitive.

The Lady Wildcats are scheduled to play Monday, March 14, at Egyptian.

River-to-River Trail society plans hike

The River-to-River Trail Society plans to offer a guided hike on Saturday, March 12, in the area between One Horse Gap Lake and One Horse Gap itself. The hike is free and open to the public.

The trail society said this will be a hike of moderate difficulty, of about 5 miles in length. It will be a loop hike, so that no car-pooling will be needed.

The trail society advised that hiking sticks and boots or sturdy shoes are strongly recommended. Hikers are asked to bring their own water and a snack. Hikers are asked to not bring dogs.

Those who want to go on the hike are asked to meet at 10 a.m. at the parking lot of One Horse Gap Lake.

The trail society shared the following directions to reach the meeting place: turn west off Route 34 onto Dutton Chapel Road at Eichorn, and proceed about 5 miles. Alternatively, turn north off Route 146 at Lusk Road, between Rosiclar and Golconda, and proceed about 4 miles.

For information or directions, call 618-499-9629.

Hikes, program about stone forts planned at Giant City

A program about stone forts and two hikes are scheduled at Giant City State Park near Makanda.

The events are free and open to the public. Registration is required and can be made by calling 618-457-4836.

Visitors to the park are required to observe current guidance from the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding face coverings and social distancing.

Stone Forts

Retired history teacher Mark Motsinger will discuss mysterious stone forts in Southern Illinois at an indoor presentation which is planned from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 12.

Eleven stone forts can be found on high, isolated ridges in Southern Illinois. The stone forts were made by ancient people.

Full Moon Hike

Intepretive guide Steve Gariepy plans to lead a moonlight hike on Friday, March 18.

The hike, which will be three-quarters of a mile long, is scheduled from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The hike will be dependent on the weather.

Birding Hikes

Birding hikes are planned March 26 and March 30. Both hikes are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Both hikes are scheduled to be led by park volunteer and Southern Illinois Audubon Society member Vicki Lang-Mendenhall.

The hike on March 26 will be on the Indian Creek Natural Trail, which is three-quarters of a mile long.

The hike on March 30 will be on the Post Oak Trail, which is one-third of a mile long.

State Habitat grant program awards funds

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, recently announced the latest projects being funded through the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program.

The program enhances game and non-game wildlife habitat through projects developed by not-for-profit organizations and governmental entities.

Funding for the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program comes from the sale of habitat stamps to sportsmen and sportswomen.

Among the grant recipients is the Shawnee Resource Conservation District. The district received a \$115,120 grant. The district will provide \$100,000 in matching funds.

The district is planning an open canopy project that assists landowners with forest stand improvement, invasive species removal and control, and prescribed burns on forested oak ecosystems.

Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area Inc., along with the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the U.S. Forest Service, IDNR, the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area, the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association, the University of Illinois, the Pope County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the Forest Restoration Support Team, the National Wild Turkey Federation and several private landowners are working together to enhance and recover the historical upland oak-hickory forest ecosystem.

The resources made available through the grant will go toward restoration activities.

Activities include removing undesirable and invasive vegetation (mechanical removal and chemical application), forest stand improvement following the recommendations in each landowner's forest management plan, the creation of fire breaks, and prescribed fire.

This year's grant will help restore an additional 700 forested acres.



First fish of season

Union County young anglers Kinley and Aden Lingle proudly showed off their first fish for this season. Photos provided.

Jonesboro School planning to conduct kindergarten screening

Jonesboro School has scheduled a day of screening for 2022-2023 incoming kindergarten students.

Children who will be 5 years of age prior to Sept. 1, 2022, and live in the Jonesboro School District are eligible to enter kindergarten.

Screening is scheduled from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on April 4.

The school shared the following information about screening:

Parents are asked to call the school office at 833-5148 to schedule an appointment with secretaries Nancy Pind or Stephanie Hunter.

The school asks that appointments be made as soon as possible to better accommodate schedules. The entire screening process will take about one hour.

Kindergarten teachers Melissa Ellis and Susan Ramsey will be assessing the kindergarten readiness skills of children, such as letter and number recognition, counting, name writing, cutting and tracing, patterning and color and shape identification.

The teachers will recommend skills on which to focus at home in order to best prepare a child for her or his first year of "big kid" school.

The screening also allows the teachers to meet their new students and parents.

Speech teacher Mackenzie Peck is scheduled to give each student a speech screening.

School nurse Donna Williams is scheduled to meet with each parent to discuss any medical conditions or allergies concerning each incoming kindergarten student.

The nurse will also provide parents with information regarding kindergarten physicals, eye exams, and dental exams.

The following items are to be brought to the screening:

A copy of the child's birth certificate.

A completed "Student Information" sheet. Extra forms will be available on April 4.

A completed "Screening Policy/Permission Form." Extra forms will be available on April 4.

The school notes that the screening process does not register a child for kindergarten at Jonesboro School.

Parents will have to return to register their child for the 2022-2023 school year. Registration is scheduled to take place over the summer break.

At registration, parents will need to provide two proofs of residency for their child to be enrolled at Jonesboro School. Further information regarding valid proofs of residency will be available at the screening.

Registration dates are to be determined and will be posted on Jonesboro School's Facebook page and on the school's website at jonesboro43.com. Children do not need to attend registration.

Lock, dam upgrades 'game changer' for farmers

By Timothy Eggert FarmWeek

If farming is a school of patience, then securing federal funding for the agriculture industry is, too.

Just ask U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, who joined other Illinois legislators in finally harvesting their own 15-year infrastructure crop, yielding \$829 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to upgrade a pair of locks and dams on the upper Mississippi River.

"It's about time," Durbin said during a news conference from inside the lockhouse at the Peoria Lock and Dam on the Illinois River.

"Today, it's the river. Tomorrow it's the highways. The day after, it's the bridges. You're going to hear a lot more about this."

In total, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will spend more than \$1.3 billion starting in fiscal year 2022 to upgrade inland waterway systems across Illinois.

A majority of those funds, \$732 million, will be used to build a new 1,200-foot lock chamber just north of the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, while \$97.1 million will cover a new fish passage at Lock and Dam 22.

Another \$50 million in various repairs will be split by Locks and Dams 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 21, according to Corps plans.

Facilities along the Illinois River will also undergo \$83 million in improvements, including repairs to the Dresden, LaGrange, Lockport, Marseilles, Peoria and Starved Rock locks and dams.

"The monumental infrastructure package that we passed on to the Biden administration is what is

making this happen," U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-East Moline, said during the January news conference.

"You have to go back to the Eisenhower administration to see this kind of investment."

The work to land the funding for upgrades to Illinois' water infrastructure, however, started nearly two decades ago.

"We decided as a delegation to fight for, see if we could bring money in for locks and dams in the state of Illinois and in the Midwest," Durbin said. "And we frankly weren't getting anywhere."

The hang-up, Durbin said, was that cost-benefit ratio calculations to invest in locks and dams weren't appetizing enough – more tax dollars would be spent than economic advantages gained.

So, Durbin and Bustos tied infrastructure investments with ecosystem restorations through the Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program – and it worked.

"Spending less than a billion dollars on these locks and dams on the rivers, we're going to get a payback of \$72 billion," Durbin said. "How about that for cost benefit?"

Illinois farmers will especially experience those benefits, Durbin and Bustos said.

Larger locks mean barges carrying corn and soybeans can move up and down the river faster, getting products to market more quickly and reducing transportation costs, they said.

"We've had record yields in corn and soybeans, so we've got to make sure that we have efficient ways to get these to market," Bustos said, noting how a modern

15-barge tow transports the equivalent of 950 bushels of corn.

When a barge approaches the current 600-foot chamber at Lock and Dam 25, it must decouple, a process that takes two to three hours. With the 1,200-foot chamber, a barge can pass in 30 to 45 minutes.

"The economic impact is a game changer for our farmers, (who are) more competitive now in the world than they've ever had to be," Durbin said. "They're going to get a boost and an opportunity in that regard."

Investments in the Upper Mississippi River locks and dams are also expected to generate thousands of new jobs and spread other economic benefits across the region.

The project, which is funded to completion, is expected to take five to six years.

Asked by FarmWeek if it will take another 15 years to receive funding for other

lock and dam improvements along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, Durbin said it's both a matter of "matching up the need, which is obvious, with the resources" and marrying economic and environmental goals.

"These barges and what they move, the alternative is a lot of trucks burning a lot of diesel fuel," Durbin said.

"And we have a much more efficient way to do it from an environmental viewpoint. When we put that combination together and sold the (Corps) on the project...we started a long process. So, as fast as we can appropriate the money and they can get the work done, we're going to be moving forward with many more projects in the future."

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Anna Arts Center plans variety of events

A variety of events are scheduled at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council's Anna Arts Center. The arts center is located along West Davie Street in Anna.

A general photography workshop is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, today.

The workshop will be taught by Caleb Claxton Hale, a photographer, writer and former journalist. The cost is \$20. More information is available by contacting the instructor at 618-697-0859.

The gospel group The Redeemmen is scheduled to perform at the arts center at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 12.

Members of the group are Gary Roach, Dwane Sims and Larry Smith. The concert is free. An offering is planned and will be split between The Redeemmen and the arts center.

A short story pizza is set for 6 p.m. Monday, March 21.

Tom Caldwell will lead discussion about the short story titled "The Bass, the River and Sheila Mant," which was written by W.D. Wetherell.

A free copy of the short story is available at The Here & Now Shop at 319 S. Main St. in Anna. The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

Those who want to participate are asked to read the story in advance. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite drink and \$3 for the pizza.

Information is available by contacting Caldwell at 1-217-994-3449. Those who want to attend are asked to RSVP to Caldwell by March 19 so there is plenty of pizza to go around.

A portrait photography workshop is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24. The workshop will be taught by Caleb Claxton Hale. The cost is \$20.

"Play That Hot Fiddle: Old Time Radio and the Life of Southern Illinois Swing Fiddler 'Pappy' Wade Ray" is set to be presented by Dennis Stroughmatt at 7 p.m. on March 31. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the door.

A free presentation about angler, hunter and journalist Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby of Maine is set for 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3.

Crosby will be portrayed by Pam Matthews, who is from Maine and now lives in Carbondale.

Matthews has written a book about Crosby. Signed copies of the book will be available; the cost is \$20, cash or check.

Arts center hosts auditions for play set in Roaring 20s

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council's Anna Arts Center announces auditions for the play "The Decade That Roared," which is about the Roaring 20s in America.

The play will focus on the music and fun aspects of the decade. It will cover women gaining the vote, and various other aspects of the period, especially prohibition. The play will not cover the "darker, criminal" aspects of the time.

The arts center said high schoolers and adults are invited to audition; there is a need for teens, a couple of good singers and a group of more mature women for the meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance movement.

The play is in need of two teen to college age girls as sisters and two teens to college age men to play friends.

They also hope to find some "gentle" gangsters and a bouncer for the speakeasy.

Auditions were scheduled Tuesday, March 8, and

will continue Thursday, today, and Friday, March 10-11. Auditions are scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. each day at the arts center at 117 W. Davie St. in Anna.

The arts center said that no special preparation is needed. Scripts will be provided. "We need about 14-16 fun loving people," the arts center adds. Subsequent information shared by the arts center said that those who want to audition are asked to prepare a brief monologue and to be prepared to cold read.

Performances are set for 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 22-23, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 24.

Rehearsals are scheduled Monday through Thursday, by scene. The play has seven scenes. Schedules are made according to actor and staff needs.

Dr. Lynn Steveson of rural Anna has written the script and will direct the production...with lots of help. She can be contacted at 618-697- 2334 for more information.



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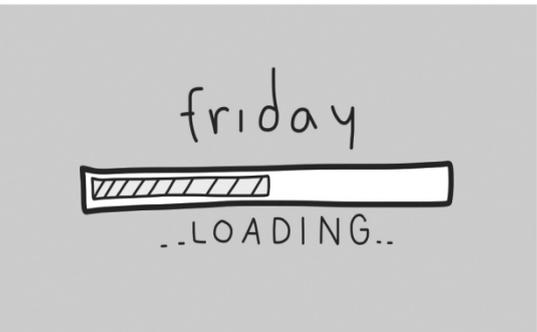
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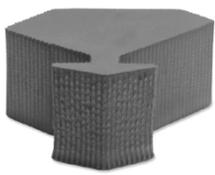
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Union County Hospital: Get screened for colorectal cancer

Union County Hospital in Anna notes that March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

The hospital says that as Cobden Women's Club meeting planned

The Cobden Women's Club plans to meet on March 17.

The meeting will be at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center at the First Baptist Church in Cobden. The hostess is scheduled to be Judy Kilmer.

The club notes that members who did not pay their dues in February can do so at the March 17 meeting.

Those who may be interested in joining the club are invited to attend the meeting.

preventable as colorectal cancer is, the disease is still the third-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the nation, according to the American Cancer Society. When detected early, colorectal cancer is highly treatable.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force recently lowered the recommended age for colorectal cancer screening from 50 years-old to 45-years old, which means that more people can take early action.

