

# THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Anna, Illinois

\$1.00

Volume 175, Number 52

## News Notes

Items of interest from throughout the Union County area, from social media and beyond...

Reminder: Donations will be accepted through Dec. 20 for this year's New Coats, New Hope Campaign sponsored by WIBH Radio in Anna.

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Bethany Village and the Bethany Bazaar closed their doors in mid-November after more than 20 years of serving the community.

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The PAST organization of Union County plans to begin serving holiday season luncheons on Dec. 5 at its Heritage House in Jonesboro.

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December 7 is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

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An Honor Wreaths for Veterans ceremony is planned at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at the First Baptist Church in Anna.

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Volunteers are invited to come and help place wreaths at veterans graves following a Wreaths Across America ceremony set for 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Cobden Cemetery.

\*\*\*

The Jonesboro Fire Department is planning to serve a pancake breakfast Saturday, Dec. 7. The breakfast will be served from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the fire department.

\*\*\*

An American Red Cross blood drive is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, today, at Dongola School.

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Christmas at Kornthal Church near Jonesboro is set for 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12 with special music by the K & I Drifters.

\*\*\*

The Anna School District 37 Student Council hosted a successful food drive. The drive collected 785 items.

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The Union County CEO program is planning to host a come-and-go "Jingle & Mingle" event from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at the Davie School Inn in Anna.

\*\*\*

The Cobden High School girls' basketball team finished second at last week's Meridian tournament. Cobden players Dixie Kaufman and Natalie Franklin earned all-tournament team honors.

\*\*\*

Dongola and Shawnee schools are having holiday season dress up days in December.

\*\*\*

A holiday season Ugly Sweater food drive was planned when the Anna Junior High School boys' basketball team hosted Jonesboro in a "bragging rights" game played Wednesday night, Dec. 4.

(continued on page 2)

### High near 28 in forecast for Thursday

## December brings snow, cold weather to Union County

Old Man Winter paid an early visit to the Union County area during the past week. He brought along some snow and bitter cold temperatures.

The first day of winter arrives in a few weeks on Dec. 21.

Light snow fell last Saturday in the area. Little accumulation was seen.

Areas to the north of Union County received heavier snow on Saturday. The National Weather Service, NWS, office in Paducah reported that a location near Mount Vernon received 3.2 inches of snow last weekend. A location near Benton had 2.7 inches, while 2.3 inches fell near Pinck-

neyville. Du Quoin recorded 2.0 inches of snow.

Another round of snow fell on Monday. Snow began late in the morning and continued into the evening hours in Union County, covering the ground in white.

Early Monday morning, the NWS office in Paducah issued a special weather statement for parts of Southeast Missouri, Western Kentucky and Southern Illinois, including Union County.

The special weather statement advised that an upper level disturbance would impact the region on Monday "with the potential of producing light snowfall with accu-

mulations of a dusting and up to an inch possible in isolated locales."

Another special weather statement was issued Monday evening for parts of the region.

Monday evening's statement advised that light snow would exit the area by 8 p.m.

"While most of the accumulation has been confined to grassy and elevated surfaces, there have been numerous reports of slick roads causing accidents across the region. With air temperatures below freezing...the potential for black ice will continue into the evening hours. Even once the snow ends, some scattered (continued on page 2)



### Snow falls Monday in area

Snow was starting to cover a bridge in Cobden early Monday afternoon. The bridge carries old U.S. Route 51/ North Front Street over railroad tracks below.

## Holiday project underway at A-JCHS

A special holiday season project is underway at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School.

The "12 Days of Christmas" project started this week and will continue through Dec. 18.

The project is supporting the Comfort Closet at the Union County school. The Comfort Closet provides students in need with clothing, food and hygiene projects.

Everyone is invited to dress for the holidays while also bringing an item each day to donate to the Comfort Closet.

Each day has a theme for clothing to wear along with a suggested item to bring.

On Dec. 3, the first day of the 12 Days, the theme (and clothing to wear) was "Merry Merry Morning" (pajamas). The suggested items to bring were cereal or Pop-Tarts.

Here's a look at the rest of the schedule:

Dec. 4. "Candy Cane Lane" (red and white clothing). Canned ravioli.

Dec. 5. "Holiday Glow Up" (shiny or bright). Shampoo or conditioner.

Dec. 6. "Winter Wonderland" (blue and white, which are the school's colors). Instant mashed potatoes.

(continued on page 2)



### Union County CEO hosts Skate and Celebrate event

The Union County CEO program welcomed many eager participants to a Skate and Celebrate event which was held Saturday, Nov. 30, in the downtown Anna area. Skate and Celebrate was one of the many featured activities and attractions at this year's Christmas in Downtown Anna and Small Business Saturday celebration on Saturday. Light snow which fell Saturday afternoon added to the festivities.



### Holiday season, Small Business Saturday celebrated in Jonesboro

The young...and young at heart...joined in the celebration of the Christmas holiday season and Small Business Saturday last Saturday in Jonesboro. Jonesboro City Hall welcomed visitors with activities that included Christmas Letters to Santa, make and take ornaments, games and a chance to enter to win a Candyland Swag or a centerpiece.

## Christmas in the Village celebration planned in Cobden

Christmas in the Village is planned in Cobden on Saturday, Dec. 7.

A variety of holiday-themed activities highlight the event that will climax with a lights parade at 5 p.m.

The Old Feed Store at 111 N. Appleknocker will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will

feature a holiday craft and vendor sale. A hospitality table with refreshments will be offered. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Community Park (west of Cobden High School on NorthAppleknocker) will have a variety of activities.

Events include free hot dogs and s'mores by the Cobden Lions Club, inflatable games, a petting zoo and miniature horses, "The Legend of the Candy Cane" and "Gingerbread Village" exhibits and other Christmas themed activities.

A variety of food vendors will be located in the downtown park.

A quilt show is planned at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center at 200 Walker from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The show will feature a variety of locally made quilts with unique histories.

The Union County Historical Society's Resource Center at 103 N. Appleknocker (the former medical clinic) will have a vintage doll and train exhibit from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Union County Museum at 117 S. Appleknocker will also be open.

A craft fair and art show/sale will be conducted at the Presbyterian Church at 103 N. Jefferson from 10 a.m. to

4 p.m. There will be a display and sale of paintings by local artist and vendors with unique crafts.

A bazaar featuring holiday crafts and homemade treats will be offered at the St. Joseph Catholic Church parish hall from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. St. Joseph Church will also serve a selection of soups for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A "pick your own" raffle also is planned. Raffle prizes will include a full quilt by Catherine Gibbs, a crocheted aghan by Jean Cash, handcrafted earrings by Marilyn Boysen, original art work by Paulette Aronson, a floral photo print by Paul Cash and \$125 in Lotto tickets by the church's Sodality group.

The Christmas Shop for the Benefit of the Museum, located at 117 S. Appleknocker, will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will feature decorations, gifts and other merchandise.

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### Working on display

Frances Swedlund, board member of the Union County Historical and Genealogy Society, is working on the display the society is sponsoring during Christmas in the Village in Cobden on Saturday, Dec. 7. The display is titled "Gingerbread Village" and will be at the walking path at the Cobden Community Park. Other Christmas themed activities are scheduled for the event. Photo provided.



### Miniature horses

Noble Staley is showing off his miniature horses which will be featured at Christmas in the Village in Cobden on Saturday, Dec. 7. Also in the picture are Rachel Clutts and Connor Hartline. Photo provided.







Shawnee students, board members honoredShawnee School District No. 84 has honored students of the quarter for the first quarter. The students were recognized at a Nov. 19 meeting of the Shawnee School District No. 84 Board of Education. The students were selected for the honor for academic excellence, citizenship and attendance. They received a certificate and \$25 from First Southern Bank of Grand Tower.Shawnee School District No. 84 School Board members also were recognized in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Day. In the first row are, from left, board member Mindy Livesay, board member Melissa Criddle, board member Angie McMahan, kindergarten student Payson Wilson, board member Jennifer Webb, 5th grade student Ella Hale and 7th grade student Adalyn Follis. In the second row are board member Jason Stegle, senior student Cole Pender, board president Trenton Colyer, senior student Emma Young and 7th grade student Carter Phillips. Photo provided.

## Lawyer in the Library sessions set at Southern Illinois libraries

Each month at local public libraries in the First Judicial Circuit in Southern Illinois, volunteer attorneys are working to help self-represented litigants through the Lawyer in the Library program.

Organizers of the program note that with locations across the Southern Illinois region, free legal advice is available nearby.

The Lawyer in the Library program provides patrons needing help with a legal issue an opportunity to sit down with an attorney for a private, one-on-one, approximately 20-minute session, to receive advice or help with legal documents.

There is no fee, but preregistration is required at most locations.

On the date of a session, those seeking assistance are advised to check in at the library registration desk and bring paperwork pertaining to their legal question or situation, if applicable. The program may be limited to one visit per patron.

More information about the program, as well as preregistration to speak to an attorney, are available by contacting one of the participating libraries.

The upcoming schedule for the program in area communities includes:

Anna: Stinson Memorial Public Library, 618-833-2521. Attorney Gene Turk, Dec. 12, noon to 2 p.m.

Carbondale: Carbondale Public Library, 618-457-0354.

Attorney Christine Hines, Dec. 12, noon to 2 p.m. Attorney Gene Turk, Dec. 18, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Carterville: Anne West Lindsey District Library, 618-985-3298. Attorney Winter Campanella, Dec. 16, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Galatia: Galatia Public Library, 618-268-9220. Attorney Todd D. Lambert, no December session.

Herrin: Herrin City Library, 618-942-6109. Attorney Julian Valdes, no December session.

Marion: Marion Carnegie Library, 618-993-5935. Attorney Elisha Sanders, Dec. 10, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Olive Branch: Dodge Memorial Public Library, 618-776-9200. Attorney Julian Valdes, no December session.

Quarterly sessions are scheduled at the following locations:

Metropolis: Metropolis Public Library, 618-524-4312. Attorney Julian Valdes, next quarterly session Dec. 18, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Mounds: Mounds Public Library, 618-745-6610. Attorney Julian Valdes, next quarterly session Dec. 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Vienna: Vienna Carnegie Public Library, 618-658-5051. Attorney Julian Valdes, next quarterly session Dec. 20, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Those involved with the program voiced their appreciation to the following for their support:

Chief Judge William J. Thurston, First Circuit judges and circuit clerks, volunteer attorneys, library directors, library program coordinators and other library staff members.

Each Lawyer in the Library program is initially launched with a Self-Represented Litigant/Access to Justice Improvement Grant, ATJ Grant, funding through the Access to Justice Division, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

The programs continue with each volunteer attorney coordinating with the library and the Office of the Chief Judge, Brenda Sprague, executive assistant to the chief judges and ATJ Grant coordinator. [www.firstcircuitil.org](http://www.firstcircuitil.org).