With the observance of March as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, the hospital says there is no better time to schedule an appointment to be screened.

"A colonoscopy screen-

ing is one of the most powerful defenses for preventing colorectal cancer," explains Dr. Tamer Aiti at Union County Hospital.

"Today's colonoscopy preparation options are much easier thanks to lower-dose regimens and better-tasting prep drinks."

While there are additional risk factors you cannot control, like your age or family history of the disease, there are steps you can take to help lower your risk of developing colorectal cancer.

Eat a Healthy Diet

A large study published in the International Journal of Epidemiology found the risk of colorectal cancer was 20 percent greater for those who ate red or processed meats four times a

week compared to those who ate it less than twice a week.

Eating fresh fruits and vegetables, high-fiber whole grains, and lean protein may lower your risk; also, steer clear of sugars and fried or fatty foods.

Exercise Frequently

People who aren't physically active may have a higher disease risk. Aim for 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise like walking or biking at least five days a week.

Lose Weight

If you are at an unhealthy weight, you have a higher risk of developing colorectal cancer.

Quit Smoking

Cigarettes don't just cause lung cancer; they dramatically increase the

risk of colorectal cancer.

Stop Drinking (or Seriously Cut Back)

Even moderate drinking increases the risk of colorectal cancer.

The American Cancer Society recommends women should have no more than one alcoholic beverage a day, and men should have no more than two.

Dr. Aiti said, "You should discuss any family history of colorectal cancer and other risk factors with your primary care provider. Some providers may recommend starting colorectal cancer screenings before 45, especially for patients with conditions like Type 2 diabetes, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease or a history of polyps."

Union County Hospital

says that if you are concerned about colorectal cancer, it's best to talk to your doctor about when to begin screening.

Early detection can prevent more invasive treatment and help you live a healthy life.

More information is available online at UC-GeneralSurgery.com or by calling 833-2872.

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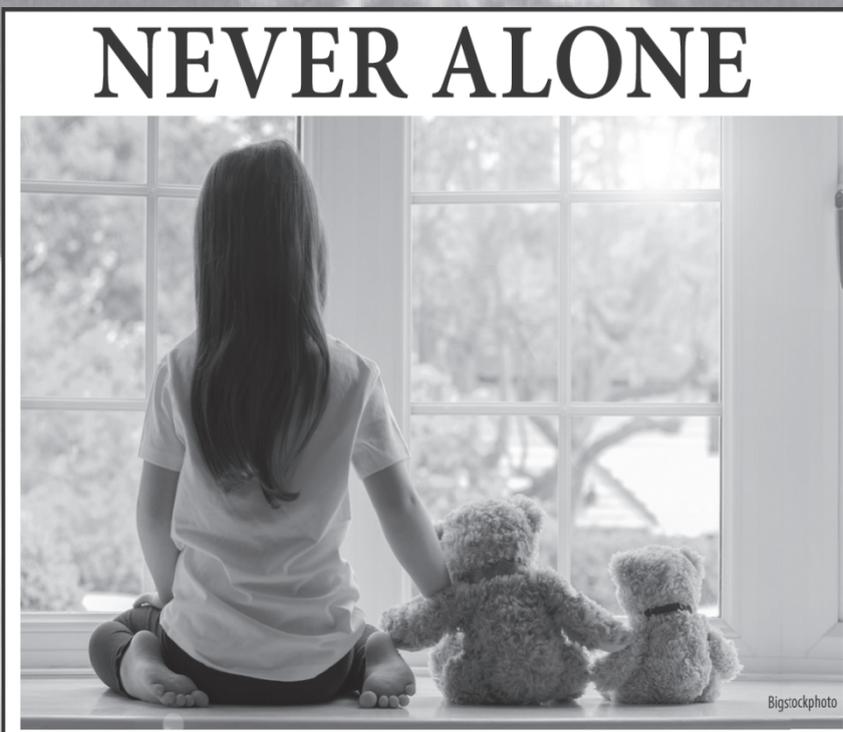
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Daily Bible Reading

Psalm 11	Psalm 16	Psalm 25	Psalm 27	Psalm 28	Psalm 40	Psalm 41
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society X Daily Devotional at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org

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World War II Bataan Death March

SIU Journalism School director seeks to safeguard legacy of American POWs

By Pete Rosenbery
news.siu.edu

Jan Thompson, a professor and director of Southern Illinois University Carbon-dale's School of Journalism, wants to safeguard the legacy of what American POWs in the Pacific endured in the World War II Bataan Death March in April 1942.

Thompson was scheduled to present comments before a joint U.S. Senate and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs as part of a virtual hearing which was planned Tuesday morning, March 8.

She has spent more than three decades on research and film and radio projects on the POW experience.

Her late father, Robert, was surrendered to the Japanese on Corregidor about a month after the death march and spent more than three years as a POW before being liberated from a Manchurian prison camp in September 1945.

Thompson provided her statement as president of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society, a nonprofit organization that provides continuing education and scholarships.

The society's predecessor,

Fish dinners to be served at Cobden church

Lenten season fish dinners once again are planned on Fridays at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cobden.

Fish dinners will be served March 11, March 18, March 25, April 1 and April 8.

Serving will be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. each Friday in the parish hall on the church grounds. The church is located at 101 Centennial St. in Cobden.

Costs for a meal will be \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 5-12. Children 4 and under will eat free. Carry outs will be available.

Organizers note that due to rising costs, dinners will not be all you can eat, but one trip through the food line.

the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor, ABDC, was formed in 1946 by surviving prisoners of war of Japan.

"It is an honor, and I hope that whatever I'm able to say will represent what these individuals had to go through," Thompson said prior to her appearance before the joint committee.

"I hope that I'm able to present it so that those who have no idea about this slice of history will have a better understanding and appreciation of the sacrifices that these men and women gave."

Why Remember?

The reasons to not forget this history are simple: The horror of war. She points to Russia's recent invasion of the Ukraine and the memories of Germany and Japan also invading other countries to start World War II.

"It's important for history to not be distorted," she said.

It is estimated more than 10,000 of the more than 75,000 American and Filipino prisoners did not survive the 65-mile, nine-day forced march that began April 9, 1942. It marked the largest surrender in U.S. military history.

Her father was reticent to talk of the horrors he went through, which included surviving three "hell-ships" used to take prisoners to Japan for forced labor.

Thompson started accompanying her dad to ABDC conventions in 1991 where some men, many of whom were in their 70s, began to share their experiences.

"It was at that point where I'm starting to hear stories, and it just really opened up my eyes. It was one of those definitive moments," she said.

"These men were patriots. They believed in democracy," Thompson said.

"They were basically sacrificed; that's why they became prisoners of war. You would think there would be resentment, and a lot of these men, when I interviewed them, there wasn't resentment. If they had to do it over again, they would have done it over

again, which I find amazing. But they also understand what the prices of freedom means, more so than anybody else."

Award-Winning Documentaries

Thompson has, as part of her acclaimed radio, television and film work, three documentaries on Bataan and American POWs:

"Survival Through Art," narrated by Alec Baldwin.

"Never the Same: The Prisoner of War Experience," narrated by Loretta Swit.

"The Tragedy of Bataan," narrated by Alec Baldwin.

She is working with Baldwin on a podcast "Ben Steele, American."

Steele was a Death March survivor who worked as a POW in a Japanese coal mine and turned to art recounting his experiences. The podcast will also feature material not used before.

In July 2015, Thompson participated in a ceremony in Los Angeles where Mitsubishi Materials Corp. executives apologized for using American POWs as forced labor in company mines during the war, which was the first public apology by a Japanese corporation for wartime atrocities.

She also accompanied several former POWs in October 2015 to Japan under a reconciliation program Japan's Foreign Ministry had started a few years earlier.

Previous Written Statements

Thompson's appearance before the joint committee

will be her first.

She previously submitted written statements to the joint hearing to receive legislative presentations of Veterans Service Organizations.

Among several recommendations included at the time has been to award, collectively, American POWs of Japan the Congressional Gold Medal, and to encourage Japan to continue the Japan/POW Friendship Program and to expand it into a permanent educational initiative.

U.S. Rep. Mike Bost, R-Ill., is the ranking member on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and, with Thompson's help, said he introduced the World War II Pacific War Heroes Congressional Gold Medal Act "to award these brave Americans with Congress' highest civilian honor."

"The Greatest Generation was ordinary Americans who stepped up and did the extraordinary when our nation and the world needed them," Bost said.

"It is critical that their service and sacrifice does not go without recognition. As we approach the 80th anniversary of the Bataan Death March, I look forward to hearing Jan's testimony during the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees joint hearings in early March. It's vitally important that we hear from our VSO partners to ensure our veterans are accessing the good care and services they have earned."



American troops
American troops surrendering to Japanese soldiers on Bataan. Photo from news.siu.edu, courtesy National Archives.

COST SHARE SIGN UP

Union County SWCD

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kasey.french@il.nacdnet.net



Archaeology, natural resources topic of Extension webinar

People have lived in Illinois for over 15,000 years and have used the natural resources the state has to offer in different ways

through time. Archaeologists draw on many fields in natural resource sciences to understand the people of the past and how they lived.

VFW plans to serve tacos, chicken dinner

Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna is planning to have Taco Tuesdays and to serve a chicken leg quarter dinner during March.

They will be served at the VFW post. The post is located at 70 VFW Ln. near Anna.

Taco Tuesday: Taco Tuesdays are planned on March 15 and March 29. Serving will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Tacos will be served, with a \$2 donation for each taco. The public is welcome and carry outs are available.

Chicken Leg Quarter Dinner: A chicken leg quarter dinner is planned Monday, March 21. Serving will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The menu will include a chicken leg quarter, roasted potatoes, baked beans, and dessert for a \$12 donation.

The public is welcome. Dine in, carry outs and drive thru will be available. Drive thru orders must be placed by no later than 8 p.m. on March 20 by calling 833-7737 to make a reservation for a pick up time.

Michelle Berg Vogel, a University of Illinois Extension natural resources program coordinator, plans to give an overview of Illinois' prehistory and discuss how archaeology informs and is formed by research in the natural resources in an upcoming free online webinar.

The webinar is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. April 14.

Registration is available in advance at go.illinois.edu/EverydayEnvironment.

Requests for reasonable accommodation can be made by contacting Erin Garrett at emedvecz@illinois.edu. Early requests are encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet access needs.

The webinar is part of Extension's Everyday Environment series.

Webinars in the series provide new information about natural resources inspiring small changes in daily lifestyle that have a positive impact on the environment.

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ESTATE AUCTION
SAT., MARCH 12TH, 2022 - 10:00 A.M.

Near Historic McLeansboro, in Beautiful Southern Illinois
Complete List and Pictures @Auctionzip.com

Having passed away, the Family of Kenneth Nelson, will sell his quality personal property, at auction. LOCATION: From McLeansboro, IL, take IL Highway 242 North, approx 1 mile.

Watch for signs.
2002 Chevy 1500 Ext Cab Pickup; 2019 Kawasaki Mule, KAF400 Side By Side; 1988 Case IH 485 Tractor W/loader; 1985 Honda Fourtrax 250 4- Wheeler; Starcraft 16ft, 40hp Fishing Boat; Troybilt Mower; Troybilt Tiller, Household Furniture; Appliances; Collectibles; Tools; Woodworking Equipment and More.

Auctioneers Note: Furniture to sell at 11:30 & Vehicles to sell at 12:00 noon.

TERMS: Cash or check w/proper I.D. Restroom on site. Lunch will be served. View terms and items online at www.auctionzip.com, keyword - Nelson.

Illinois Auctioneer license number 440000510. Any announcements day of auction take precedence over printed matter.

Family of Kenneth Nelson, Owners

DON BURKE Auctioneer
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Illinois auction license #'s 440000510

UNION COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Union County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is now taking orders for the spring 2022 fish sale. The pick up date is scheduled for Saturday, April 9th, at 2 PM. Fish may be picked up at the Union County USDA Service Center; 201 Springfield Avenue, Anna, IL 62906. The following species and sizes will be available for purchase: Albino Catfish 4-6", Channel Catfish 4-6" and 6-8", Largemouth Bass 3-4", Bluegill 2-3" and 3-5", Black Crappie 3-4", Redear 3-4", Fathead Minnows 1-3" approximately 150/ LB, and Triploid Grass Carp 8-11". All orders for grass carp must be submitted by Friday, March 25th. All other fish orders must be submitted by Friday, April 1st. Only exact cash and check will be accepted for payment. We cannot process debit/credit card payments.

For more information or to place an order, call the Union County SWCD office, at 618-833-5666 ext. 3. Call Andry's Fish Farm, LLC at 812-389-2448 for stocking information.

The Gazette-Democrat

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tfn

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nctfn

FORSALE: Laying hens and pullets. Call (618)-201-8610.

12p-13gc

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Looking for full and part-time Custodians for Shawnee Community College in Ullin. Apply at Main Campus front desk. Phone (618)-634-3200, ext. 3436.

51gpc tfn

HELP WANTED: Rescare is seeking DSP's for full-time evenings and midnights. Starting pay is \$13.50-\$14.10 per hour. Open interviews Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call (618)-833-7755.

12p-14gc

MAINTENANCE PERSON: Full-time position with benefits (40 hours per week, Monday through Friday) available to do light repair work. Must have general working knowledge of repairing, painting, plumbing, electrical, as well as, basic/finish carpentry skills. Must have or be willing to acquire appropriate license (C) to drive our box truck. Fill out application at R.A.V.E., Inc., 214 West Davie, Anna, IL 62906. EOE.

13g-16p

HELP WANTED: Part-time (will fill-in full-time when needed). Disabled woman looking for female personal assistant to provide direct care in my home. Background check will be performed. Must have own transportation. 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (618)-845-3858.

13-14gpc

HELP WANTED: Jonesboro CCSD#43 is looking to hire part-time bus drivers. Anyone interested, please contact the Superintendent's office at (618)-833-6651.

13-14gpc

CITY OF ANNA, LIFEGUARD

The City of Anna is accepting applications for part-time pool lifeguard positions. American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification is highly desirable, candidates must pass pre-employment background check. Applications will be available for interested candidates at Anna City Hall or online at cityofanna.org. Please return employment application to the Human Resources Department at Anna City Hall, 103 Market Street, Anna, IL 62906 or by email to agued@cityofanna.org. EOE.

13-14g

CITY OF ANNA, GENERAL CLERK (PART-TIME)

The City of Anna, IL is accepting applications for the position of a Part-Time General Clerk. Applicants must be 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. The position will be 15-0 hours a week, must be able to work a flexible schedule between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Candidates must have a positive attitude, be able to multi-task and work well with the public and employees. Duties include but are not limited to: greeting customers, answering multi-line phone system, collecting and posting payments, entering data and creating customer bills. Must be able to operate basic office equipment, proficient computer skills (including Window Office), and basic accounting knowledge. Applications will be available for interested candidates at Anna City Hall or online at cityofanna.org. Please employment application to the Human Resources Department at Anna City Hall, 103 Market Street Anna, IL 62906 or by email to agued@cityofanna.org. EOE.

13-14g

HELP WANTED: Head cook needed for Sunshine inn Senior Center. Experience in ordering, inventory control and supervision preferred. Applicants must have a valid IL Food Service Sanitation Certificate. Please call (618)-658-9669 to schedule an interview.

13-14gp

HELPWANTED: Assistant cook needed for Sunshine Inn Senior Site. Applicants must have a valid IL Food Service Sanitation Certificate and have a valid driver's license. Please call (618)-658-9669 to schedule an interview.

13-14gp

WANTED

ARROWHEADS! Amateur Archeologist is obsessed with the hobby. I am building a museum of artifacts from Missouri & Illinois, and would like to buy individual finds or whole collections. ALSO, looking for sites to buy or lease that have a lot of "flint". Happy to answer any questions! Call Sean, (314)-608-2692.

52p-1g tfn

YARD SALE

CARPORT SALE: Thursday, Friday & Saturday, March 10, 11 & 12. 108 Grand Avenue, Anna.

13p n/c

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4p5g tfn

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8-16gpc

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11p-29gpc

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of:
Susan M. Suttle Deceased
2022-P-08

NOTICE FOR CLAIMS

NOTICE is given of the death of Susan M. Suttle. Letters of Office were issued on February 14, 2022 to David A. Suttle, 35 Bluff Lane, Goreville, Illinois 62938, as Executor, and whose attorney is Thomas Downey at SElder Law LLC, 201 West Main, Marion, Illinois 62959.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk at the Union County Court House, Jonesboro Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before August 24, 2022, which date shall not be less than 6 months from the date of the first publication. Any claims not filed on or before that date are barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

11-13g

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

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity, but solely as indenture trustee of Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2017-RP1 Plaintiff,

Vs.
Diana K Douglas, Special Representative for Mary Ann Archey (Deceased), Damon Archey, City of Anna, Midland Funding LLC, as successor in interest to CitiBank, N.A., Capital One Bank (USA), N.A., Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Mary Ann Archey, Shannon Archey, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants.
2021CH5

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:
DAMON ARCHEY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF MARY ANN ARCHEY SHANNON ARCHEY UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit: THIRTY-THREE (33) FEET OF EQUAL WIDTH OFF OF THE ENTIRE SOUTHWEST SIDE OF LOT NUMBERED 14 IN W. DAVIE'S THIRD AD-

DITION TO THE CITY OF ANNA, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF UNION IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. COMMONLY KNOWN AS 304 SOUTH ST, ANNA, IL 62906

PIN # 14-00-08-303 and which said Mortgage was made by:

MARY ANN ARCHEY, SINGLE, SURVIVING JOINT TENANT OF ROBERT L. ARCHEY, DECEASED, the Mortgagor(s), to American General Financial Services of Illinois, Inc. as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of UNION County, IL, as Document No. 0in Liber 248 Page 613; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, on or before April 4, 2022, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

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

Potestivo & Associates, P.C.
223 W Jackson Blvd., Suite 610
Chicago, IL 60606

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that this law firm is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Our File No.: 313692
I3188611

12-14g

TAX DEED NO. 2022TX2 FILED March 01, 2022 Certificate No. 2018-00049

TAKE NOTICE TO: MARY JO HIGHT BUTLER; UNKNOWN OWNERS OR PARTIES INTERESTED; AND NON-RECORDED CLAIMANTS.

This is NOTICE of the filing of the petition for Tax deed on the following described property:

S34 T13 R1W SE SW, UNION COUNTY, IL Property Index No. 06-34-05-068

On August 10, 2022, at 9 a.m., the Petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL. The real estate was sold on February 5, 2020 for general taxes of the year 2018. The period of redemption will expire August 5, 2022.

Matthew & Kelly Bliss
Petitioner
12-14gc

TAX DEED NO. 2022TX3 FILED March 01, 2022 Certificate No. 2018-00021

TAKE NOTICE TO: MICHAEL R. HAYNES; MARY K. LOWE; MICHELLE LINGLE; SHAWN HAYNES; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISEES OF MICHAEL HAYNES; UNKNOWN OWNERS OR PARTIES INTERESTED; AND NON-RECORDED CLAIMANTS.

This is NOTICE of the filing of the petition for Tax deed on the following described property:

280 BASLER ROAD, COBDEN, IL Property Index No.04-36-02-913-A1.

On August 10, 2022, at 9 a.m., the Petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued in the Circuit Court of Union County, IL. The real estate was sold on February 5, 2020 for general taxes of the year 2018. The period of redemption will expire August 5, 2022.

Matthew & Kelly Bliss
Petitioner
12-14gc

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION:

Notice is hereby given of the disposing of the following described personal property which is stored at the self storage facility known as Wyatt Storage II, 100 Dogwalk Road, Anna, IL.

1. Name of occupant: Scott Strudwick
2. Property to be disposed of:

Misc. personal property
3. Time & place of disposition: March 25, 2022, Wyatt Storage II, 100 Dogwalk Road, Anna, IL, (618)-833-5653.

13-14g

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

ESTATE OF CAROLENE OLSEN, DECEASED. IN PROBATE NO. 2022-PR- 7

NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Carolene Olsen, of Jonesboro, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 28, 2022, to Douglas Bridgeman, 605 Barringer School Road, Anna, IL 62906, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

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

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

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before September 10, 2022, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: MArch 10, 2022.

DOUGLAS BRIDGEMAN

CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
13-15g

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

ESTATE OF ROBERT J. KOHLER, DECEASED. IN PROBATE NO. 2022-PR-8

NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of Robert J. Kohler, of Anna, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 1, 2022, to Beverly K. Hill, 6229 Signature Pointe Lane, Bradenton, FL 34210, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

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

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

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before September 10, 2022, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: March 10, 2022.

BEVERLY K. HILL

CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
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ARDC# 6244394
13-15g

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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: Gregg H. McMillen. Grantee: Corey Ansted. Tract Section 15 Township 11S Range 1E.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Donald E. Julian, Timothy L. Rice. Grantee: Donald E. Julian, Timothy Rice. Tract Section 14 Township 11S Range 2W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Garoll R. Ralls. Grantee: Garoll R. Ralls, Janice A. Ralls. Tract Section 5 Township 13S Range 1E.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Missouri Trust and Investment Company. Grantee: Renwood LLC. Tract Section 20 Township 12S Range 1W. Subdivision Name: Winstead Davies 1st Add. of Anna. Lot 17.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Patti K. Pinnon, Paul E. Pinnon. Grantee: Adam McMahan, Kelsey McMahan. Tract Section 4 Township 12S Range 3W. Subdivision Name: Rendleman Sub-division. Block C. Lot 3.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Tina D. Waller. Grantee: Jean Ellen Boyd, Robert Shane Boyd. Tract Section 15 Township 12S Range 1W. Subdivision Name: Lynwood Addition. Lot 17.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Lynn Franklin Eudy, Reba Janelle Eudy. Grantee: Lynn and Janelle Eudy Family Irrevocable Trust. Tract Section 25 Township 12S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Jean Livesay, Keith Livesay. Grantee: Michael Diller. Tract Section 30 Township 12S Range 2W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Cody Fricks, Robert Dale Fricks. Grantee: Anna-Jonesboro National Bank. Tract Section 19 Township 12S Range 1W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Salvador M. Alonso. Grantee: Brad's Collision Works LLC. Tract Section 20 Township 12S Range 1W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Zachary Glen Burris. Grantee: Ashley Roach, Michael Roach. Tract Section 19 Township 13S Range 1W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Ja Mar Land Company LLC. Grantee: Cache River Farms LLC, Dana Eddleman, Jama Eddleman. Tract Section 14 Township 12S Range 1E.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Southern FS Inc. Grantee: L&P Crabtree Investments LLC. Tract Section 20 Township 12S Range 1W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Maria Brennan. Grantee: Samonia Lee Newberry, Timothy L. Newberry. Tract Section 17 Township 11S Range 2W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: William R. Womack. Grantee: Erika Wheatong, Joshua Wheatong. Tract Section 23 Township 12S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Merle Dare Aden. Grantee: Mark Tyler Eddleman. Tract Section 21 Township 13S Range 1W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor:

Larry J. Quertermous. Grantee: Michael Dale Quertermous. Tract Section 12 Township 11S Range 4W. Tract Section 14 Township 11S Range 4W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Cheryl Diamond. Grantee: Cheryl A. Diamond, Maggie Diamond. Subdivision Name: Maplehurst Add. of Anna. Block 1. Lot 12.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Mary Jane Sullivan. Grantee: Judy Clampet, Thomas Clampet. Tract Section 19 Township 12S Range 1W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Gerald L. Myers. Grantee: Lana Fite, Gerald L. Myers. Tract Section 33 Township 12S Range 3W.

Warranty Deed. April A. Long, Jeffrey D. Morrison, April A. Myers. Grantee: James D. Peterman. Tract Section 20 Township 12S Range 1W. Subdivision Name: Forest Place Addition. Block 8. Lot 18.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Terry L. Foster. Grantee: Jacob K. Ellis, Madyson R. Maze. Tract Section 3 Township 13S Range 1W.

Quit Claim Deed. Grantor: Pat E. Mowery, Ronald E. Mowery. Grantee: Christopher M. Mowery. Subdivision Name: Forest Place Addition. Lots 15, 16.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Amy Penninger, Michael Penninger. Grantee: Cynthia Jean Cain. Tract Section 20 Township 12S Range 1W. Subdivision Name: Lewis 1st Add. of Anna. Lot 5.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Ryan Wade Dover. Grantee:

Andreu Gerardi. Subdivision Name: Richard Perry's 1st Add. of Jonesboro. Lot 7.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Salvatore Diprima, Sharon Diprima. Grantee: Burel Robert Goodin, Marissa Ann Gowey, Trevor Kell, James Chester Rose. Tract Section 14 Township 12S Range 2W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: John Wingate, Sophia Wingate. Grantee: Michael Johnson. Subdivision Name: Warren T. Browns Add. of Anna. Block B. Lot 5.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Jon C. Beisner, Tiffany Ann Beisner. Grantee: Jon C. Beisner. Tract Section 8 Township 12S Range 1W. Tract Section 9 Township 12S Range 1W. Tract Section 5 Township 12S Range 1W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Theodore Beanland, Suzzette B. Thieke. Grantee: Kimber Homestead LLC. Tract Section 27 Township 13S Range 1W.

Warranty Deed. Grantor: Gilbert Pedro Clements. Grantee: Martin Flores. Subdivision Name: A.A. Crowell Add. Lot 1.

Traffic Citations

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

Nevaeh M. Valliant-Hamilton, Carbondale, driving 21-25 mph above limit, \$257. Carl F. Sternberg, Cobden, electronic communication device, \$257.

Chyneshea S. Hays, Evansville, Ind., driving 11-14 mph above limit, \$257. Tristan D. Hale, Anna, transport/carry alcoholic

liquor/passenger, \$164.