## Holiday arts, crafts sale set

The 46th annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Sale is planned at the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Student Center Dec. 5-7.

The sale takes place in the first floor Art Gallery and Renaissance Room and runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 5

and 6 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7. Everyone is welcome, and there is no cost to attend.

The sale offers an opportunity to shop for arts, crafts and other items created or made locally. More than 80 artisans and craftspeople will be offering items of all kinds.

# Arts council to present musical ‘Into the Woods’



Cast rehearsingThe cast of “Into the Woods” has been rehearsing for the Shawnee Hills Arts Council presentation of “Into the Woods.” From left are cast members June Watkins, Micah Mengarelli and Aaliyah Prater. Photo provided.

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council is planning to present the musical “Into the Woods.”

The arts council announced that the musical will be performed at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council, 117 W. Davie St., Anna, on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m., Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 2 p.m.

“Into the Woods” is a 1986 musical, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine.

The musical intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm fairy tales.

The cast includes Logan Abernathy, Beverly Bain, Noah Cohen, Patty Cohen, Ethan Dillman, Hadasah Harvel, Melissa Isaacson, Leathy Mengarelli, Micah Mengarelli, Aaliyah Prater, Zack Rowatt, Lucas Salazar, Tymbrée Seals, Marisa Waddy, June Watkins and Sara Watkins.

The director is Jaylyn Althoff, a junior at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School.

Her support staff includes Patty Cohen, the music director; Macky Cohen, who is in charge of costumes and make-up with her assistant Brenda Wright; and Danica Morgan, lights and sound.

Tickets are \$15 and \$5 for 12 and under. Tickets went on sale Nov. 14 and are available on Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Ticket information is available by contacting Lee Hackney at 904-625-1109 or by email at [vabchlee@](mailto:vabchlee@)

## Anna church to offer ‘Gift of Christmas’

Anna Church of the Nazarene is planning to offer a “Gift of Christmas” to the community from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

The church shared the following announcement about the event:

Need time to wrap gifts or go shopping? Let the church have your kids (kindergarten through 4th grade) for a Christmas story

### ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the **Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024**, will be available for public inspection in the school district administrative office by December 1, 2024. Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact: Lick Creek CCSD #16, 7355 Lick Creek Rd., Buncombe, IL 62912; Phone (618) 833-2545, Office Hours 7:30 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Also by January 15, 2025 the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the **Fiscal year ending June 30, 2024**, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education’s website at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

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

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AS OF JUNE 30, 2024.

Local Sources 1000, Educational Fund 314,135, Operations & Maintenance 54,152, Debt Services 12,330, Transportation 24,510, Municipal Retirement/Social Security 30,652, Capital Projects 81,944, Working Cash 11,673, Tort 24,373, Fire Prevention & Safety 11,008; Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District 2000, Educational 0, Operations & Maintenance 0, Transportation 0, Municipal Retirement/Social Security 0; State Sources 3000, Educational 707,713, Operations & Maintenance 0, Debt Services 300, Transportation 76,554, Municipal Retirement/Social Security 0, Capital Projects 50,000, Working Cash 0, Tort 19,000, Fire Prevention & Safety 0; Federal Sources 4000, Educational 202,289, Operations & Maintenance 0, Debt Services 0, Transportation 0, Municipal Retirement/Social Security 0, Capital Projects 0, Working Cash 0, Tort 0, Fire Prevention & Safety 0; TOTAL DIRECT RECEIPTS/REVENUES - Educational 1,225,137, Operations & Maintenance 54,152, Debt Services 12,360, Transportation 101,064, Municipal Retirement/Social Security 30,652, Capital Projects 131,944, Working Cash 11,673, Tort 43,373, Fire Prevention & Safety 11,008; TOTAL DIRECT DISBURSEMENTS/EXPENDITURES - Educational 1,235,811, Operations & Maintenance 56,224, Debt Services 12,275, Transportation 83,467, Municipal Retirement/Social Security 23,389, Capital Projects 66,046, Tort 48,744, Fire Prevention & Safety 5,503; OTHER SOURCES/USES OF FUNDS - Educational 0, Operations & Maintenance 0, Debt Services 0, Transportation 0, Municipal Retirement/Social Security 0, Capital Projects 0, Working Cash 0, Tort 0, Fire Prevention & Safety 0; **ENDING FUND BALANCES WITHOUT STUDENTS ACTIVITY FUNDS - JUNE 30, 2024** - Educational 222,683, Operations & Maintenance 14,484, Debt Services 4,383, Transportation 220,950, Municipal Retirement/Social Security 54,927, Capital Projects 217,360, Working Cash 148,601, Tort 524, Fire Prevention & Safety 20,781. **ENDING FUND BALANCES WITH STUDENT ACTIVITY - JUNE 30, 2024** - Educational 318,908, Operations & Maintenance 14,484, Debt Services 4,83, Transportation 220,950, Municipal Retirement/Social Security 54,927, Capital Projects 217,360, Working Cash 148,601, Tort 524, Fire Prevention & Safety 20,781.

LICK CREEK CCSD #16  
30-091-1016-004

#### GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

**SALARY RANGE: LESS THAN \$25,000:** Patricia Struempfl, Michael S. Myers, Carlynn Q. Edwards, Jessica L. Elkins, Brittany N. Roberts, Brandi N. Kristoff, Amanda L. Smith, Nancy L. Cerney, Angela J. Alsip, Glenna J. Tripp, Richard A. Griffin, Gary L. Kelly, Jessi K. Watson, Brent E. Boren, Courtney D. Giltner, Kaylee M. Rose, Cora L. Edmonds, Janet D. Boyd, Trisha L. Myers; **SALARY RANGE: \$25,000 – \$39,999:** Candie L. Glover, Kristy J. Duncan, Sarah Richardson, Sarah M. Mefford, Lindsey Toler, Lindsay J. Nelson, Jason Butler; **SALARY RANGE: \$40,000 - \$59,999:** Crystal N. Knueven, Gary S. Cox, Bobbie J. Banks; **SALARY RANGE: \$60,000 - \$89,999:** Jordan M. Suits; **SALARY RANGE: \$90,000 and over:** none.

#### GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

**SALARY RANGE: LESS THAN \$25,000:** Tristan Brown, Alfred J. Moutria, Beth Schlenker, Roger Williams, Matthew J. Denny, Michael Sullens, Doug Vaughn, Rebecca Corbit, Kaitlyn Starr, Preston Cobb, Angel Helm, Greg George, Kim N. Shipley, Riley P. Turner, Ella Moutria, Gary Roach, McKayla B. Schlenker, Jennifer L. Moutria, David L. Robertson, Tracey Lechtenberger; **SALARY RANGE: \$25,000 - \$39,999:** Sherri L. Houseman, Caron M. Sullens; **SALARY RANGE: \$40,000 - \$59,999:** none; **SALARY RANGE: \$60,000 and over:** none.

LICK CREEK CCSD #16  
30-091-1016-004

#### Payments over \$25,000, excluding wages and salaries

**Person, Firm or Corporation/Aggregate Amount –** Anna State Bank 12,275.13, Beussink Hickam & Kochel PC 7,215.00, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois 29,834.14, BMO Financial Group 79,839.17, Class VIII Upfitters & Repair 10,872.27, Clearwave Communications 10,152.70, Common Goal Systems Inc 10,623.20, Ewert, Inc 12,019.27, Hall’s Service Company 12,824.39, HD Supply 3,064.79, Home Depot Pro 2,988.82, IDES – Collections Section 14,196.00, Illinois Assoc of School Boards 2,578.00, Illinois Dept of Revenue 38,979.57, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund 13,783.70, Internal Revenue Service 102,273.13, Johns Lawn Care 2,755.00, Julie L. Draper 10,755.00, Knapp Oil Co. 7,629.99, Lick Creek Activity Fund 6,587.55, Lick Creek Public Water District 3,266.13, M & M Floor Care 3,420.64, MFA Oil 9,598.61, Miller, Tracy, Braun, Funk & Miller Ltd 3,230.00, MobyMax Education, LLC 3,547.50, Osbourne Office Equipment 2,518.50, Phalin Electric LLC 9,428.49, Prairie Farms Dairy 8,125.34, Prairie State Insurance Cooperative 33,717.93, Pro Playgrounds 5,199.00, Quality Network Solutions, Inc. 22,072.52, Renaissance Learning, Inc 3,624.00, Rustys Home Center 5,343.33, Schlenker Plumbing 4,022.15, Sonitrol Security Systems 2,630.60, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 15,337.66, Southern Illinois Piping Contractors 156,978.97, Teachers Retirement System 76,928.60, Tina Carter 12,000, Tri County Special Education Dist 55,683.75, US Foods, Inc 31,948.45, Wrightway Transportation 26,872.32, ZEARN 2,500.00

# Jonesboro School Beta Club members participate in Leadership Summit



**Jonesboro School Beta Club members**  
Jonesboro School Beta Club members include, in the first row, from left, Trent Miller, Levi Hill and Hayden Lewis. In the second row are Smith Wilson, Gabby Newberry and Kynlee Needling. In the third row are Kylie Dillow, Lindyn Eudy, Alli Leek and Clara Mix. Photo provided.

National Beta Club 8th grade members from Jonesboro School are celebrating their recent participation in a recent multi-state Leadership Summit.

The Leadership Summit was held Sept. 25-26 at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

Jonesboro School Beta Club members were announced as qualifiers in the following challenges:

Project Proposal (with a perfect score): Gabby Newberry, Kynlee Needling and Smith Wilson.

Collaboration Connection: Lindyn Eudy, Clara Mix, Kylie Dillow and Alli Leek.

Lead Outside the Box: Levi Hill, Trent Miller and Hayden Lewis.

Mrs. Pamela Turner is the group's sponsor.

National Beta Leadership Summits bring together students from multiple states for one- to two-day events.

During that time, students work with interactive speakers who engage members through introspective exercises and team-building activities.

Clubs can also participate in team-based leadership challenges which test their communication, critical thinking, creativity, presentation and collaboration skills.

Their victories at this level provide the opportunity to compete at the national level.

The national convention is scheduled in the summer of 2025 at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

In addition, the entire club plans to compete at the state convention, which is scheduled in March 2025 in Springfield.

Jonesboro Beta members are raising money to compete at the conventions.

Jonesboro Beta members are selling Texas Roadhouse gift cards in increments from \$5 to \$100.

Club members have also partnered with Country Roads Flowers & Gifts. For \$100, one person will receive a beautiful, boxed glass vase with a punch card for a bouquet to pick up each month, from January to June in 2025.

Those who are interested in either fund-raiser were asked to email email pturner@jonesboro43.com.

## Community Service Projects

Jonesboro School Beta Club is very active in community service projects.

Currently, Jonesboro School is having a school-wide food drive. Anyone is welcome to drop off nonperishable food, especially holiday foods, such as non-refrigerated canned hams, green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy or stuffing mixes to the school office. Donations were being accepted through Dec. 6.

In addition, Jonesboro School Beta Club is helping

the Jonesboro Fire Department at its annual pancake breakfast. The breakfast is planned from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Dec. 7 at the Jonesboro Fire Department. Donations will be accepted. Money raised goes to "Shop with a Fireman," which helps Jonesboro children in need during the Christmas season.

With more than 500,000 active members and 14,000 clubs nationally and internationally, National Beta has become the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization.

National Beta promotes the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students.



## Stinson Memorial Public Library closed due to boiler issues

Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna is closed to the public this week due to boiler issues.

"Unfortunately, the library is currently having boiler issues. Due to these reasons, we're closed to the public this week and will not be having our Landscape Preservations meet and greet. It is pretty chilly in our stone building," Stinson Memorial Library District director Sarah Watkins shared in an email.

The library district has extended hours at its branch in Cobden. Hours are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Patrons are encouraged to arrange curbside pickup by calling the Cobden branch at 618-893-4637.

Frank Martin, who is completing the Landscape Study of Stinson Library's Historic Structure Report, was scheduled to be at the library Thursday, today, for a public meeting about the project.



**A-J all-tournament players**  
Anna-Jonesboro Community High School girls' basketball team members Kansas Craig and Jayda Shepard earned all-tournament team honors at this past week's Harrisburg Lady Bulldog Preview Basketball Tournament. Craig and Shepard both are juniors.

## A-JCHS announces members of cast for production of 'Grease!'

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School has announced members of the cast for the upcoming production of the musical "Grease!"

The school posted the following cast members on social media:

Danny Zuko: Lucas Salazar. Sandy Dumbrowski: Ava Boreup. Betty Rizzo: Ruby Yates. Frenchy: Lauren Jackson

Marty: Aaliyah Prater. Jan: Aryanna Ozment. Doody: Adam Clark. Kenickie: Logan Abernathy. Sonny LaTierri: Aiden Colson.

Roger: Lucas Tehandón. Vince Fontaine/Teen An-

gel: Kady Grant. Charlene "Cha Cha" DiGregorio: Enma Piqueras.

Eugene Florczyk: Seth Cochran. Johnny Casino: Cricket Koehn. Miss Lynch: Alexis Houseman. Patty Simcox: Elliott Poulos. Radio Voice: Missy Isaacson.

Drive-in Movie Voices: Scientist: Addison Farris. Hero's Voice: Keara Bible. Sheila's Voice: Ana Kerr. Girl's Voice: Lane Piller.

The Pink Ladies: Addison Farris, Keara Bible, Ana Kerr, Missy Isaacson, Serenity McHughes, Mackenzie Barnhart, Natilyn Corbit, Lane Piller.

## IDNR announces harvest for firearm deer season

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 54,661 deer during the first weekend of the Illinois firearm deer season between Nov. 22-24.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, reported that comparatively, hunters took 53,348 and 52,354 deer during the first firearm weekends in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Illinois' seven-day firearm deer season will conclude Dec. 5-8.

Remaining 2024-2025 deer hunting opportunities in Illinois include:

Muzzleloader-only deer season Dec. 13-15.

Late-winter antlerless-only and chronic wasting disease deer seasons in select counties only, Dec. 26-29 and Jan. 17-19.

Archery deer season continues through Jan. 19. IDNR

noted that archery deer hunting is closed Dec. 5-8 in counties open for firearm deer season.

First weekend firearm deer season harvest totals for area counties included:

Alexander County: 225 in 2024, 199 in 2023, 239 in 2022.

Jackson County: 1,355 in 2024, 1,371 in 2023, 1,484 in 2022.

Johnson County: 759 in 2024, 749 in 2023, 874 in 2022.

Massac County: 235 in 2024, 247 in 2023, 268 in 2022.

Pulaski County: 206 in 2024, 208 in 2023, 222 in 2022.

Union County: 798 in 2024, 813 in 2023, 812 in 2022.

Williamson County: 1,165 in 2024, 1,163 in 2023, 1,287 in 2022.

## Christmas Bird Count topic of program set in Carbondale

Christmas Bird Counts in Southern Illinois will be the topic of a program planned Friday evening, Dec. 6, in Carbondale.

The program, "ABC's of a CBC (Christmas Bird Count)," is set for 6 p.m. Friday in the meeting room at Carbondale Township Hall.

Township hall is located at 217 E. Main St. in Carbondale. Entrance is in the rear of the building, off 216 E. Monroe St., where two parking lots are available.

The program is sponsored by the Southern Illinois Audubon Society.

Christmas Bird Counts, CBCs, in Southernmost Illinois are a longstanding tradition.

At the Dec. 6 program, Uni-

versity of Illinois Extension horticulture educator Kimberly Rohling will go over the history of the CBC, National Audubon CBC policies, local count circles locations and compilers and counting practices.

Organizers said that attendance is recommended for anyone who may be thinking about participating in a CBC for the first-time.

CBC compilers Vicki Lang-Mendenhall and Rhonda Rothrock are also scheduled to be in attendance.

To learn more about the annual Christmas Bird count, visit the National Audubon Christmas Bird Count website at <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count>.

## A-J runners, coach earn recognition

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School is voicing pride in members of its girls' cross county team and the squad's coach.

Seven members of the team have earned All-South recognition.

A-J runners on the All-South first team include sophomore Jadyn Gerardi, junior Aleah Box and freshman Melaina Bundren.

Second-team honors went to junior Raegan Jones, senior Zoe Jones, sophomore Kinley Leek and junior Kenzie Miller.

"We're so proud of these athletes for their incredible performances and hard work this season," the school shared on social media.

Matt Denny, the head coach of the team, has been honored as the 1A All-South cross country coach of the year.

"Your dedication, leadership, and passion have inspired your athletes to reach incredible heights. Thank you for all you do to build champions on and off the course," the school shared.

## Greenhouse gas emissions addressed

The Illinois Department of Transportation has received \$31.6 million in federal funds to develop a program to expand the use of clean construction materials that result in reduced levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

The award aims to support clean American manufacturing while reducing pollution from the production of concrete, steel, asphalt and other materials.

Illinois is one of 39 recipients to receive a combined \$1.2 billion through the Federal Highway Administration's Low Carbon Transportation Materials Program. The \$31.6 million award is the maximum amount.

In receiving the grant, IDOT will continue working with its research partners and members of industry to create new processes to quantify emissions impacts of construction materials and deploy innovative low carbon materials on actual projects.

## Anna VFW calendar of events

Veterans of Foreign Wars Carroll P. Foster Post No. 3455 of Anna has announced its schedule of events. The post is located at 70 VFW Ln. near Anna. The schedule includes:

There will be no fish fry in December.

**Auxiliary Cookie Sale:** One dozen cookies with a little extra surprise packed in a Christmas box for \$15 each. All proceeds stay local to help veterans. Deadline to order: Dec. 14. Call or text Diane at 618-614-2168 or Cassie at 618-697-5845 to place an order.

Taco Tuesday is planned Dec. 10 and Dec. 17. Serving will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tacos are \$3 each or two for \$5.

A corn hole tournament is planned at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 5, Dec. 12, Dec. 19 and Dec. 26.

Star Karaoke is scheduled to be at the post from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Dec. 6. No fish fry this month.

Mystify Music is scheduled to be at the post from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dec. 13.

The canteen is scheduled to be open from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 1 p.m. to 12 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. The canteen will be closed on Christmas Day.



**Holiday season bounce houses**  
Bounce houses with a holiday season theme were one of the many featured activities and attractions at this year's Christmas in Downtown Anna and Small Business Saturday celebration held Saturday, Nov. 30, in Anna. Light snow fell Saturday afternoon to add to the festive spirit of the celebration.

## PAST to host Holiday Luncheons at Heritage House in Jonesboro



**PAST welcomes special folks**  
Some very special folks have arrived at PAST's Heritage House in Jonesboro in preparation for the Christmas Luncheons in December. Wendy "Winks" Winkelman and Bill Bultinick (Mr. and Mrs.) are relatively new to Union County. They came from Minnesota and are active community members now in Cobden and Anna. Wendy and Bill share her art in quilts and a bit of their Norwegian-Swedish culture and holiday joy.



**Norway's mascot**  
Norway's mascot "nisse," or protective gnome, peeks over Wendy's pieced nisse quilt.

*Note: The following article and the accompanying photographs were shared by Barbara Bauer on behalf of the PAST organization of Union County.*

"It's a Peppermint World" is the theme for the 2024 PAST Holiday Luncheons.

PAST's Heritage House at 102 S. Main St. in Jonesboro has been a "Santa's

workshop" of activity in preparation for the Holiday Luncheons.

Preparations were being made by PAST Friends and board members for savory luncheons to be served on Dec. 5, 6 and 7 and on Dec. 11, 12, 13 and 14.

The Heritage House dining room, parlor and Lincoln Room are decorated in fes-

tive splendor for this joyful occasion.

Heritage House doors will open at 11:30 a.m. Guests are invited to tour the museum rooms and exhibits before and after the noon mealtime.

Guest exhibitor Wendy Winkelman is new to the world of quilting, but she has wasted no time in making it her craft and passion. She is no stranger in many of the fabric shops from Anna to Minneapolis. She can select textiles, piece and construct quilts and has a new long arm quilting machine in her "Quilt Shop."

"Wendy Winks," as she is fondly tagged, has yet another interesting sideline. Along with husband Bill, she shares their Scandinavian heritage.

Both have Norwegian grandparents and both enjoy membership in the Sons of Norway organization. They both grew up in Minnesota, but moved to Union County to be near a daughter and granddaughter who live here.

Wendy has a Swedish parent, as well as a Norwegian one, so her quilt projects and displays are enhanced with Swedish and Norwegian culture. Expect to see a few "nisses" and other traditions and customs in her work.

Luncheon guests are invited to arrive at 11 a.m. to have time to visit the displays before lunch is served at noon. Exhibits are available to view after the luncheon, as well.

The Christmas Luncheons are an annual fund raiser for Heritage House. Proceeds are used for maintenance of the house, to keep the museum admittance free or to support historical and educational projects of PAST.

PAST of Union County seeks to Promote Appreciation of Structural Treasures and to tell and preserve the stories of the people connected to them.