Erin C. Stambulski, Carbondale, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$257. Donna D. Turnbo-Smith, East Prairie, Mo., driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$257.

Wanda L. Powell-Cantrell, Tamms, driving 21-25 mph above limit, \$164. Philip N. Rexing, McLeansboro, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$164.

Eli M. Good, Anna, operate uninsured motor vehicle, \$764. Breanna Shantel Wyatt, Pulaski, operate uninsured motor vehicle, \$733.

Weston Garner Woodruff, Starkville, Miss., driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$257. Ben D. Tyrean, Lafayette, La., driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$257.

Bradley S. Apple, Keyesport, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$164. Jeremy Adam Abney, Sikeston, Mo., driving 21-25 mph above limit, \$164.

Jessica D. Knupp, Jonesboro, fail to obey yield sign, \$164. Patricia A. Spurlock, Jonesboro, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$164.

Lynsey M. Gimmy, Carbondale, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$164. Brittany N. Cross, Jonesboro, operate uninsured motor vehicle, \$733.

Trampas J. Smith, Dongola, operate uninsured motor vehicle, \$733. Shawn J. Jones, Marked Tree, Ark., driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$164.

Levi A. Johnson, Ullin, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$164. Gracie G. Cook, Makanda, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$164.

Courtney T. Larimer, Anna, driving 15-20 mph

above limit, \$164. Joshua I. Miranda, Granite City, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$257.

Stephen D. Wilson, Enfield, driving 21-25 mph above limit, \$257. Traran R. McPike, Carbondale, driving 21-25 mph above limit, \$257.

Rachel A. Cobb, Anna, operate uninsured motor vehicle, \$731. Drake L. Piper, De Soto, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$164.

David Lee Wright, Fredericksburg, Va., driving 11-14 mph above limit, \$257. Julian A. Woods, Evanston, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$257.

Tyrone Anderson Pointer, Grafton, Wis., driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$164. Luis Barajas, Bartlett, Tenn., driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$257.

Devin W. Burton, Thebes, driving 15-20 mph above limit, \$164. Brandon L. Kane, Anna, driving 21-25 mph above limit, \$164.

Marriage Licenses

The county clerk's office issued a marriage license to: James Brandon Stewart of Dongola and Maisie Kathlene King of Dongola.

Timothy Scott Cox of Anna and Kimberly Rayanne Hamel of Anna.

Paul Jay Frank of Cobden and Bonnie Joyce Burton of Cobden.

Terry Jacob Lingle of Jonesboro and Trena Newman of Jonesboro.

Benjamin Marshall Coleson of Anna and Erin Alexandria Dillow of Anna.

Stacy Lynn Ayers of Jonesboro and Christina Marie Price of Jonesboro.

Logan Michael Rich of Anna and Grace Nicole Rendleman of Anna.

Television Listings

THURSDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	College Basketball (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	(5:00) College Basketball (Live)	Big City	"Gangster Squad"	"The Mustang" (19)	"Ex Machina" Tests alluring A.I.
7 PM	Station 19 (HD)	Young	For Richer or Poorer	The Blacklist (HD)		Bang (HD)		Big City	Winning	★½ "Return" (07) (HD)	"The Djinn" (21) A mute boy. (HD)
8 PM	Grey's Anatomy (HD)	B Positive	Call Me	Law & Order: SVU	Basketball	Bang (HD)		Big City	Jessie	"Cloverfield" (08) Monster attack.	Super Pump (HD)
9 PM	Big Sky "Do No Harm"	Bull "Safe Space" (HD)	Local Programs	Organized Crime (HD)	College Basketball (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)		Big City	Jessie	★★ "Swimfan" Obsessive student.	TBA (HD)
10 PM	Local	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter with Scott (HD)	Bang (HD)	2022 Paralympic Games (Live)	Unsitteable	Gilded Age	★★½ "The Ruins" (08)	Billions (HD)
11 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Local	Local	(3:35) Tonight (HD)		Young		Sydney	(4:5) Frederick		
11:30	Nightline	Corden		Late Night		Young		Raven	"Judas"		

FRIDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball (Live) (HD)	(0:3) "Movie"	(5:00) College Basketball (Live)	(5:20) "Movie"	Brilliant	(5:06) "Snitch" (13)	"Werewolves" (21)
7 PM	Shark Tank (HD)	Undercover Boss	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (Live) (HD)	2022 Paralympics	Basketball			BUNK'D	"Hellboy" (04) A demon combats evil for the government.	"Transformers" (07) Shia LaBeouf. Alien robots battle.	"Mainstream" Internet stardom.
8 PM	(0:1) 20/20 Investigative news. (HD)	Magnum P.I. (HD)		Dateline NBC	College Basketball (Live) (HD)	"Movie"		Owl House	Real Time Maher (HD)	(2:5) ★★½ "Disturbia" (07, Thriller)	ShoBox: The New Generation "03/11/2022" (Live) (HD)
9 PM	Local	Local	Local Programs	The Thing About Pam			2022 Paralympic Games (Live)	BUNK'D	Painting	"The Empty Man" (R)	(0:5) Super Pump (HD)
10 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Local	(3:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	B/R Gaming (HD)		BUNK'D	Sydney		
11 PM	Nightline	Corden	Local	Late Night				Unsitteable	Winning		

MARCH 10, 2022

SATURDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local	College Basketball	College Basketball "Teams TBA"	Local Programs	College Basketball	(4:45) "Movie"	"A League of Their Own" Women play ball.	(5:20) "Movie"	★ ★ ★½ "Free Guy" (21)	"Cop Land" (97) (HD)	Super Pump (HD)
7 PM	NBA (Live)	Neighbor.		Law & Order	GameDay	"Movie"		Big City	"West Side Story" Rival street gangs fight for control.	"American Psycho" (00) (R) (HD)	Super Pump (HD)
8 PM	NBA Basketball Milwaukee vs Golden State (Live) (HD)	Bob Hearts	Postgame	Dateline NBC	College Basketball (Live) (HD)		2022 Paralympic Games (Live)	Big City		(4:3) ★ "American Psycho 2" (02)	Bellator MMA "27: Burnell vs. Borics" (Live) (HD)
9 PM	Local	Local	Local Programs	Sat. Night Live (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Christmas (HD)		Big City	(4:0) Winning	(1:3) "Q" (82) Flying serpent. (HD)	Super Pump (HD)
10 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	I Can See Your Voice	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Christmas (HD)		Owl House	"Tenet" (20) World of espionage.	"Varsity"	Super Pump
11 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Sat. Night Live Sketch comedy.		Wipeout		Jessie			

MARCH 11, 2022

SUNDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	Simpsons	America's Got Talent.	Bracketology (HD)	The 27th Annual Critics Choice Awards Film awards. (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	"Big Hero 6" Prodigy & robot aid.	"West Side Story" (21) Rival street gangs.	"The Snowman" (17)	Billions (HD)
7 PM	American Idol "503 (Auditions)" (HD)	The Equalizer (HD)	Simpsons North (HD)	The Courtship (HD)	Wm Select (Live)		Law & Order: SVU	Raven	Winning Time	★★★½ "The Wood" (99)	The Circus
8 PM	NBA Basketball Milwaukee vs Golden State (Live) (HD)	NCIS: L. A. (HD)	Burgers	Weakest Link (HD)	NBA Basketball Los Angeles vs Phoenix (Live) (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	Hobbie	Winning Time	(4:5) "Freaky" (20) Girl lives in killer's body.	Billions "The Big Ugly"
9 PM	The Rookie (HD)	S.W.A.T. "Short Fuse"	Local Programs	Transplant "Jasmine"	SportsCenter (HD)	Wipeout	Law & Order: SVU	Jessie	Winning Time	(2:9) ★★ ★★ "My Cousin Vinny" (92)	Super Pumped "War"
10 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	SportsCenter with Scott (HD)	★★★ "Crazy Rich Asians" (18) Wealthy family.	The Thing About Pam	Big City	Game		Super Pumped "War"
11 PM	(3:35) Local	Local	Local				Law & Order: SVU	Big City	Winning Time		Billions "The Big Ugly"

MARCH 12, 2022

MONDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	NBA (Live)	Bang (HD)	Chicago P.D. (HD)	Big City	(1:1) "Cry Macho" (21) One-time rodeo star.	"Blood and Wine"	"Philadelphia" (93)
7 PM	The Bachelor "Finale Pt. 1" (HD)	Neighbor. Bob Hearts	9-1-1: Lone Star (HD)	The Voice "Dallas Mavericks coached." (HD)	(4:5) NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks vs Philadelphia (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	WWE Monday Night Raw (Live) (HD)	Amphibia	Winning Time	"Varsity Blues" (95) Drama (HD)	Super Pumped "War"
8 PM	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA Basketball Milwaukee vs Utah Jazz (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Hobbie	Winning Time	(4:5) "High Fidelity" (00) Lover in love. (HD)	"The Green Knight" Headstrong nephew. (R)
9 PM	The Good Doctor	NCIS: Hawai'i (HD)	Local Programs	Ordinary Joe (HD)	NBA Basketball Milwaukee vs Golden State (Live) (HD)	Dad (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Jessie	My Brilliant Friend	"Snitch" (13) Undercover father.	Super Pumped "War"
10 PM	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter with Scott (HD)	(5:9) Dad	Chicago Fire (HD)	Big City	Game		Billions "The Big Ugly"
11 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(3:35) Tonight (HD)		Dad (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Big City	Winning Time		
11:30	Nightline	Corden	Local	Late Night	SC (HD)	Burgers	Chicago Fire (HD)	Miraculous	"America"		

MARCH 13, 2022

TUESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	2022 NIT Basketball "First Round"	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	"Pacific Rim" (13) Humanity threatened. (HD)	★★★½ "The Wood" (99)	"Misery"
7 PM	The Bachelor "Finale Pt. 2" (HD)	FBI Kidnap girl.	The Resident (HD)	The Voice (HD)		Bang (HD)	WWE NXT "NXT 661" (HD)	Big City	Phoenix Rising	"Seeking a Friend for End" (12)	"The Djinn" (21) A mute boy. (HD)
8 PM	Local	FBI: International	The Masked Singer	La Brea	2022 NIT Basketball Tour "First Round"	Bang (HD)		Big City	My Brilliant Friend	(4:3) "How to Be Single" (16) City guide. (HD)	"After Yang" (22) Colin Farrell.
9 PM	Elementary	FBI: Most Wanted	Local Programs	New Amsterdam		Bang (HD)	America's Got Talent: Extreme "Auditions 3"	Big City	Winning Time	(3:5) ★★ ★★ "Ghost Town" (08) (HD)	"Boogie Nights" (97) Mark Wahlberg. An adult film star.
10 PM	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Last O.G.		Big City	Game		Super Pumped "War"
11 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(3:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Young	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous	Painting		Billions "The Big Ugly"
11:30	Nightline	Corden	Local	Late Night		Young		Miraculous	(1:0) "Kick-Ass" (10)		

MARCH 14, 2022

WEDNESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	SHOW
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA (Live)	Bang (HD)	(1:9) 9-1-1 Start over.	Big City	(5:30) "Tenet" (20) World of espionage. (HD)	"Let Him Go" (20) (R)	"Footloose"
7 PM	Goldbergs	Survivor (HD)	The Masked Singer	Chicago Med (HD)	NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks vs Brooklyn Nets (Live)	Bang (HD)	(1:3) 9-1-1 Mail bomb.	Big City	Phoenix Rising "Stand Up"	"Transformers" (09) LabBeouf. Alien robots battle.	★★★½ "Empire Records" (95) (HD)
8 PM	Connors	Beyond the Edge	(0:1) Domino Masters	Chicago Fire (HD)		Bang (HD)	(0:6) 9-1-1	Raven	Winning Time	(4:5) ★★ "Oblivion" (13) Tom Cruise. Vital resources.	"Diary of a Teenage Girl" (15)
9 PM	A Million Little Things	Good Sam (HD)	Local Programs	Chicago P.D. (HD)	(0:5) NBA Basketball Boston vs Golden State (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	Temptation Island	Raven	The Gilded Age	(4:5) ★★ "Mainstream" (21) Internet stardom.	
10 PM	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Frontal	The Courtship (HD)	Big City	Miraculous		Super Pump
11 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(3:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(3:35) Tonight (HD)		Young	Law				

Obituaries

Herman 'Tuffy' Ralls

Herman "Tuffy" Ralls was born on March 17, 1933, in Chicago, the son of Richard Herman and Marie Tucker Ralls. He was their third child.

He passed from this life on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022, at the age of 88 years.

Mr. Ralls was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley (Wilson) Ralls, who passed away on the 31st of January, 2016. They were married for 62 years.

His youngest daughter, Angela Ralls, passed away on March 10, 2018.

Also preceding him in death were his parents; his oldest brother, Louie Ralls; and his older sister, Ethel Ralls Hasfield.

He is survived by his oldest daughter, Rhonda Ralls Boyd and his middle daughter, Lisa (Mike) O'Neal.

He is survived by five grandchildren, Marc (Amy) Sheffer, Nikki (Jason) Landers, Terra (Kip) Lyerla, Lindsey (Mitchell) Kennard and Brett (Amanda) Huckstep; great-grandchildren Aaron Sheffer, Brooke Sheffer, Shea Landers, Reid Landers, Gracey Lyerla, Lauren Lyerla, Mason Lyerla, Easton Lyerla, Jace Huckstep, Jack Huckstep, Kohlton Deitrich, Ava Huckstep and Katie Huckstep.

He is survived by his siblings, Carol Ralls, Suetta Burris, Richard Ralls, Harold Ralls, James Ralls, Elizabeth Ramage, Charles Ralls, Melvin Ralls, Joe Ralls, Mike Ralls, Barbara Sullivan and Linda Eudy.

Most people knew Herman by his nickname Tuffy. He was a hard worker from a young age. As a child he worked in their garden and milked the cows. As a young man he worked pumping gas, he worked at the ice plant in Anna, he worked at the Anna Quarry, he worked at the Anna Fire Department and then began his final career as an ironworker, from which he retired. He had a tremendous work ethic and was an honest man.

He enjoyed sports. In his younger years he was a pitcher on a fast pitch softball team. He was an avid fisherman. He and Shirley spent many days and nights fishing. He also liked to hunt rabbits and squirrels. He enjoyed playing cards.

Many would have seen him watching his grandkids and great-grandkids playing sports. He was one of their biggest fans.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, March 13, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at The Blue Boar Hall, 820 Kratzinger Hollow Rd., Cobden.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to request those attending to bring a copy of a photo of Tuffy and a written memory to share with others and for a memory book.

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 is in charge of arrangements.

Roy Amos Pratt

Roy Amos Pratt, 93, of Jonesboro, died Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at the Marion VA Medical Center.

He was born on June 20, 1928, in Anna, the son of Roy Lee and Wilda Alma Toler Pratt.

He married Ruth Eileen Bevan on Sept. 25, 1971, in Crete.

Mr. Pratt is survived by his wife, Ruth Eileen Pratt of Jonesboro; sons Roy Lee Pratt of Ocala, Fla., and Tod Hinkle of Dongola; daughter Stacy Trevathan of Terre Haute, Ind.; stepsons David Mathew of Anna and Steve Mathew of Buncombe; stepdaughter Terri Jacob of Green Forrest, Ark.; 15 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Colleen Hinkle; a stepson, Clifford Mathew; siblings Dorothy Holmes, Nevada Hileman and Barbara.

Mr. Pratt served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He was a member of Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of the VFW in Anna.

Mr. Pratt spent his whole life working in an auto body shop and loved his work.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Monday, March 7, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with Bill Littrell officiating. Interment was in Casper Cemetery near 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.

Donald Turner

Donald Turner, 76, of Jonesboro, and formerly of Ottawa, died on March 1, 2022, at his residence.

He was born on April 12, 1945, in Jonesboro, the son of Clifford and Mae Rhodes Turner.

Mr. Turner served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era. He was a retired security officer in Ottawa.

Survivors include his nephews, Wayne Ayers, Jimmie (Daelia) Ayers, Mike (Debbie) Ayers and Sheldon Ayers; a niece, Darla Kirchner; and several other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and by two sisters, Jean Ayers and Bertie Ayers.

Per his wishes, cremation rites will be accorded and no services will be held.

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



Lillie L. Houseman

Lillie L. Houseman, 80, of Lick Creek, died Thursday, March 3, 2022, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah.

She was born on Sept. 8, 1941, in Anna, the daughter of Ralph and Vesta Fisher Rider.

She married Arthur Houseman on Nov. 23, 1974. He preceded her in death on July 26, 2017.

She is survived by her children, Linda (Gary) Herron of Oregon, David (Lisa) Houseman of Anna, Leanna (Dale) Stanley of Arlington, Texas, Dean (Kim) Houseman and Ed (Karla) Houseman, both of Millersville, Mo.; 10 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; her siblings, Violet, Joyce, Mary Lee, Earlene, Sam, Ernie, Sharon and Fern; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She also leaves her beloved dog, Bart.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her parents.

Mrs. Houseman was a charter member of United Missionary Baptist Church in Lick Creek. She was a member of the church's Woman's Missionary Union and book club. She enjoyed reading and crossword puzzles.

Funeral services for Lillie Houseman will be at 11 a.m. Friday, March 11, at United Missionary Baptist Church in Lick Creek, with the Rev. Paul Sadler officiating. Interment will follow in Ebenezer Hall Cemetery in Lick Creek.

Family and friends can gather from 9 a.m. until the service time at 11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials can be made to United Missionary Baptist Church or to the food bank at the First Baptist Church in Dongola. Envelopes will be available at the church.

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

To visit her memorial page and to leave online condolences for the family, visit the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home website rendlemanhilemanfh.com.



Carroll Ray Farris

Carroll Ray Farris, 59, of Granite City, and formerly of Anna, died Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022, at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

He was born on July 19, 1962, in Anna, the son of Tony C. and Edith Irene George Farris.

He married Karen Brown. She preceded him in death.

Mr. Farris is survived by his son, Travis Farris of Anna; a sister, Connie Douthit of Granite City; a brother, David Farris of Cobden; many nieces and nephews; great-nieces and nephews; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and by his wife, Karen Brown.

Mr. Farris loved spending time with his great-nieces and nephews and always enjoyed telling stories.

There will be no services held at this time.

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.



Edith Trexler Dillman

Edith Trexler Dillman, 89, of Ullin, died at 7:18 a.m. Monday, March 7, 2022, at Chester Memorial Hospital.

Funeral arrangements were pending at Crain Funeral Home in Ullin.

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

Crain Funeral Home

Reynoldsville News

By Sue Eudy

Kevin Eudy of Cape Girardeau visited Sunday with Sue and Steve Eudy.

Fred and Maxine Pender were married 58 years on Monday, March 7.

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 12, as Daylight Saving Time returns.

Spring begins on Sunday, March 20.

Happy birthday wishes to our daughter-in-law on Monday, March 7, Susan Eudy of Jackson, Mo., to our granddaughter, Megan Eudy of Cape Girardeau on Monday, March 13, and to our neighbor, Diane Dillon, of Anna, on Tuesday, March 15.

On Monday, Feb. 28, Naomi and Mike Clark of Michigan, Deanie and Jerry Hinkle of Jonesboro, Peggy St. Cin of Jackson, Mo., and

Vivian Bennett and Shirley Miller of McClure enjoyed eating at Logan's Steakhouse in Cape Girardeau.

Shirley Miller and Penny and Kerry Hill of McClure enjoyed visiting from Wednesday to Sunday in St. Charles and St. Peters, Mo. Shirley visited with David and Kristy Miller in St. Charles and Penny and Kerry stayed with their grandchildren, Tessa and Micah Burtin in St. Peters while their parents, Julie and Eric, were in Atlanta, Ga.

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.

James (Jim) Walter Neal Sr.

James (Jim) Walter Neal Sr., 74, of Bakersfield, Calif., went peacefully to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Feb. 21, 2022.

He was surrounded by his wife Patti, and his children, Jamia Smith, Jim Neal II and Staci Wright.

He was born in DeKalb, on July 2, 1947, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Neal.

Mr. Neal is survived by his wife Patti; daughter Jamia Smith; son Jim Neal II; daughter Staci Wright; brother, Mr. Chuck Neal (Judy); sisters Laura McMahon and Lois McConomy (Steve), all of Illinois; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; seven nephews; four great-nephews, two great-nieces; other relatives and many friends.

Mr. Neal was preceded in death by a son, Joshua; his parents; his father and mother-in-law; and a brother-in-law.

Mr. Neal enjoyed an athletic career in high school and college. His high school basketball team, the Cobden Appleknockers, earned state honors in 1964. He went on to play college basketball for Carson Newman.

Mr. Neal served in the U.S. Air Force during Viet Nam. He completed a degree in business from Carson Newman and a master's of theology from Criswell Bible Institute in Dallas, Texas.

He went on to pastor several churches and to maintain a successful career in sales, earning numerous awards before his retirement in 2019.

Among his life accomplishments was completion of a published book. His true passions in life were his family and service to his Lord.

He was fun loving, a competitive man. He enjoyed golf, telling a good story, spending time with family and friends, playing games and a good meal.

He always had time to share his heart and passion for Christ to whoever would listen. He served his community through his church, First Baptist Church of Shafter, Calif., with meal distributions, children and adult ministries, and was called on by his community to offer words of encouragement and prayer during civic ceremonies.

His life was full. He had the heart of a warrior for his Lord, family and friends.

Funeral services were 10 a.m. Saturday, March 5, at Greenlawn Memorial Park Southwest in Bakersfield, Calif.

Greenlawn Funeral Home Southwest in Bakersfield, Calif., was in charge of arrangements.

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

Rev. Thompson's message Feb. 27 was titled "The Transfiguration," with scripture from the Gospel of Luke.

The message shared that "Christ's disciples understood that He was the Messiah, but they were troubled by and did not understand when He talked of His pending death."

"The Transfiguration of Christ was a glimpse of eternal glory and an encouragement not only for the disciples who witnessed it, but for all of His followers.

"God calls all believers to not only glimpse future glory for themselves, but to be diligent in sharing with those who do not have a personal relationship with Christ so that the 'lost' may seek Him and, in turn, glimpse future glory, also."

The sermon March 6 was titled "The Temptation of Jesus," as recorded in the Gospel of Luke.

The message recalled that "after Jesus' baptism, He 'went into the wilderness' to fast and spend time

in prayer and 'conversation' with His Father, God.

"At the end of those '40 days' in solitude, Satan tried to tempt Jesus from being totally reliant on God. But Jesus rebuked Satan and was victorious over him.

"When we walk closely with God and seek to serve Him, Satan will try to lure us away. We need to be constantly vigilant, and prepared to recognize Satan's attempts to lead us astray."

Vodra and Aldi Gerard rang the bell and took up the offering this past Sunday.

Rodney Miller is Camp Ground Church's head elder for March.

Those having birthdays these first couple weeks of March are Amanda Batts on the 4th, Zoey Kaylor on the 11 and Mark Boaz on the 14th.

All are welcome to services at Camp Ground Church each Sunday. Bible study begins at 9:30 a.m. Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

Zoom will not be available on March 13, but is scheduled to resume on March 20.

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Anna News

By Martha Ann Webb

Please have news to me by Sunday night. Email me at marthaannwebb@gmail.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.

Special Thanks

To Kay Johnston for giving me credit when she renewed her subscription to The Gazette-Democrat and when Kay gave a gift subscription to Sharlet Evans and gave me credit for that subscription.

Guests

Of Rev. Tim and Myra Gossett were Mary and Wayne Stout from Moline, where Rev. Tim was former pastor of their church.

Mary and Wayne enjoyed attending church service with them at the United Methodist Church in Anna.

The Gossetts enjoyed the day with their friends after church. They had lunch at Giant City Lodge and took a trip to the Bald Knob Cross of Peace.

Happy 90th Birthday

JoAnn Keller from Barb Bauer. I think I can reminisce over some 70 or so of those years. I remember

first knowing the Hoagland girls when I got to Anna-Jonesboro Community High School. Pat, JoAnn and Doris were active and involved students to be admired. They were a close knit family who lived in a big white house near the high school.

I think of the profound impact that JoAnn and the Keller family have had on our Southern Illinois community. Their work to provide the best life possible for folks with special needs is remarkable and legendary.

Our paths crossed with the Japanese Exchange program when Jimmy, Norine and Bob hosted a young Japanese student. Whatever would they have done without Grandmom JoAnn? She undoubtedly contributed a great deal to that young fellow's once in a lifetime experience. Thanks to JoAnn for caring

for all of them.

We do not attend the same church, but I think we are on the same faith wavelength. JoAnn Keller's devotion to God, as well as that of her family is not kept secret but shared with others.

One more thing, I'd like to share is that I consider JoAnn my TAVR heart mate. When I was told that I needed a heart valve procedure, she had already been there. She offered invaluable encouragement to me. She paved my way to 90.

Thanks Barbara for this wonderful memory honoring JoAnn for her 90th birthday. I also wish JoAnn a happy birthday and many more. JoAnn has been an inspiration to my life also. Both of you have.

Outing

Cathy Ziegler and her brother, Daryl McCoy, enjoyed supper at Broussard's in Paducah on March 4 and then were entertained by Bill Engvail for two hours at the Carson Center.

Red Hat Ladies

Little Egypt Red Hat Ladies will meet March 16 at 11 a.m. at El Jalapeno for a St. Patrick's Day dinner and celebration.

American Legion

March 29 at 6 p.m. in the back room of the VFW, the American Legion will meet. Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. James Bonner, son-in-law of Homer and Janet Hawk. Everyone welcome and always looking for new members.

Honor Wreaths for Veterans

Special thanks to Elaine Shepherd for her donation to Honor Wreaths For Veterans for Anna Cemetery.