(Reservations are required for the luncheons. Tickets are \$25. PAST had asked that reservations be made by Nov. 30. For more information, call 618-697-1870 and leave a message or email hileman14@frontier.com.)

The Christmas Luncheons are an annual fund raiser for Heritage House. Proceeds are used for maintenance of the house, to keep the museum admittance free or to support historical and educational projects of PAST.

PAST of Union County seeks to Promote Appreciation of Structural Treasures and to tell and preserve the stories of the people connected to them.

### Cobden Women's Club plans to meet

The Cobden Women's Club plans to meet Thursday, Dec. 12.

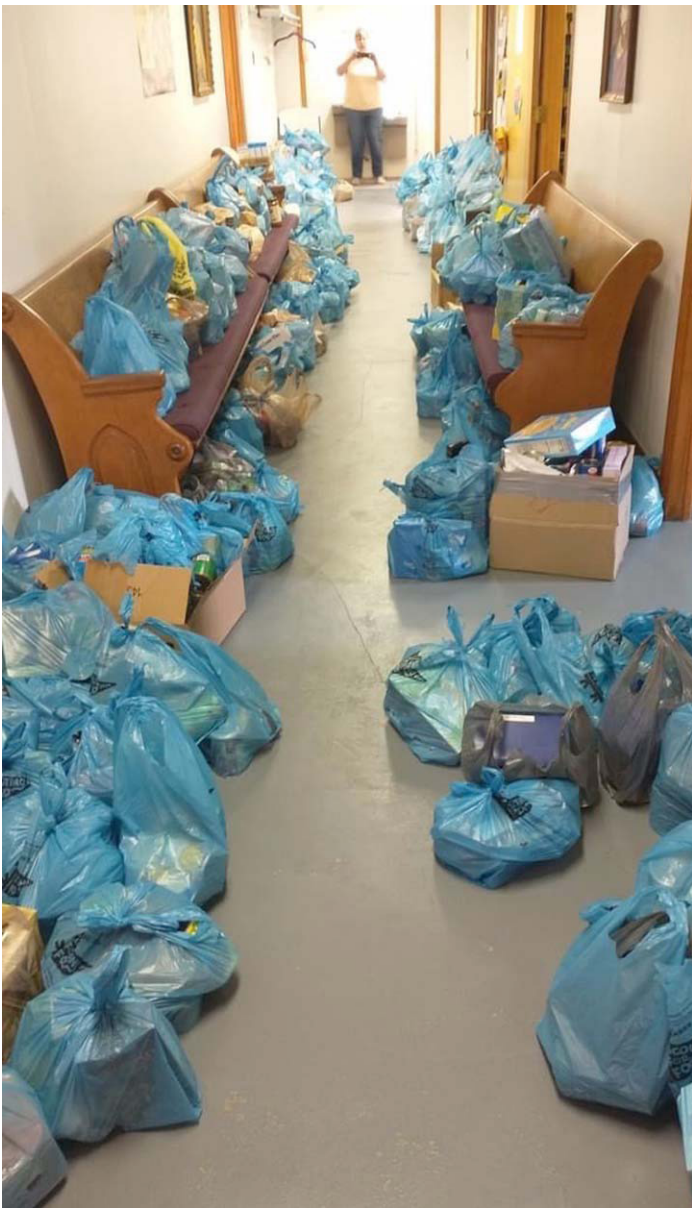
Members are asked to meet at noon in the parking lot at the Cobden First Baptist Church.

Club members then plan to go to Giant City Lodge near Makanda to have lunch.

## Scouts gather 4,015 items for local food pantry

Salem Lutheran Church in Jonesboro is voicing its thanks to local Scouts for gathering 4,015 items for the church's food pantry. The church shared that when it came time to count things that it was thankful for on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, thanks would be given to the Scouts 4,015 times.

The church also offered a "special shout out to a young Scout named David who worked his tail off!! Many of our Salem workers were sick with flu like symptoms and could not participate. David filled that gap." Photos provided.



## Southern 7 promotes awareness about HBV screening, vaccination

An estimated 1.4 million Americans are affected by Hepatitis B Virus, HBV, the virus that can cause serious liver disease and can eventually lead to liver cancer without proper treatment.

Southern 7 Health Department, S7HD, together with other Illinois healthcare providers, continues to work to raise awareness about HBV and encourage the public to get screened and vaccinated.

In October, Southern 7 renewed funding from the Center for Asian Health Equity, CAHE, at the University of Chicago Medicine and the Hope Light Foundation, HLF, to reach and engage community members and residents around HBV prevention.

This is the fifth year the health department has received the funding, which will be utilized to disseminate HBV prevention information

for the public and high-risk populations through area agencies, healthcare facilities, schools and other community partners.

"As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, screening and routine HBV vaccination rates dropped significantly nationwide, but through extensive education post-COVID, rates are going back up," said Shawnna Rhine, S7HD community outreach coordinator, in a news release. "It's through continued HBV knowledge and ensuring timely vaccination that we can reduce the prevalence of Hepatitis B and eventually eliminate this disease."

The most common way HBV is spread is from mother to baby during birth; therefore, the health department advises, pregnant women should be tested for the virus.

Other high-risk populations include individuals who use or formerly used injection drugs, those born or whose parents were born in high endemic countries, such as most Asian and African countries, and men who have sex with men. Screening is done through a simple blood test.

Most people with HBV do not feel sick and may not present with any symptoms until severe liver damage leads to liver cancer.

Approximately one in four individuals who are untreated will eventually die from HBV-related health conditions.

Although there is no cure, individuals with HBV can live a full and normal life with a treatment plan and routine care.

The HBV vaccine is highly effective in preventing the disease. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, ACIP, recommends vaccination for everyone under the age of 60.

The HBV vaccine requires multiple doses for full protection. For example, the three-dose HBV vaccine requires doses at 0, 1 and 6 months. Southern 7 Health Department provides the HBV vaccine to children and adults.

For more information about preventing Hepatitis B, or to schedule an HBV vaccine appointment, contact Southern 7 Health Department at 618-634-2297, download the Southern 7 App or visit [www.southern7.org](http://www.southern7.org).

## Open mic, short story nights set

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council, SHAC, in Anna has scheduled an open mic night and a short story/poetry night. The arts council is located in the 100 block of West Davie Street.

**Open Mic Event**  
An open mic comedy, spoken word and music night is planned from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dec. 13. To reserve a spot, email [zj.rowatt@gmail.com](mailto:zj.rowatt@gmail.com).

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. The cover charge is \$5 at the door.

Concessions will be available, Bring a favorite drink.

**Short Story/Poetry Night**  
A Short Story/Poetry Night with pizza is set for 6 p.m. Dec. 16.

Tom Caldwell will lead a discussion about "The Fir Tree" by Hans Christian Andersen.

The story is available online at [http://hca.gilead.org.il/fir\\_tree.html](http://hca.gilead.org.il/fir_tree.html).

Those who want to attend are asked to RSVP by calling or texting Caldwell at 1-217-994-3449.

For more information, contact Lee Hackney with the Shawnee Hills Arts Council by calling 904-625-1109 or email: [vabchlee@gmail.com](mailto:vabchlee@gmail.com).

# Obituaries

## Ronald Gayle Bittle

Ronald Gayle Bittle was born July 3, 1937, and passed away on November 28, 2024, at the age of 87.

Ron came into this world the second of six boys born to Howard and Pauline Frick Bittle in Anna, Illinois. He grew up in Anna and graduated from Anna-Jonesboro Community High School, where he was a standout athlete on both the football and basketball teams.

After high school, Ron and his older brother Dean both joined the U.S. Navy and served together on a destroyer ship, the USS Solely.

After an honorable discharge, Ron began a course of study at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, earning a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's degree in behavior modification.

While a student, he began working in the Behavior Research Laboratory located at the Anna State Hospital (now Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center), and during his tenure at the hospital, he led extensive studies of behavior therapy and behavior modification, the results of which were shared with scholars and therapists both nationally and internationally to bring about positive changes in approaches to mental health disorders.

Ron earned a PhD in Psychology from SIU-C in 1974, and in the fall of 1979 was appointed Facility Director of the State Hospital. He fostered the development of close cooperative relations with community-based mental health agencies. A vigorous program of upgrading and remodeling of the hospital campus was also undertaken during his administration.

Over the next few years, he served in the added role of Deputy Director for State of Illinois Mental Health Services. He retired from the Anna State Hospital in 1987.

A couple years later, he accepted a position as administrator of a neurological rehabilitation facility in Mandeville, Louisiana, just outside of New Orleans, where he worked for a year, and then he and Peggy would enjoy their retirement (and being near family) in Anna, Wichita, Kansas, Indianapolis, and eventually Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Ron remained civically involved throughout his life serving for many years on the Anna-Jonesboro Schools School Board and the Union County Housing Authority Board. Whatever Ron was involved in, whether serving the community, his church or the state, he was working to improve the quality of life for others.

Ron and Peggy



Hines were married on December 23, 1956.

They raised one son, Bradley, and had two grandchildren, Erin and Jeffrey, who were the light of his life. He was so proud of his son and his grandchildren, and he's been a constant source of love and support to them.

This December would have marked Ron and Peggy's 68th wedding anniversary. Peg has been at his side providing love and care for the past several years during his illness. It's been heartbreaking to watch Ron's health decline and see him suffer through many challenges. He endured it all with grace and dignity and passed over into the arms of Jesus on Thanksgiving morning.

Surviving are his wife, Peggy Bittle of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; son Bradley Bittle (Laurie) of Cape Girardeau; and grandchildren Erin Jones (Ben) of Cape Girardeau and Jeffrey Bittle of Chicago, Illinois; as well as a brother, Randy Bittle (Lynn) of Carterville, Illinois; sisters-in-law Kay Bittle (Richard) of Marion, Illinois, and Sharon Bittle (Dean) of Harrisburg, Illinois; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Pauline Frick Bittle; and his brothers Dean, Richard, Gary and Bob; as well as a nephew, Mark Bittle.

The Bittle family would like to thank the staff at the Cape Girardeau Veterans Home for their loving care.

Funeral services were at 1 p.m. Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna, with the Rev. Cliff Perry officiating. Interment was in the Anna Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are preferred to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or to the Missouri Veteran's Home in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

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

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

## Norman Lee Gibbs

Norman Lee Gibbs, 88, of Anna, died Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, in Mercedes, Texas.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro. Interment will be in the Jonesboro Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, and after 1 p.m. until the service hour at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Jonesboro.

Memorials are preferred to the Rebecca Young Scholarship, the American Heart Association or PAWS. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

To view the obituary and to leave



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

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

## Donald Ray Hickam

Donald Ray Hickam, 87, of Pomona, was surrounded by loved ones when he took his last breath at home on Nov. 28, 2024.

He was born on Sept. 21, 1937, the son of Aubrey and Lydia Berry Hickam of Alto Pass.

He is survived by four of his six children, Lonnie (Kim) Hickam, Sharon Smith, Lisa (Jesse) Lowe and Nancy (Junior) Bailey, along with 14 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and brother-in-law Ron Rendleman and his ex-wife, Virginia Hickam.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings James Hickam, Ester Bennett, Willard Dale Hickam and Janice Rendleman; a daughter, Loretta Lynn Hickam; and a son, Raymond Hickam.

Donald was a workaholic – working a daytime job, then farming in the evenings. He was fed many suppers on the tractors and combine. He worked at Buck Carter Tire many years ago, as well as at Weiss Excavating and Willard D. Hickam Excavating.

He was skilled at operating heavy equipment, digging ponds, basements, clearing many trees and leveling areas for the



local orchards and homeowners.

When he was able to take off during warm weather, it was spent fishing and playing softball with his kids. During the winters was sledding and cutting firewood.

We are thankful for your 87 years you were on this earth. We will love you always and we are missing you already!!!

Memorial services were at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna.

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

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

## Sharon Kay Toler

Sharon Kay Toler, 82, of Jonesboro, passed away peacefully on Nov. 25, 2024, with her family at her side.

She was born on Dec. 27, 1941, in Elgin, the daughter of Virgil Dempsey and Genevieve Dillow Wiggs.

She married Gerald Dee Toler on June 2, 1963, at Salem Lutheran Church in Jonesboro.

She is survived by her husband, Dee Toler of Jonesboro; two daughters, Beverly (Jon) Schaefer and Donna Beegle, and son Brian Toler, all of Jonesboro; six grandchildren, Jerod Schaefer, Jacob Schaefer, Deeken Beegle, Allison Toler, Maximus Toler and Natalie Toler; brother Gary (Linda) Wiggs of Cobden; sister Diana (Paul) Craig of Belleville; brother-in-law, Carroll (Donna) Toler of Thompsonville; two aunts, Deloris "Aunt Pud" Landreth and Norma Jean Conant, both of Jonesboro; nieces; nephews; other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Barb File.

She was a member of Salem Lutheran Church in Jonesboro

### News from

## Camp Ground Church, Community

After announcement time on Sunday morning, a brief congregation meeting was held for the purpose of nominating and electing an elder for 2025-2027. Rodney Miller was unanimously elected.

The focus of the service on the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1, was Hope.

Readers of the first Advent reading "Hope" were Tony and Berna Gerard. Aldi Gerard lit the "candle representing Hope."

Bro. Easton's sermon was titled "Our Steadfast Hope," referencing Romans 5:1-5.

The message shared that "none of us would choose tribulations and trouble, but any human is going to suffer various issues and problems.

"In 1 Peter, we are told to not be surprised by tribulation, but to be overjoyed with thanks to God that He is there with us through our hardship.

"In Paul's letter to the church at Rome, he urged his readers to not complain about suffering as it developed perseverance.

"Paul continued by writing that those who persevere through life's hardships, develop character: a life focused on Jesus Christ.

"The character God develops in us develops our hope and confidence in His care



### Honor Wreaths for Veterans

**An Honor Wreaths for Veterans ceremony is planned at 11 a.m. Dec. 14 at Anna First Baptist Church. The service will be led by Phil Ray, who is a Vietnam war veteran and a member of the American Legion and the Anna VFW. Everyone welcome. Immediately following the ceremony, Honor Wreaths for Veterans will be laid at the Anna Cemetery. Photographer Martha Ann Webb.**

### News from

## Anna Nazarene Church

A morning worship service was held Sunday, Dec. 1.

Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins. Music was led by Pastor Randy Wright and the worship team.

A message titled "We Fight with Victory" was brought by Pastor Wright. Scripture was from 2 Chronicles, Acts and Isaiah.

At Sunday evening's worship service, the pastor brought a message from 1 Corinthians and Romans.

### Sunday, Dec. 8

Breakfast, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning service, 10:35 a.m. Thanksgiving/Christmas potluck meal following the morning worship service. No evening worship service.

### Wednesday, Dec. 11

A Wednesday night service is planned at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A youth group

meeting is planned at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

### Saturday, Dec. 14

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Gift Of Christmas. Need time to wrap gifts or go shopping? Let the church have your kids (kindergarten through 4th grade) for a Christmas story and crafts.

You can preregister online at [www.annanaz.com/wordpress/2024-gift-of-christmas-registration-form](http://www.annanaz.com/wordpress/2024-gift-of-christmas-registration-form) or by scanning the qr code on the flier on the church's Facebook page (Anna First Church Of The Nazarene)

### Tuesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve candlelight and Communion service at 8 p.m.

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.

## SIU Innovation, Entrepreneurship Showcase scheduled

Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Showcase on Dec. 5 will celebrate the region's newest innovators, inventors and entrepreneurs. Everyone is invited.

The event, which follows the SIU System's Technology and Innovation Expo, is slated from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center at 1740 Innovation Dr. in Carbondale.

The evening will feature SIU patent presentations, special recognition for graduates of two of the center's programs, the announcement of winners in a business plan competition and other noteworthy accomplishments. Hunan Fine Asian Cuisine will provide refreshments.

"Those attending this special evening will have a golden opportunity to discover some of the impressive creative activities and advances happening at SIU and in the surrounding area," said Lynn Andersen Lindberg, executive director of Innovation and Economic Development and of the SIU Research Park.

"The showcase will also spotlight some of the transformative projects underway that will have a lasting impact on the community and the future, and we will be recognizing and celebrating the innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the region and the people who are making it happen."

A wide assortment of activities is planned during the illuminating showcase.

SIU will honor Innovative people affiliated with the university who have received patents for inventions or processes in the last year.

SIU's Illinois Small Business Development Center will

honor representatives of area businesses who have recently completed and graduated from the comprehensive 10-week Launch That Business "fast-track" training program.

The intensive Launch That Business program is designed especially to assist home-based or small business entities get their business concepts on track, offering entrepreneurs practical steps for registering their enterprises as legal entities and providing them with simple tips and tools for maintaining their businesses.

In addition, organizers also will announce winners of the 2024 Southern Illinois Business Plan Competition Powered by Regions Bank.

The competition invited new business concepts, pre-venture plans or existing small businesses from Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Union, White and Williamson counties to enter.

Local competitions were held in October and the regional final was held in November with the finalists competing for a share of more than \$20,000 in prize money and in-kind services.

Organizers will also recognize graduates of the Carbondale Accelerator program, as well as some of the SIU faculty and staff who ensured the success of the big 2024 Tolar Solar Eclipse celebration.

There will also be a presentation recognizing SIU's Illinois SBDC as the winner of 2024 Illinois SBDC of the Year honors.

For more information about the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Showcase, call 618-536-4451.

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On Sunday, Dec. 1, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in the morning service. His message addressed “how God uses the upsetting things in our lives to bring about the greatest blessings.” He used the story of the birth of Jesus as an example. Scripture was from Matthew in the New Testament.

The service was sent by transmitter station 87.9 for those who wanted to listen on the radio. The service was also live streamed on Facebook. The church’s Facebook page, Jonesboro FBC, has videos and the latest information about church events.

Connor Benbrook led worship in the absence of music director Dee Rose. Debbie York played the piano. Debbie York also sang and played “The Goodness of God” as a special.

Wyatt Harvel and Ashley Harvel were baptized and welcomed into the church family.

Men’s and women’s Bible studies were scheduled at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2.

The LLL senior adult group planned to have a monthly meeting and potluck with guests Norma and Danny Weaver Tuesday morning, Dec. 3.

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

Birthdays: Ashley Massey,

Dec. 2; Rhonda Boyd, Dave Johnson, Carmen Schexnider, Dec. 4.

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

Youth meet from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The Dig-In program for children meets at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Adult prayer meeting and Bible study are scheduled on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Pastor Lupe greeted everyone in the sanctuary and those joining on the church’s live stream. Announcements were read. Prayer was said over the prayer list.

Cissi Cuthbertson did the call to worship, which was about “Our Lord’s Supper.

The worship team led in the singing of “Goodness of God,” “Shepherd Boy” and “Are You Washed in the Blood?”

Pastor Lupe’s sermon was titled “Seek Ye First.” Scripture was from Matthew, Hosea and

Isaiah.

The sermon shared that “seeking God first in decisions means turning to Him in prayer and scripture for guidance before taking any action. It is an act of trust, acknowledging His wisdom and sovereignty over our own understanding. When we prioritize His will above our desires, we align ourselves with His perfect plan for our lives. By seeking God first, we invite His peace to guard our hearts and His direction to illuminate our path.”

After the worship service, the church family celebrated “Our Lord’s Supper.”

Sunday School for all ages meets at 9 a.m. each Sunday morning.

The church’s worship service starts at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday.

The church has a youth program which meets at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. The church has a prayer time at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

The church has a bus which runs for all of its programs and services. Information is available by calling the church’s office during the day.

First Baptist Church is located at 409 Morgan St. in Anna. The church’s phone number is 833-5416. The church’s website is [www.annafirst.org](http://www.annafirst.org).

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



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With the beginning of Advent we begin to think of Christmas and the gift the Heavenly Father shared with us...his Son Jesus. As we enter the holiday season we can consider what gifts we can share to brighten the lives of others. A gift can have great or little value, depending on our resources; it’s the thought that counts. Even if it’s only a smile, we all have something we can thankfully share each day. At your house of worship this week, think about God’s greatest gift and prepare your minds and hearts for the miracle of Christmas.

| Daily Bible Readings |         |          |              |         |         |         |
|----------------------|---------|----------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Psalm                | Luke    | Luke     | Daniel       | Malachi | Malachi | Malachi |
| 30                   | 21:5-24 | 21:25-38 | 10:1 - 11:2a | 1:1-14  | 2:1-17  | 3:1-18  |

*Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society X Daily Devotional at [www.AmericanBible.org](http://www.AmericanBible.org)*

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## Delinquent tax sale planned by Union County as trustee

Union County, as trustee, has completed its tax deed proceedings on real estate properties that were delinquent for 2020 and mobile homes that were delinquent for 2021 and prior real estate taxes.

The county, as trustee, will now offer for sale the real estate and mobile homes obtained to the public.

The county will offer approximately three real estate items and 35 mobile home items through a sealed bid auction sale.

All sealed written bids must

be in the Union County treasurer’s office located in the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., room 123, Jonesboro, Ill. 62952 no later than the close of business on Dec. 13.

All online bids must be submitted via [www.iltaxsalebids.com](http://www.iltaxsalebids.com) no later than the close of business on Dec. 13.