Special thanks to Mary Sue Treece for her donation for Honor Wreaths for Veterans credit to Anna Cemetery for William (Bill) Treece, Joseph B. Dillow and one for Makanda Cemetery.

Special thanks to all the coordinators for Honor Wreaths for Veterans

working so hard in their cemeteries to help with our goal to place a Honor Wreath for Veterans on every Veterans buried in Union County at our ceremony in December. Always remember to teach, honor and respect so our country never forgets what these men and women have done so we have a free country to live in.

We still have a lot of small cemeteries in Union County if anyone would like to take them over and collect money for the Honor Wreaths for Veterans. They are still \$15 each. \$5 of that money goes on the next years wreaths so we are always building money for the future.

All money is sent to our president Jim Koonce founder of Honor Wreaths for Veterans then he sends on to Wreaths Across America.

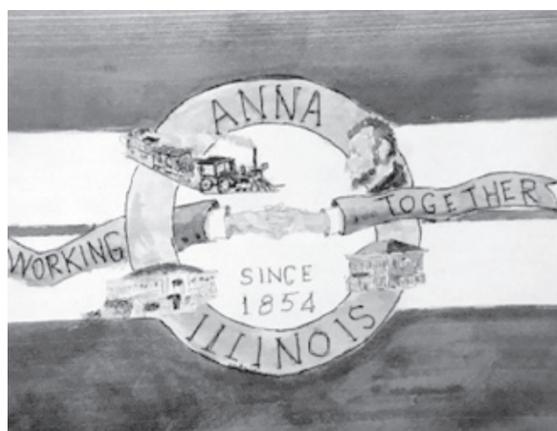
You can also pay online but when you do please scroll down and put what cemetery you are wanting your wreath for. If it is not listed put one of the cemeteries from Union County that is listed then contact that coordinator so they will know to save the wreath for you to take to your cemetery.

A special thanks to all those who have bought a Honor Wreath for Veterans. These are for city and small cemeteries a branch off Wreaths Across America where those wreaths are placed in our national cemeteries.

Hadley's Grand Gala

A fund raiser for Hadley's Haven, the play ground in our Anna City Park in memory and honor of Hadley Chase, will be at the Havisham House Saturday, April 23, at 6 p.m. There will be dinner, drinks, and live music.

This is a formal event and ladies are invited to wear your most beautiful, colorful gown in honor of Hadley Chase, as she loved everything bright and beautiful. To purchase



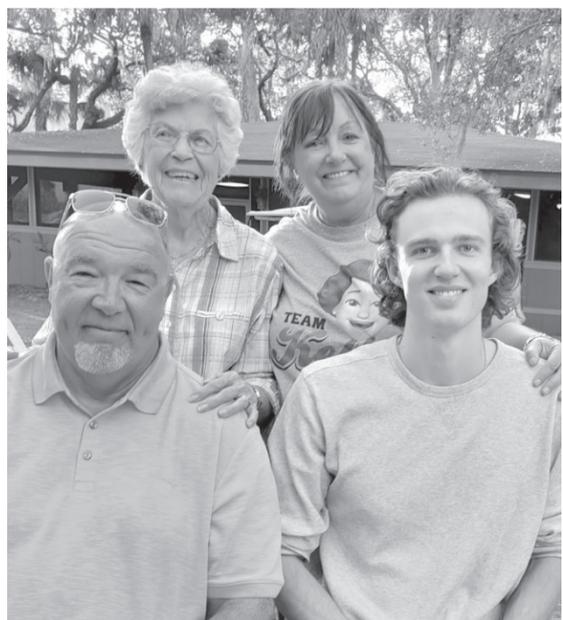
Anna city flag print Adolph Walter III designed for Anna's sesquicentennial contest by Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club.



Adolph Walter III in 2004 designing our Anna city flag for the contest the Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club had for Anna's 150th celebration. Adolph won the contest and the flag is flying proudly in front of Anna City Hall today.



A beautiful cake decorated by Kroger was celebrating new members Brinley Corbit, Natilyn Corbit, Kaitlyn Sullivan, Anthony Wiseman at the after church fellowship in the Family Life Center after church Sunday morning at United Methodist Church Anna.



Keller Birthday Party: Reminiscing about A-J school days of the past were Barbara Bauer, Beverly Chamness Tweedy, from Anna, and Tommy Davis Sr. and Tommy Davis Jr., residents of Florida.



Happy 90th Birthday JoAnn Keller: JoAnn Keller was honored on the occasion of her 90th birthday recently. Her children and their cousins organized a "Team Keller" family outdoor play ground (for great grands) and barbecue in the East Corral at River Ranch, Fla. Pictured around JoAnn Keller: her niece Verna, her son Jimmy, her daughter Denise, her niece Beverly, her daughter Dianna and her nephew Tommy.



JoAnn Keller was also surrounded by friends at her River Ranch, Fla., 90th birthday party. At left are Frank and Pam Gray Bartles, former Anna residents who now live in North Carolina. At center are Collin and Alice Boyd and at right, Barbara and Norm Bauer, all of Anna.



Sunday morning was confirmation and reception of members at United Methodist Church in Anna. From left are Kaitlyn Sullivan, Brinley Corbit, Rev. Tim Gossett, Natilyn Corbit and Anthony Wiseman.



The United Methodist Church in Anna women's choir sang special music Sunday morning, Give Me Jesus. From left are Teri Goldsberry, Carla Anderson, Barbara House, Nancy Hooks, Chris Foster, Kathie Watkins, Marcy Morris.



Rev. Tim Gossett is also pastor of United Methodist Church Vienna: Confirmation and reception of members was Sunday morning. From left are Jenna Waters, Jacob Waters, Rev. Tim Gossett, Addison Bloodworth.

tickets [HTTPS://HAD-LEYSGRANDGALA.TICKETLEAP.COM](https://HAD-LEYSGRANDGALA.TICKETLEAP.COM).

United Methodist Church, Anna

Confirmation Sunday, first Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion Sunday.

Lenten candle litany was by Sue Ann Zimmerman, Opening hymn was "It Only Takes A Spark To Get A Fire Going, That's How It Is with God Love"

Special music was Give Me Jesus by the women's choir.

Confirmation and recep-

tion of members Brinkley Corbit, Kaitlyn Corbit, Nattilyn Sullivan, Anthony Wiseman.

Rev. Tim told the children this was the first Sunday of Lent and we celebrate Lent because Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He rose from the grave and is preparing a place for all who believe that to live with him forever some day.

Rev. Tim Gossett's sermon was Confirmed in Faith, with scripture from Ephesians.

Men's Bible study is at 7 a.m. Wednesday. Women's Bible study is at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Choir practice is at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Game night is at 6 p.m. Friday.

Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 13. Spring forward and set your clocks one hour ahead or you will be late for church.

Congratulations

Daniel Dover is state-bound. First at fresh/soph sectionals.

Anna First Baptist Church

What are you giving up for Lent? That's the usual question this time of year. Jane is giving up chocolate, John is giving up potatoes.

This writer tries to give up housework for the six weeks, but that never works out somehow.

How are you preparing for Easter? Lent is a time that is not so much for self denial, but for self-reflection.

This was the theme for the sermon last Sunday by interim Pastor Pete Vinson.

The scripture for the day was Jeremiah 2:13, "For my people have done two evil things; they have forsaken me, the Fountain of Life-Giving Water; and they have built for themselves broken cisterns that cannot hold water!"

What causes a person to leave a beautiful fountain and go somewhere dry and arid? Our relationship with God requires daily refreshing and relying on the living water.

This is not always easy; our way seems better to us sometimes. Look for freshness every day and God will make you see things in a new light.

Pastor Pete related a sto-

ry in which a woman came up to him after services one Sunday and said, "Thanks for the sermon; I needed some "fluffing up."

We all need some fluffing up every day. We can have that by going to the fountain of Life-Giving water.

The Operation Christmas Child at Anna First Baptist efforts are in full swing; items to donate for March are coloring books, note pads and small books.

Thanks so much for this Cis Cuthbertson.

Anna Heights Baptist Church

Celebrate Recovery group meets every Saturday at 6 p.m. at Anna Heights Family Life Center.

Last Saturday was the last week of Upward Cheer and Basketball. Over 200 young people participated in this year's program at Anna Heights Baptist Church.

Also several volunteer coaches, referees, concession and set up and clean up helped to make this program a success.

Of course the parents, grandparents and family and friends were there supporting.

Sunday morning, Pastor Darryl Williams finished his sermon series Genesis the Beginning. This week Blessed and Being a Blessing.

Attendance for Feb. 22: 8 a.m. worship 86. 10:30 a.m. worship 117. Small group Bible study 216. 6 p.m. worship 33.

Walk Thru the Bible in the Old Testament starts on April 24 with three sessions. Sign up in Welcome Center.

Upward Celebration is Saturday, March 12, at 6 p.m. in the gym. Entertainment by Learning the Ropes.

Young at Heart will resume on Tuesday, March 15.

Momma Lou's Crafters will meet Thursday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. This month's project is carrots.

March birthdays: 10th Ben McFarland, 11th Joshua Oliver, Michele Tygett, 12th Eric Chen, Sharon Laster, ID Tripp, 15th Carson Altoff.

Anniversary: March 15 David and Lisa Houseman.

Thanks to Terrie Rhym-er for the news.

GFWC Illinois An-



Celebrate Recovery group meets every Saturday night at 6 p.m. at Anna Heights Baptist Church Family Life Center. Everyone welcome.



Anna Heights Baptist Church Upward Cheer and Basketball ended last Saturday. Over 200 young people participated in this years program.



Last Friday night Peggy Jerrell was dressed for her Star Mardi Gras karaoke party at the VFW. Her shirt was made by a friend from Louisiana. Peggy will entertain with a Star St. Patrick Day karaoke party March 18 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.



Jim and Jackie Koonce celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 4: Jim is the founder and president of Honor Wreaths for Veterans a branch off Wreaths Across America and the reason we are able to lay the wreaths in our local cemeteries in December when all the veterans buried in national cemeteries memory will be honored with a wreath. Thank you Jim and all our service men and women. Always remember to respect, honor and teach.



SIU show: Shown here at the "Women's Voices" exhibit and first program featuring some of the artists are Joan Levy, right, and Marie Samuel, who has fiber work in the exhibit. Both Joan and Marie have had solo shows at the Anna Arts Center. The next featured Saturday program for Women's History Month is at 2 p.m. on March 26. Marie will speak about her journey as an art quilter and Claudia Broom will be speaking at 3 p.m.



President Jane Bauer of GFWC Illinois Anna-Jonesboro Women's Club attended the District 25 meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Illinois. Jane was presented with a poster to be shared for support of April Child Abuse Prevention month. Jane is pictured with club member Martha Ann Webb.



Congratulations to Edward Dahmer who won 4th in his division in wrestling at Belleville and is going to regionals.



Feb. 12: David and Lori Ray made a trip to Lawrenceville to visit Corrie and Brooke Ray and children Drake, Taytum and Blake. They celebrated a belated Christmas, Valentine's Day and Taytum's 8th birthday, which was Jan. 3.



Grant Capel with Stephanie Cox, president of Union County Chamber of Commerce. Grant was guest speaker and told about the Union County Ambulance Service at the chamber meeting last Thursday at the Union County Courthouse.

na-Jonesboro Women's Club

President Jane Bauer attended the GFWC 25th District meeting in Marion. She was presented with a poster to be shared for support from General Federation of Women's Clubs Illinois for April Child

Abuse Prevention month. Birthdays

March 4 Jennifer Stokes, 6 Mary Casey, Justin Worley, Alice Ury, Karen Kammer-Tutt, Lydia Williams, Elizabeth Lanell Clark-Smith, Nancy Davis, 7 Ryan Neal, 10 Robin Neal.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

A Sunday morning worship service was held March 6 in the church and on Zoom.

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

A celebration of the memory of Geraldine Elkins was held. Her family was presented with a Memorial Roll Certificate. Her name has been placed on the Nazarene Missions International Roll in Kansas City and on the Memorial Roll Plaque that is displayed in the church foyer.

A PowerPoint featuring the life of Geraldine Elkins was shown following the presentation. Several family members attended the service.

An anointing service was held for a special need of the congregation.

The message given by Pastor Wright was titled "What If - If Only." Scripture was from 2 Chronicles, Romans, 2 Thessalonians and 2 Corinthians.

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

The church extends sympathy to the Ralls family in

the loss of their loved one, Herman "Tuffy" Ralls. He was the brother of Curly Ralls of the Anna First Church of the Nazarene congregation.

Fellowship Connect is planned at 6:30 p.m. March 11.

Breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. Sunday, March 13.

Adult and children's Sunday School is planned at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, March 13.

A morning worship service and Memorial Roll Certificate Service for Richard and Yvonne Graham are planned at 10:35 a.m. Sunday, March 13.

Quizzing is planned at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 13.

A Wednesday night service is planned at 6:30 p.m. on March 16 in the sanctuary and on Zoom, with the youth group meeting and children's Bible quizzing in the fellowship hall. The pastor can be texted prior to the meeting for the Zoom password.