Sale organizers said the sale of the lots and mobile homes should be a major benefit to both the taxing districts and the neighboring property owners.

The sale will place the real estate and mobile homes into

the hands of individuals who have an interest in owning them.

The county, as trustee, hopes that these new owners will both maintain the property and the mobile homes and keep the taxes paid.

By eliminating abandoned properties, the appearance of the neighborhood should improve and the value of adjoining properties should increase, official said.

The required minimum bid on real estate is \$835 and on mobile homes is \$915.

All items will be sold to the highest sealed bid received on or before Dec. 13.

Complete bidder’s packets and sale catalogs are available at the Union County treasurer’s office or online at [www.iltax-sale.com](http://www.iltax-sale.com).

For further sale information, contact the auction sale department of the Union County tax agent’s office. The telephone number is 1-800-248-2850 or 618-656-5744 or visit [www.iltaxsale.com](http://www.iltaxsale.com). Office hours are scheduled from 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Winter birds, wreath-making, nature featured at Giant City

Winter birds, wreath-making and nature in Illinois will be featured at upcoming programs planned at Giant City State Park near Makanda.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., park volunteer and Southern Illinois Audubon Society member Vicki Lang-Mendenhall will guide participants along the easy 1/3 mile accessible Post Oak Trail to look for winter birds.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, the University of Illinois Extension plans to offer a free winter

wreath-making workshop. Two sessions are scheduled: one from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and another from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. All supplies will be provided.

Sunday, Dec. 8, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., botanist Chris Benda (aka Illinois Botanizer) plans to present photographs highlighting his best Illinois nature encounters of 2024.

All programs are free of charge but require registration, as space is limited. Call 618-457-4836 to register for one or all of the free programs.

# Television Listings

### THURSDAY

|                            | ABC                                  | CBS                  | FOX                               | NBC                | ESPN                                     | TBS                                                 | USA                                      | DISN                               | HBO                                                 | MAX                                                    | PARSHO                                                                        |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Local Programs                       | Local Programs       | Local<br>Local                    | Local Programs     | ESPN Original                            | Bang (HD)<br>Bang (HD)                              | (4:00) College Basketball (HD)           | Big City<br>(:25) “ <b>Movie</b> ” | (:12) Get Millie Black                              | (5:08) “ <b>Mummy</b> ” (’08)                          | ★★★★½ “ <b>The Hateful Eight</b> ” (’15, Western) Samuel L. Jackson. (R) (HD) |
| <b>7 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | The Great Christmas Light Fight (HD) | Marriage Ghosts      | Don’t (HD)                        | Law & Order (HD)   | To Be Announced <i>Info unavailable.</i> | Bang (HD)                                           |                                          |                                    | “ <b>X</b> ” (’22, Horror) Jenna Ortega. (R)        | “ <b>San Andreas</b> ” (’15) Dwayne Johnson. (HD)      |                                                                               |
| <b>8 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  |                                      | (:01) Matlock (HD)   | Ramsay’s Food Stars               | Law & Order: SVU   |                                          | Bang (HD)                                           | Law & Order: SVU                         | Wizards                            |                                                     |                                                        |                                                                               |
| <b>9 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Celebrity Wheel of                   | Elsbeth (HD)         | Local Programs <i>Local info.</i> | Found (HD)         |                                          | Bang (HD)                                           | Law & Order: SVU                         | Wizards Waverly (HD)               | (:49) “ <b>MaXXXine</b> ” (’24) Charley McCain. (R) | (:55) “ <b>A Most Wanted Man</b> ” (’14, Thriller) (R) | The Agency (HD)                                                               |
| <b>10 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Local                                | Local                |                                   | Local              | SportsCenter (HD)                        | “ <b>Friends with Benefits</b> ” Justin Timberlake. | Law & Order: SVU <i>Sex crimes.</i> (HD) | Miraculous                         | (:35) Dune: Prophecy                                |                                                        | The Agency (HD)                                                               |
| <b>11 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Jimmy Kimmel Live                    | (:35) Late Show (HD) | Local Programs                    | (:35) Tonight (HD) | SportsCenter (HD)                        |                                                     |                                          | Miraculous Bluey                   | “ <b>Good Neighbours</b> ”                          | “ <b>Braveheart</b> ” (’95) (R)                        |                                                                               |
|                            | Nightline                            | Midnight             |                                   | Late Night         |                                          |                                                     |                                          | Bluey                              | “ <b>Midsommar</b> ”                                |                                                        |                                                                               |

### DECEMBER 5, 2024

### FRIDAY

|                            | ABC                                                     | CBS                  | FOX                                                                | NBC                                     | ESPN                                           | TBS                                                         | USA                             | DISN                   | HBO                                                           | MAX                                          | PARSHO                                    |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>6 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Local Programs                                          | Local Programs       | (5:00) Local Programs                                              | Local Programs                          | TBA                                            | Bang (HD)<br>Bang (HD)                                      | Law & Order: SVU                | (:20) “ <b>Movie</b> ” | “ <b>Pretty Woman</b> ” (’90)                                 | ★★ “ <b>Red Dawn</b> ” (’12)                 | “ <b>Dead</b> ” Vicky Krieps.             |
| <b>7 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | (:07) College Football “ <i>Teams TBA</i> ” (Live) (HD) | S.W.A.T. (HD)        | College Football “ <i>Mountain West Championship</i> ” (Live) (HD) | Night (HD)<br>Night (HD)                | (:43) To Be Announced <i>Info unavailable.</i> | ★★★★½ “ <b>Last Holiday</b> ” (’06) Queen Latifah. (HD)     | WWE Friday Night SmackDown (HD) |                        | ★★★ “ <b>Superman</b> ” (’78, Action) Christopher Reeve. (PG) | “ <b>Crank</b> ” (’06) Jason Statham. (HD)   | The Agency (HD)                           |
| <b>8 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  |                                                         | Fire Country (HD)    |                                                                    | Dateline NBC <i>Investigative news.</i> |                                                |                                                             |                                 | Wizards Waverly (HD)   |                                                               |                                              | The Agency (HD)                           |
| <b>9 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  |                                                         | Blue Bloods (HD)     |                                                                    |                                         | (:05) To Be Announced <i>Info unavailable.</i> | ★★★★½ “ <b>Drumline</b> ” (’02, Drama) Nick Cannon. (PG-13) | Law & Order: SVU                | “ <b>Movie</b> ”       | (:25) “ <b>Jurassic Park</b> ” (’93) Sam Neill. (HD)          | ★★½ “ <b>Crank 2: High Voltage</b> ” (’09)   | To Be Announced                           |
| <b>10 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Local                                                   | (:35) Late Show (HD) | Local Programs                                                     | (:35) Tonight (HD)                      |                                                |                                                             | Law & Order: SVU                | Big City               |                                                               | (:04) “ <b>Stone</b> ” (’10) Robert De Niro. | ★★★ “ <b>The Italian Job</b> ” (’03) (HD) |
| <b>11 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Jimmy Kimmel Live                                       | Midnight             | Local                                                              | Late Night                              | Sports                                         | “ <b>Replacemnt</b> ”                                       | Law & Order: SVU                | Big City               | “ <b>Lost World</b> ”                                         | “ <b>Hobo with</b> ”                         |                                           |

### DECEMBER 6, 2024

### SATURDAY

|                            | ABC                                                     | CBS                                               | FOX                            | NBC                      | ESPN                                           | TBS                                                  | USA                                                  | DISN                 | HBO                   | MAX                                                     | PARSHO                                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Football Scoreboard                                     | College Ftball (Live)                             | College Basketball (Live) (HD) | Local Programs           | To Be Announced <i>Info unavailable.</i>       | “ <b>Last Holiday</b> ” (’06)                        | (3:30) IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship (HD) | Big City<br>Big City | To Be Announced       | (:12) The Knick (HD)                                    | “ <b>Good Will Hunting</b> ” (’98) Robin Williams. (R) |
| <b>7 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | (:07) College Football “ <i>Teams TBA</i> ” (Live) (HD) | College Football “ <i>Teams TBA</i> ” (Live) (HD) |                                | The Wall (HD)            |                                                | “ <b>A Christmas Story</b> ” (’83) Melinda Dillon.   |                                                      | “ <b>Movie</b> ”     | To Be Announced       | “ <b>Eye in the Sky</b> ” Helen Mirren.                 |                                                        |
| <b>8 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  |                                                         |                                                   | College Basketball (Live) (HD) | Dateline NBC             |                                                |                                                      |                                                      | ZOMBIES              | (:47) Dune: Prophecy  | “ <b>White Bird in a Blizzard</b> ” (’14)               | The Agency (HD)                                        |
| <b>9 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  |                                                         |                                                   |                                | Saturday Night Live      | (:15) To Be Announced <i>Info unavailable.</i> | “ <b>The Wizard of Oz</b> ” (’39) Judy Garland. (HD) | 9-1-1 (HD)                                           | ZOMBIES              |                       |                                                         | The Agency (HD)                                        |
| <b>10 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Local                                                   |                                                   | Local                          | Local                    |                                                |                                                      | 9-1-1 (HD)                                           | ZOMBIES              | (:51) To Be Announced | (:15) “ <b>Black Swan</b> ” (’10) Natalie Portman. (HD) | “ <b>Inglourious Basterds</b> ” (’09) Brad Pitt. (HD)  |
| <b>11 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Local Programs                                          | Local Programs <i>Local info.</i>                 | The Floor (HD)                 | Saturday Night Live (HD) |                                                | “ <b>Christmas Story</b> ”                           | 9-1-1 (HD)                                           | Big City             | Big City              | Somewhere                                               |                                                        |
|                            |                                                         |                                                   | Local                          |                          |                                                |                                                      |                                                      | Big City             |                       |                                                         |                                                        |