The church can be contacted by calling the church office at 833-6702 and leaving a message if necessary or by calling Pastor Wright at 618-534-7103.

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Problems made worse by pandemic

Survey shows Illinois schools face worsening educator shortage

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

SPRINGFIELD—School officials across Illinois say a shortage of teachers and substitutes is forcing them to cancel course offerings, move them online or fill open positions with people who are not fully qualified.

Those are the findings of the latest survey by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, the fifth such survey the organization has conducted in as many years.

“Our schools need help, now more than ever,” said Mark Klaisner, IARSS president.

“For five years of our study, we have shown how schools are struggling to find qualified teachers and are under tremendous stress to provide the best education possible while understaffed and overwhelmed. COVID-19 has only made those challenges worse.”

The survey included responses from 663 of the state’s 852 school districts, representing 78 percent of public schools in Illinois. It was conducted in the fall of 2021 by Goshen Education Consulting, based in Edwardsville.

Overall, 88 percent of the districts responding said they had a shortage of full-time teachers, while 96 percent said they had a shortage of substitute teachers.

Districts responding reported a total of 412 classes were canceled and 385 were converted to online instruction because of teacher shortage issues.

More than 2,000 positions are either not filled or filled by someone not qualified to teach there, more than double the number reported from last year.

That includes the increased use of paraprofessionals – people who are not fully licensed as teachers but who are credentialed to work under the direction of a licensed teacher.

The shortage is most acute in the east-central and west-central regions where more than 90 percent of the districts responding said they had a teacher shortage problem.

But even in the northeast region where the shortage appeared to be least significant, 79 percent of districts reported a teacher shortage, while overall 77 percent of districts said the shortage is getting worse.

In an interview, Klaisner said the biggest shortage areas were among special education and English as a Second Language teachers, while science and math teachers were also in short supply.

He also said regions that largely depend on career technical education have had a difficult time with staffing. He also found “interesting” challenges in hiring physical education instructors.

Districts also reported having a harder time hiring administrators. Although the problem was less severe, 35 percent of the districts responding said they had a minor-to-serious problem hiring administrators, while 95 percent said they are receiving fewer applications for open administrator positions.

ISBE Data
 The survey results paint a different picture than the most recent state report card from the Illinois State Board of Education, ISBE, which indicated the teacher workforce has been growing, due in large part to the

additional funding districts have received from both state and federal sources.

“We are encouraged by a lot of what we can see at the state level in terms of growth overall in the number of full-time teachers,” Jen Kirmes, ISBE’s executive director of teaching and learning, said in an interview.

“We’re also encouraged by what we see in terms of educator preparation, programs, enrollment and completion. And so there certainly are reasons to be optimistic.”

“We also know that there are great needs in places still for classroom educators,” she added.

“But also, we’re hearing from districts about the need for other really critical support professionals who make school work for students like bus drivers, substitute teachers, paraprofessionals. And of course, especially during a pandemic, school nurses.”

Klaisner said IARSS does not dispute the data from ISBE, but he said 2020-2021 findings were skewed by the pandemic and the fact that most districts were operating entirely remotely.

“A lot of folks are scratching their head, like, how do you measure those numbers in a year where some schools were closed all year long,” he said.

“And what are you counting? Are you counting contacts? Were you counting the number of kids enrolled? Were you counting attendance? And so we recognize our data, as well as anybody else’s data over the course of (fiscal year) ‘21 was skewed to some degree, no matter what you did, because we weren’t really sure how to

count things.”

Kathi Griffin, president of the Illinois Education Association, the state’s largest teachers union, said there is definitely a teacher shortage that is being made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’ve been struggling with a teacher shortage for a number of years,” she said.

“We’ve had fewer and fewer college students choosing the profession of education for their college degree. However, the pandemic has just really brought to light the real, true shortage.” She said shortages have also been fueled by early retirements and by teachers who left the profession.

“I don’t think that the general public realizes the stress, as well as what is being expected of educators,” she said.

“It’s like, OK, we went back in the fall, and the doors opened, and magically everything was supposed to go back to how it was from March of 2020. And that’s just not realistic.”

COVID-19 Impact
 The IARSS survey also found that the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the teacher shortage.

More than 70 percent of the districts responding said the pandemic has created budget or logistical challenges that have increased the need for more hiring, while nearly 60 percent reported increased hiring of teachers and paraprofessionals.

That was in spite of the fact that during the pandemic the state has relaxed some of its licensing requirements and given districts more flexibility in assigning teachers to different grade levels.

Klaisner said those measures haven’t done enough to increase the supply of teachers.

“More and more people are exiting, and the pipeline just can’t keep up,” he said. “Flexibility is one thing. But if you’ve got hundreds and thousands of teachers who are leaving, the pipeline’s just not producing enough people to fill the gaps.”

Superintendents in 42 percent of the districts surveyed said economic instability and educator burnout caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had increased teacher turnover in their district.

ISBE’s Kirmes said the pandemic has definitely impacted the supply of substitute teachers.

“We are hearing a lot from school districts about the need for substitutes,” she said.

“And so we believe that that is part of some larger labor dynamics in terms of just competition in the labor market, in general,

for folks who can do all sorts of positions, including being a substitute. ... And certainly, given conditions with regard to the pandemic, there is an even greater need potentially for subs, especially in certain areas as the conditions change.”

Policy Options

In recent years, Illinois lawmakers have taken several steps to address teacher shortages, including passing a 2019 law that raises the minimum starting salary for a teacher to \$40,000 in 2023.

Klaisner, however, said that has not had the desired effect, especially in poorly-funded districts.

“We found, particularly the downstate districts that weren’t paying \$40,000, in some cases were having to eliminate positions to meet the statutory requirement,” he said.

“In other words, if you have two people at \$30,000, and you’ve got to raise it to \$40,000, then maybe you let one of those people go so that you can raise the (other) salary because you just don’t have more money in the budget. You can require a higher salary, but if there’s no funding behind it, then they have to make some tough choices.”

The regional superintendents are proposing several measures to the General Assembly that they say could help alleviate the shortage, including increased funding of the Evidence Based Funding formula with an additional \$500 million in the upcoming fiscal year.

Currently, they argue, more than half of all districts are funded at less than 70 percent of adequacy.

They are also proposing funding the Illinois Teachers Retirement System at 100 percent of the actuarially required level to increase confidence in the system.

Under the so-called “Edgar Ramp,” named after former Gov. Jim Edgar, the state contributes less than the required amount, but the contribution rate gradually goes up each year until 2045, when the plan is projected to be 90 percent funded.

Klaisner, however, said one of the most effective things the state could do would be to create new pathways to earning a teaching license.

“For instance, one of my favorite strategies is, if you came to me and said you want to be a teacher, what if I handed you a teacher’s license that day and assigned to you a mentor, and you had agreed to take classes at night and I’m evaluating you as a teacher?” he said.

“So now you are earning a salary, you’re in a classroom with kids, you have been built-in supports. And you don’t have to take two

to three years (of college), and student teaching on top of it, where you have to step away from your profession. I think there’s a real power in this sort of apprenticeship kind of model.”

ISBE is developing something similar to that. Last year, it opened grant applications to develop teacher residency programs in which colleges and universities will partner with local school districts or regional offices of education in rural areas to develop training programs in special education and bilingual education.

In a residency program, a teacher candidate would embed in a school for a full year, shadowing a veteran teacher while also taking classes.

“Residency programs overall tend to prepare a more diverse set of future educators,” Kirmes said.

“And also, educators who are prepared through a residency model tend to emerge from their preparation more fully prepared and are retained at a higher rate.”

Lawmakers have scheduled a shortened session this year due to the revised election calendar they adopted due to the delays in the redistricting process.

But State Sen. Christopher Belt, D-Swansea, who chairs the Senate Education Committee, said he hopes lawmakers can at least pass short-term measures to address the teacher shortage, such as allowing retired teachers to work more than 120 days without being penalized on their pension payments.

The long-term solution, Belt said, is to elevate the profession of teaching as something that is more respected and more valued by society.

“I think we have to do a better job – and not just Illinois, but the country – of really owning and telling the narrative of what the profession of teaching is,” he said.

“As it is right now, you don’t hear much about teaching in the public arena unless it’s salacious or something bad or ‘a teacher did this,’ and then you hear it. And you even have teachers telling their kids, ‘Don’t get in this profession.’ And so we really have to understand that this is one of the most noble professions that there is. No matter what you are in life, a teacher helped get you to that point.”

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

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Forest Service notes Snake Road closed



Early closing announced

The U.S. Forest Service has announced the early closing of Snake Road near Wolf Lake. File photo.

Twice each year, the U.S. Forest Service closes what is known to many as Snake Road, which is located near Wolf Lake.

Forest Service Road No. 345, also known as Snake Road, is closed in the spring and fall to help ensure safe crossing for several species of snakes and amphibians.

The Forest Service says that the closings come at a critical time of migration, from their winter habitat in the limestone bluffs across the road to their summer habitat in LaRue Swamp.

Closely monitored factors such as local temperatures and reptile movement can result in the Forest Service adjusting the road closure period, which normally begins March 15 and ends May 15.

Due to unseasonably warm weather and an increase in reptile/amphibian activity at the site, the Forest Service closed Snake Road early on Friday, March 4.

Though the road is closed to vehicles, it is open to people traveling on foot.

Special regulations apply to the area, the Forest Services notes.

LaRue-Pine Hills/Otter Pond is a federally designated Research Natural Area.

Unauthorized collecting

and handling of any species is prohibited under federal and state law.

It is important that visitors read and heed all site regulations upon entering, the Forest Service advises.

More information can be found in a snake migration pamphlet which is available on the Shawnee National Forest's website at www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee.

The pamphlet explains site regulations and has driving directions and a map.

Updates about adjustments to the road closure period can be found in "Alerts" on the forest's website or following the forest on Facebook or Twitter.

Sheriff issues activity report

Union County Sheriff Dale Foster has released a Union County Sheriff's Office activity report for the month of February.

Highlights from the report follow:

70 total arrests (including 18 on-site/domestic battery arrests). Seven warrant arrests.

12 felony arrests. 16 misdemeanor arrests. 17 traffic arrests.

Voter purge planned for county

Union County Clerk Lance Meisenheimer said this week that he is proceeding with plans to conduct what is called a voter purge.

The purge will be an update of county voter registration records.

"A voter purge is when we send out voter registration cards to verify that the address you are registered to vote at is valid and correct," the county clerk explained.

"If you feel that your address is wrong or needing updated, please feel free to contact our office to verify we have your correct information," he said.

Union County has about 12,700 registered voters.

Meisenheimer said that he anticipated mailing the voter registration cards soon...perhaps as early as this week.

Voters who may have questions can contact the county clerk's office at 833-5711.

Anna police chief issues monthly report

The Anna Police Department has issued an activity report for the month of February.

The report was issued by Anna Police Chief Bryan Watkins.

Highlights from the report follow:

313 calls to service. 13 criminal misdemeanor/felony arrests. Seven warrant arrests.

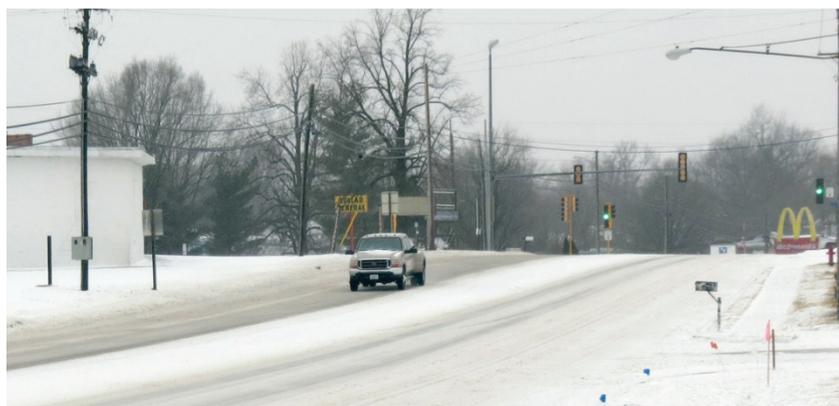
60 officer initiated calls. 41 warning tickets. 15 traffic citations.

Temperatures, precipitation above normal during winter



January snow

Falling snow was covering North Main Street in Anna on Jan. 6. File photo.



Anna street in February

East Vienna Street in Anna was covered with snow on Feb. 4. File photo.

The winter months of December, January and February in Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky were warmer and wetter than normal.

Temperatures

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that temperatures averaged above normal by 1 to 2 degrees.

The season started with record warmth, with much of the region experiencing the warmest December on record.

Local weather observer Dana Cross recorded a high temperature of 73 degrees on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

The rest of the winter was cooler than normal, with temperatures averaging 1.5 to 4 degrees below normal in January and February.

Despite two of the three months being below normal, the record warmth in December allowed a few locations to sneak into their top 10 warmest winters on record. This occurred in Paducah and Cape Girardeau.