### DECEMBER 7, 2024

### SUNDAY

|                            | ABC                                                      | CBS                            | FOX                  | NBC                                                                                     | ESPN                         | TBS                                                  | USA              | DISN                                   | HBO                  | MAX                                                 | PARSHO                |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>6 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Home Videos (HD)                                         | 60 Minutes (HD)                | NFL (Live)<br>The OT | Football America (HD)                                                                   | SportsCenter (HD)            | Bang (HD)<br>Bang (HD)                               | Law & Order: SVU | Big City<br>Prep (HD)                  | Dune                 | “ <b>Deadpool</b> ” (’16) (HD)                      | The Agency (HD)       |
| <b>7 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Videos                                                   |                                | Universal            | (:15) Sun. Night Football <i>Los Angeles Chargers at Kansas City Chiefs</i> (Live) (HD) | Sports                       | Bang (HD)                                            | Law & Order: SVU | “ <b>Home Alone</b> ” Macaulay Culkin. | (:50) Dune: Prophecy | ★★★ “ <b>RoboCop</b> ” (’14, Action) Joel Kinnaman. | (:01) The Agency (HD) |
| <b>8 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | “ <b>The Lion King</b> ” (’19, Adventure) Donald Glover. | The Equalizer (HD)             | Simpsons<br>Burgers  |                                                                                         | College Ftbl (HD)            | Bang (HD)                                            | Law & Order: SVU | Wizards                                | Dune: Prophecy       |                                                     | The Agency (HD)       |
| <b>9 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  |                                                          | Tracker “ <i>Ontological</i> ” | Krapopolis           |                                                                                         | 30 for 30 (HD)               | Dad (HD)                                             | Law & Order: SVU | Wizards                                | Somewhere            | “ <b>Wanted</b> ” (’08) James McAvoy. (R)           | The Agency (HD)       |
| <b>10 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Local Programs <i>Local info.</i>                        | Local Programs                 | Local Programs       |                                                                                         |                              | “ <b>The Wizard of Oz</b> ” (’39) Judy Garland. (HD) | Law & Order: SVU | Wizards                                | (:10) Dune: Prophecy | “ <b>Demolition</b> ” Jake Gyllenhaal.              | Special Ops: Li-oness |
| <b>11 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> |                                                          | Local Programs                 | Local Programs       | Local Programs <i>Local info.</i>                                                       | SportsCenter with Scott (HD) | (:15) “ <b>Blended</b> ” (’14)                       | Law & Order: SVU | Big City                               | (:15) Dune: Prophecy |                                                     | The Agency (HD)       |

### DECEMBER 8, 2024

### MONDAY

|                            | ABC                                                                      | CBS                  | FOX                               | NBC                                     | ESPN                                           | TBS                    | USA                       | DISN                 | HBO                        | MAX                                                              | PARSHO                        |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>6 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Local Programs                                                           | Local Programs       | Local Programs                    | Local Programs                          | To Be Announced                                | Bang (HD)<br>Bang (HD) | Law & Order: SVU          | Big City<br>Big City | “ <b>Sherlock Holmes</b> ” | ★★★ “ <b>White Bird</b> ” (’14)                                  | “ <b>Private Ryan</b> ” (’98) |
| <b>7 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | (:15) Monday Football <i>Cincinnati Bengals at Dallas Cowboys</i> (Live) | Neighbor.            | The Real Full Monty (HD)          | The Voice <i>Hopefuls coached.</i> (HD) | (:15) To Be Announced <i>Info unavailable.</i> | Bang (HD)              | WWE Monday Night Raw (HD) | “ <b>Movie</b> ”     | (:55) Dune: Prophecy       | ★★½ “ <b>Denial</b> ” (’16, Drama) Rachel Weisz. (HD)            | The Agency (HD)               |
| <b>8 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  |                                                                          | Poppa’s              |                                   |                                         |                                                | Bang (HD)              |                           |                      | Get Millie                 |                                                                  | Special                       |
| <b>9 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  |                                                                          | NCIS: Origins (HD)   | Local Programs <i>Local info.</i> | Brilliant Minds (HD)                    |                                                | Bang (HD)              |                           | (:25) Kiff           | (:49) Get Millie Black     | (:51) “ <b>Gangs of New York</b> ” (’02) Leonardo DiCaprio. (HD) | (:50) Killing Eve (HD)        |
| <b>10 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | (:15) Local                                                              | Local                |                                   | Local                                   | (:15) TBA                                      | Dad (HD)               | Law & Order: SVU          | Wizards Waverly (HD) | (:38) Get Millie Black     |                                                                  | (:35) The Agency (HD)         |
| <b>11 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | (:50) Jimmy Kimmel Live (HD)                                             | (:35) Late Show (HD) | Local Programs                    | (:35) Tonight (HD)                      | SportsCenter (HD)                              | Dad (HD)               |                           | Big City             | (:25) Dune: Prophecy       | “ <b>The Wolf of Wall Street</b> ” (’13)                         |                               |
|                            | Nightline                                                                | Midnight             |                                   | Late Night                              | Sports                                         | Dad (HD)               | Race <i>Alaska race.</i>  | Bluey                | Get Millie                 | “ <b>Crank 2</b> ”                                               |                               |

### DECEMBER 9, 2024

### TUESDAY

|                            | ABC                 | CBS                       | FOX                                            | NBC                 | ESPN                                     | TBS                    | USA              | DISN                    | HBO                                                  | MAX                                         | PARSHO                                                |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Local Programs      | Local Programs            | (5:00) Local Programs                          | Local Programs      | CFP Plankings Show                       | Bang (HD)<br>Bang (HD) | Law & Order: SVU | (5:15) “ <b>Movie</b> ” | (:10) “ <b>Cop Out</b> ” (’10, Comedy) Bruce Willis. | “ <b>Shakespeare Love</b> ”                 | “ <b>Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol</b> ” (’11)   |
| <b>7 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Olaf’s              | FBI “ <i>Monumental</i> ” | Lego Masters “ <i>Celebrity Holiday</i> ” (HD) | Medical             | To Be Announced <i>Info unavailable.</i> | Bang (HD)              | Law & Order: SVU |                         |                                                      | “ <b>Garden State</b> ” (’04) Zach Braff.   |                                                       |
| <b>8 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Prep (HD)           | FBI: International        |                                                | The Voice (HD)      |                                          | Bang (HD)              | Law & Order: SVU | Wizards                 | The AFC North                                        |                                             | “ <b>Mission: Impossible</b> ” (’96) Tom Cruise. (HD) |
| <b>9 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | High Potential (HD) | FBI: Most Wanted          | Local Programs <i>Local info.</i>              | The Irrational (HD) |                                          | Bang (HD)              | Law & Order: SVU | Wizards                 | Nature of the Crime                                  | (:43) ★★½ “ <b>Person to Person</b> ” (’17) |                                                       |
| <b>10 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Local               | Local                     |                                                | Local               | SportsCenter (HD)                        | Bang (HD)              | Law & Order: SVU | Local                   |                                                      | “ <b>Don Jon</b> ” Joseph Gordon-Levitt.    | The Agency (HD)                                       |
| <b>11 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Jimmy Kimmel Live   | (:35) Late Show (HD)      | Local Programs                                 | (:35) Tonight (HD)  | SportsCenter (HD)                        | Dad (HD)               | Law & Order: SVU | Jessie                  | (:35) The AFC North                                  |                                             | ★★★★½ “ <b>Once</b> ” (’84) (HD)                      |
|                            | Nightline           | Midnight                  |                                                | Late Night          |                                          | Dad (HD)               |                  | Bluey                   | Nature                                               | “ <b>Serendip.</b> ”                        |                                                       |

### DECEMBER 10, 2024

### WEDNESDAY

|                            | ABC                | CBS                        | FOX                               | NBC                     | ESPN                                           | TBS       | USA              | DISN                    | HBO                                                               | MAX                                                      | PARSHO                                                           |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Local Programs     | Local Programs             | (5:00) Local Programs             | Local Programs          | TBA                                            | Bang (HD) | SVU (HD)         | (5:10) “ <b>Movie</b> ” | Dune: Prophecy                                                    | (5:10) “ <b>Wanted</b> ” (’08)                           | (4:45) “ <b>Ghost</b> ” (’90)                                    |
| <b>7 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Celebrity Wheel of | Survivor (HD)              | MasterChef (HD)                   | Frosty Shrek Hall       | (:43) To Be Announced <i>Info unavailable.</i> | Bang (HD) | Law & Order: SVU |                         | “ <b>Rise of Planet of Apes</b> ” (’11)                           | ★★★★½ “ <b>Sinister</b> ” (’12, Horror) Ethan Hawke. (R) | “ <b>Her</b> ” (’14, Comedy) Joaquin Phoenix. (R) (HD)           |
| <b>8 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Family Feud (HD)   |                            | Ramsay’s Food Stars               | A Motown Christmas (HD) |                                                |           | Law & Order: SVU | Wizards                 | (:49) ★★½ “ <b>Jupiter Ascending</b> ” (’15) Channing Tatum. (HD) |                                                          |                                                                  |
| <b>9 PM</b><br><b>:30</b>  | Family Feud (HD)   | FBI “ <i>No One Left</i> ” | Local Programs <i>Local info.</i> |                         | (:05) To Be Announced <i>Info unavailable.</i> | Wipeout   | Law & Order: SVU | Big City                |                                                                   | “ <b>Hobo with a</b> ” (’11)                             | (:10) “ <b>The Matrix</b> ” (’99, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves. |
| <b>10 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Local              | Local                      |                                   | Local                   |                                                | Wipeout   | Law & Order: SVU | Wizards                 |                                                                   | (:18) ★★½ “ <b>Stone</b> ” (’10, Drama) Robert De Niro.  |                                                                  |
| <b>11 PM</b><br><b>:30</b> | Jimmy Kimmel Live  | (:35) Late Show (HD)       | Local Programs                    | (:35) Tonight (HD)      | SportsCenter (HD)                              | Family    | Law & Order: SVU | Big City                | The AFC North                                                     |                                                          |                                                                  |
|                            | Nightline          | Midnight                   |                                   | Late Night              |                                                | Family    | SVU (HD)         | Big City                |                                                                   |                                                          | The Agency                                                       |

### DECEMBER 11, 2024

### THURSDAY

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7:00pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>HBO X</b> ★★ (2022, Horror) Jenna Ortega, Mia Goth. A group of filmmakers tries to make an adult film in rural Texas, but when their hosts witness them in the act, the cast ends up fighting for their lives. R                                        |
| <b>8:55pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>MAX A Most Wanted Man</b> ★★½ (2014, Thriller) Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rachel McAdams. A tortured immigrant arrives in Hamburg’s Islamic community and looks to claim his father’s ill-gotten fortune, however, security agencies take interest. R (HD) |

### FRIDAY

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7:00pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>TBS Last Holiday</b> ★★½ (2006, Comedy) Queen Latifah, LL Cool J. A sales clerk in New Orleans learns that she only has three weeks to live so she takes her savings out of the bank to live a little during a European spree. PG-13 TVPG (HD) |
| <b>9:25pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>HBO Jurassic Park</b> ★★½ (1993, Science Fiction) Sam Neill, Laura Dern. A billionaire invites scientists to inspect his island park filled with living dinosaurs, but the trip turns deadly when the dinosaurs escape captivity. PG-13 (HD)   |

### SATURDAY

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7:00pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>TBS A Christmas Story</b> ★★½ (1983, Holiday) Melinda Dillon, Darren McGavin. A 9-year-old boy growing up in 1940s Indiana tries to convince his parents to get him a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas, but his mother only sees the danger. PG TVPG (HD) |
| <b>9:00pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>TBS The Wizard of Oz</b> ★★½ (1939, Fantasy) Judy Garland, Frank Morgan. When a tornado tears through a small farm in Kansas, a cheerful girl and her dog are transported into a colorful world of magic and mystery. NR TV G (HD)                      |