The weather service said that it was also noteworthy that maximum temperatures averaged 3 to 4 degrees above normal, but minimum temperatures were near to slightly below normal.

In Paducah, maximum temperatures were the fourth warmest on record for a winter season, while minimum temperatures were only 27th warmest.

Both Paducah and Cape Girardeau set a record for the most number of days reaching 65 degrees or higher, with

20 and 16, respectively. The previous record was set in the winter of 2016-2017.

High and low temperatures for December, January and February in Jonesboro follow:

December: High of 73 degrees on Dec. 3, 25. Low, 21, on Dec. 12, 20.

January: High, 63, on Jan. 1. Low, 7, on Jan. 7, 22, 29.

February: High, 66, on Feb. 1. Low, 11, on Feb. 13.

Precipitation

Precipitation was wetter than normal across the region.

All three months were wetter than normal for many locations, but February experienced the greatest departure.

Paducah, Cape Girardeau and Poplar Bluff, Mo., all experienced one of the top 10 wettest winters on record.

Amounts ranged from 10 to 20 inches across the area, which was generally 4 to 8 inches above average.

The highest amount was 22.50 inches at a CoCo-RaHS station 4.5 miles southwest of Paducah. This was only 6 miles southeast of the official observing station at the Paducah airport, which observed amounts over 5 inches less.

Precipitation totals for Union County included:

December: 4.42 inches. January: 3.26 inches. February: 8:08 inches.

Precipitation for the three months in the county totaled 15.76 inches.

Snowfall

Most of the area finished the winter season with below average snowfall amounts

ranging from 2 inches to 8 inches.

The highest amount reported was 9.4 inches at the Du Quoin co-op.

Winter storms impacted the region on Jan. 6, Feb. 3-4 and Feb. 23-24. The first event was all snow, while the last two consisted of a mixture of freezing rain, sleet and snow.

Wintry precipitation recorded in Union County included:

January: 1.5 inches of snow. February: 3 inches of snow and sleet/ice pellets.

Big Muddy expected to rise

Recent and future rain in the Big Muddy River basin will cause rises in the river's water levels.

The Big Muddy River borders Union County on the northwest.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that a flood warning would go into effect Wednesday afternoon, March 9, for the Big Muddy River near Murphysboro.

The weather service reported that the flood warning would be in effect until further notice. Minor flooding was in the forecast.

At 9:30 a.m. Monday, the river's stage 18.0 feet. Flood stage is 22.0 feet.

The river was expected to rise above flood stage Wednesday afternoon and continue rising to a crest of 25.0 feet by Friday night.

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Opinion and Commentary

Union County Hospital welcomes volunteers

It's refreshing to see that the spirit of volunteerism is still alive in many communities. Yet when it comes to "me" actually getting out there, a multitude of excuses arise: the commitment and time factor, age and fear of not being able to make certain days. It's easy to find excuses for just about anything. But why should volunteering be a significant aspect of one's life?

"Volunteering is about taking part in the world, no matter what the age, and giving back to the community that is there for us each day," said Monica Schramm, community services coordinator at Union County Hospital in Anna. "It's about making the planet a better place to live and, believe it or not, any small step helps."

Some people simply want to do something good for others, and there are those who want to do something for themselves, such as learn a new skill or meet new people. Still others were at one point in their lives recipients of volunteerism and truly want to give back.

It doesn't matter the task or project, nor does it matter if you only have a small amount of time each month to give. Volunteering can be as simple as handing out juice at a blood drive; assisting at a health fair; or reading. You may not be able to lift heavy boxes for an event, but there are lots of behind the scenes ways that volunteers make an event come together.

"All you really need is motivation, a positive attitude and a willingness to learn," Schramm said.

At Union County Hospital, volunteers are utilized to assist patients and staff members throughout the hospital.

"Our volunteer application will capture an individual's areas of interest, which will help with placement," Schramm explained. "Our volunteers add a personal touch to help provide comfort to patients and family members, as well as provide service and support to hospital staff."

Currently, Union County Hospital has nearly 20 adult volunteers. Volunteering can be personally satisfying, challenging and fun when one uses his or her skills, talents and free time to benefit others. It shifts the daily self-survival and interest focus to others who aren't as fortunate. With the right perspective, one can't give without also receiving back.

Union County Hospital is seeking volunteers to assist with the gift shop. For more information about the volunteer program at Union County Hospital, contact Monica Schramm at 618-833-4511, extension 4359.

Commentary

Another devastating war

By Mike Estel

Some 70 years ago the world was devastated by World War II.

Though Russian President Vladimir Putin is not like Germany's Adolph Hitler, who initiated the war by first annexing Austria and Czechoslovakia. But he is knocking on the door to another war by doing the same thing with Ukraine.

There is no justification for Putin's forces to be devastating a country that wants to remain free.

Putin has stated to the international press that he is trying to stomp out any pro-Nazi actions by Ukraine. This is a country that has a Jewish person as a president. The Jews were the race of people Hitler was trying to annihilate in Europe and it cost 6 million of their lives.

Innocent people are again suffering today as the Russian forces continue pounding Ukraine with artillery barrages, rocket fire as well as from tanks and helicopters.

Russian has claimed they are not targeting children in this action, but how can that be avoided in an all-out war?

Sanctions throughout the world don't seem to matter one bit to Putin, who puts himself above the average person in Russia. You have to remember he was a former KGB policeman in Russia, which was akin to the Gestapo in Nazi Germany.

Gas prices are already out of sight in this country and with this conflict continuing the prices are going to sky rocket even a lot higher. Gas will not be the only thing that will suffer and prices for other food items will go out of sight as well.

Even some of the people in Russia have opposed what Putin is doing and have taken to the streets protesting the war. But those who have are being brutally taken care of by Russian police and a good number have been arrested.

I don't know what it will take to get Putin to stop this out and out aggression. Several Republicans have placed the blame for the escalating problem on President Joe Biden. But I believe he is doing everything he possibly can to stop this nightmare.

Our American troops have been sent over near Ukraine to reinforce the NATO alliance, but I hope that is as far as they go and don't get actively involved in a shooting war.

We don't need another devastating world war. Still, something has to be done to stop Putin's aggressive actions that's creating financial problems throughout the world.

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner



In concert...or maybe just side by side...two of the original eagles...or maybe just two eagles... I made a stop along a rural road, near some water...caught a glimpse of what I thought might be a bald eagle in nearby trees. Turned out it was a bald eagle...and...perhaps...an immature bald eagle, too...

This week is one for the birds...really...

We'll open this week with a "mea culpa," which is Latin for "boy, that was dumb..."

Last week, in the News Notes column which appeared on page one of the local newspaper, the editor (that would be yours truly) wrote that filing for the 2022 primary election would start on March 14.

Wrong. Filing started March 7. Don't know how I messed that one up, but I did. We'll just say that confession is good for the soul... Sorry about any confusion my faux pas might have caused...

Moving right along...

During the past couple of weeks, I've been fortunate, at least in my own simple mind, to have been able to take photographs of some critters of the feathered variety, including some that I don't get to see very often.

With that in mind, I thought I would share some of the photographs with you folks this week. Please bear in mind that when it comes to identifying our feathered friends, I am not an expert...

By the way...all of the photographs were taken right here in Union County. We are blessed to have such a variety of wildlife in our little corner of the world.

Hope you like the photos...

In the for what it's worth category...stepped out the back



Sure...we see lots of Canada geese in Southern Illinois... This goose was in a temporary "pond" not far from Anna which had been created by one of our recent rounds of heavy rain...

door last Sunday evening to check on the weather...and I could hear an owl hooting in the night...as loud as could be... Wished I could have seen the owl.

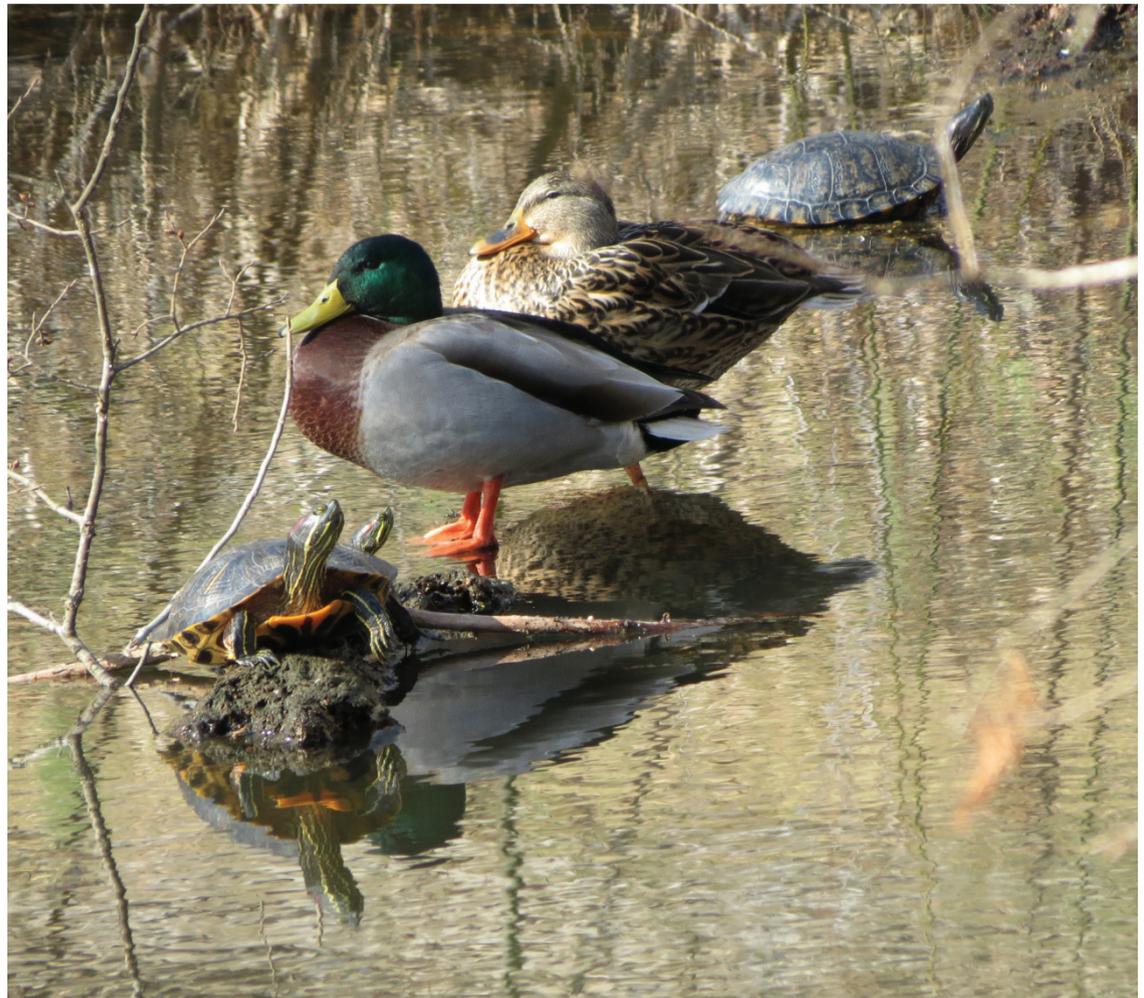
Meanwhile...

Daffodils started blooming in our yard during the past week or so...

The Other Half's young tomato plants have been doing very well...hope the cold weather that was in the forecast for this week doesn't cause any problems...



I was grateful to see a pileated woodpecker while walking through a wooded area on a recent cold and snowy morning...actually, there were two or three of them hanging around at the time...



A pair of mallard ducks...and some turtles, too...were sharing some space and basking in the sunshine at a local...and frequently visited...pond...

Red Cross: volunteers can help with variety of services, programs

The American Red Cross asks that people consider taking the time to help others by becoming a volunteer.

Red Cross volunteers support one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world.

The American Red Cross said on its website that

backbone." Almost 300,000 individuals volunteer their time to support the mission of the Red Cross.

They help staff blood drives, volunteer at veterans' hospitals, teach people life-saving skills such as first aid and CPR, respond to disasters and so much more.

Volunteers enable the

Red Cross to respond to an average of more than 60,000 disasters every year.

In addition, as many as 2.5 million volunteer donors give blood and platelets every year.

There are many different ways to volunteer with the Red Cross. Information about being a volunteer can be found online at redcross.

org/volunteertoday.

The Red Cross outlined work volunteers can do, which include:

Blood Donor Ambassadors: Blood donations are essential to the health of communities and blood donor ambassadors are a vital part of this work.

Volunteers in this role engage with blood donors

by greeting, registering, answering questions, providing information and supporting them through the recovery process at the refreshments table.

Transportation Specialists: There is a high need for volunteer transportation specialists who support hospital patients by delivering blood from Red Cross

facilities to local hospitals.

Disaster Action Team Member: Every day people are forced from their home due to fires, storms or other disasters.

Red Cross disaster action team volunteers respond day and night to meet the immediate needs of their neighbors. Training is free.