### SUNDAY

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7:00pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>DISN Home Alone</b> ★★ (1990, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci. Inadvertently left at home by his family during a Christmas holiday, a plucky eight-year-old fends off two bumbling burglars attempting to rob his house. PG             |
| <b>7:31pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>ABC The Lion King</b> ★★ (2019, Adventure) Donald Glover, James Earl Jones. A lion cub with a destiny to inherit his father’s kingdom gets separated from his loved ones after his conniving uncle develops a plan to seize the throne. PG |

### MONDAY

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7:00pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>FOX The Real Full Monty</b> Host Anthony Anderson and celebrity guests Taye Diggs, Chris Jones, Tyler Posey, Bruno Tonioli and James Van Der Beek team up to raise cancer awareness. (HD)                                 |
| <b>8:50pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>PARSHO Killing Eve</b> “I Don’t Want to Be Free” As the situation in Moscow escalates, tensions run high, and Eve wonders who she can trust; determined to catch Villanelle, Eve goes rogue despite the danger. TV14 (HD) |

### TUESDAY

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7:30pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>ABC Toy Story That Time Forgot</b> Trixie, the Triceratops, is the gang’s only hope of returning to Bonnie’s room after they meet a bunch of delusional action figures during a play date. NR TV G (HD)                       |
| <b>8:00pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>PARSHO Mission: Impossible</b> ★★ (1996, Action) Tom Cruise, Jon Voight. An agent embarks on a daring scheme to clear his name when he is blamed for the death of his colleagues and suspected of being a traitor. PG-13 (HD) |

### WEDNESDAY

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7:00pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>NBC Frosty the Snowman</b> A group of kids are thrilled when their snowman magically comes to life, but they must travel north with him when spring arrives to prevent him from melting. TV G (HD)                  |
| <b>8:00pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>ABC Celebrity Family Feud</b> “Rosie O’Donnell vs. Billy Porter” Actors Rosie O’Donnell and Billy Porter each lead their respective teams who try to guess America’s answers to various survey questions. TVPG (HD) |

# Opinion and Commentary

## National Rural Health Day commemorated

November 21 was National Rural Health Day. The day offered an opportunity to bring attention to and honor the incredible efforts of rural healthcare providers, communities, organizations, state offices of rural health and other stakeholders dedicated to addressing the unique healthcare needs of rural America.

Southern 7 Health Department is one of 97 local health departments in Illinois under the Illinois Department of Public Health. Southern 7 is the largest surface area health department in the state, covering the roughly 2,300 square miles of the lower southernmost seven counties and serving approximately 64,500 people.

As a local health department, Southern 7 is focused on disease prevention that includes, but is not limited to, vaccines, STD testing, environmental health inspections and testing, health education, cancer prevention, family nutrition and much more.

The department relies heavily on the many dedicated rural healthcare partners in the region to help its clients get the treatment and services they need close to home.

## Union County school awarded field trip grants

More than 350 students in grades 4 through 8 will have an opportunity to visit Illinois state historic sites this school year.

The visits are made possible thanks to grant funding through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, IDNR, State Historic Sites Field Trip Grant program. More than \$4,376 in donated funds were awarded for 12 field trip grants.

Grant recipients represent six Illinois counties, including Union County. Jonesboro Elementary School was awarded three grants, including: \$500 for a 7th and 8th grade trip to the Dana-Thomas House State Historic Site in Springfield. \$500 for an 8th grade trip to the Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site and War Memorials at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. \$376 for a 4th grade trip to the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site in Hartford.

Schools in Cook, Douglas, DuPage, Madison and Peoria counties also were awarded grants.

“This program allows students to visit state historic sites throughout the state to see firsthand what they’ve been learning about in the classroom and to visit a place where notable historic events happened,” IDNR director Natalie Phelps Finnie said in a news release. “Students need the opportunity to experience Illinois’ historical resources in person. We’re pleased to be able to enhance classroom learning with these grants.”

The entire \$4,376 awarded for the 2024-2025 school year was made possible by private donations to IDNR state historic sites. The IDNR State Historic Sites Field Trip Grant program was initiated in the 2020-2021 school year.

The competitive program allows Illinois teachers to apply for funds to take students on a field trip to visit and learn at select state historic sites. Learning activities must directly relate to the school’s curriculum. The annual application deadline is Sept. 30. Funding covers bus transportation.

## Weather

### Half an inch of snow, low of 19 degrees

Mild late November temperatures gave way to cold and snow as the month ended and December started.

Temperatures during the period from Nov. 19 through Dec. 2 ranged from a high of 70 degrees to a low of 19.

Precipitation during the period totaled 0.30 of an inch. Precipitation included a half an inch of snow.

Following are highlights for the period as recorded by weather observer Dana Cross near Jonesboro:

Tuesday, Nov. 19: high 70, low 46. 0.02 of an inch of rain.

Wednesday, Nov. 20: high 59, low 44.

Thursday, Nov. 21: high 46, low 36.

Friday, Nov. 22: high 49, low 36.

Saturday, Nov. 23: high 50, low 32.

Sunday, Nov. 24: high 65, low 32.

Monday, Nov. 25: high 64, low 40.

Tuesday, Nov. 26: high 49, low 27.

Wednesday, Nov. 27: high 48, low 40. 0.14 of an inch of rain.

Thursday, Nov. 28: high 41, low 30.

Friday, Nov. 29: high 40, low 22.

Saturday, Nov. 30: high 41, low 21. Trace of snow and melted precipitation.

Sunday, Dec. 1: high 31, low 24.

Monday, Dec. 2: high 31, low 19. Half an inch of snow; 0.14 of an inch of melted precipitation.

**November Weather**

The high temperature for the month of November was 78 degrees, which was recorded on Nov. 3. The average high for the month was 61.

The low for the month was 21, which was recorded on Nov. 30. The average low was 41.

Precipitation for the month totaled 2.5) inches.

The most rain measured in a 24-hour period was 1.14 inches, which was recorded Nov. 5.

A trace of snow was recorded on Nov. 30.

Precipitation for the year through the end of the month totaled 41.96 inches.



**SHAWNEE MTD**  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

*Introducing New Service*  
**Anna/Jonesboro Fixed Route**

Starting January 2nd, Shawnee MTD will introduce a new service for the Anna/Jonesboro area. This new fixed-route service will make scheduled stops every hour at designated points, and riders will no longer need to call in. Simply be at the designated stop, and when the bus arrives, you just hop on. The fare will be \$1 per stop, and Shawnee MTD will accept monthly in-town passes for these rides. Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for details on the pick-up locations and times. Please note that all of our vehicles are wheelchair accessible to ensure everyone can ride comfortably.

Additionally, beginning January 2nd, riders using the para-transit service, which provides door-to-door transportation, will need to schedule their rides at least 24 hours in advance. Para-transit service is designed for individuals who are unable to use regular fixed-route transit. Currently, riders can call on the same day for a pick-up at their door. The fare for para-transit will remain \$2 per ride, and monthly passes for \$30 for 30 days will provide unlimited rides on both fixed-route and in-town services.

The shift to a 24-hour advance reservation system for para-transit will improve the efficiency and reliability of para-transit, helping to reduce wait times. For more details on these changes and other Shawnee MTD services, please visit [www.shawneemtd.com](http://www.shawneemtd.com).



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**STOP ANNOUNCEMENT • SAFE AND CONVENIENT**

Call **866-577-6278** for more details

# Please read this...

## Too cold, too soon...and somebody with too much money



**Why did the woolly worm cross the street? I’m thinking that as cold as it was, the critter was looking for someplace with a fireplace and a cup of hot chocolate...**

As I am crafting this week’s gem on the first Monday night in December , the temperature outside is 27 degrees. And the wind chill is 18...good thing I got in a walk before the sun went down...

I don’t know about you, but this “officially” old guy was not ready for the cold...and the snow we experienced last Saturday...and...brrrrrr...again on Monday...

I also was not ready to have to clear some cold,wet snow off the car when I headed home from The Paragraph Factory Monday evening.

Bob and I actually went out and sat on the porch swing last Saturday afternoon. Why? There is no rational, sensible explanation. I will say that it was kind of interesting to watch the snow and the leaves on our sweet gum tree fall to the ground at the same time...

By the way...Bob, who is a pretty smart cat, quickly determined that it was indeed cold and it made a lot of sense to go back inside...

Meanwhile...

Did you read about the guy who apparently has a whole lot more money than sense. If I can believe what I read on the internet (and I know that I can), a fellow with \$6,200,000 in his wallet decided to buy a piece of “art.”

As a person who has spent many years living with artists, I

## Master Gardeners program celebrating 50 years

The 1970s were a time of change; people nationwide had growing concerns about environmental damage from industrial pollution and a renewed interest in home gardening.

The environmental movement led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, Earth Day and the Illinois Extension Master Gardener program.

Now, University of Illinois Extension is celebrating the 50-year legacy and accomplishments of the Illinois Master Gardener volunteer program.

Illinois Extension Master Gardeners enrich communities with their commitment to horticulture education and the art and science of growing.

Over 2,000 active volunteers invest their time and talents in cultivating collaborative gardens that feed and support healthy communities, foster hands-on learning and support the environment.

In 2023 alone, 2,358 active volunteers invested 165,508 hours of service to improve the well-being of their environment and those who live in it.

The national Master Gardener program is rooted in the Northwest, where phone lines were ringing off the hook in the early 1970s for Washington State University Extension Agents David Gibby and Bill Scheer, with people asking for advice on home garden maintenance.

They devised a plan to educate volunteers about the science of gardening and then to disperse the information to the public.

Their idea blossomed and branched out, eventually inspiring the spread of the Master Gardener program to all 50 states.

In 1975, Floyd Giles, former Extension horticulture specialist and state Master Gardener coordinator, formed the first Master Gardener program in Illinois, based in Will County and neighboring Chicagoland, DuPage and Cook counties.

The first training session had humble beginnings in the Des Plaines post office. Today, the program continues to expand across Illinois, involving local gardening projects in rural villages, suburban communities and urban centers.

Since its inception in Illinois, the Master Gardener program has witnessed 50 years of countless volunteers dedicating their time and efforts to support projects.

These initiatives include community gardens, therapeutic gardening programs, school partnerships and education on environmental stewardship, among others.



**Carols at Candlelight presented at St. Anne’s Church**

The PAST organization of Union County hosted two holiday season presentations of Carols at Candlelight Sunday afternoon, Dec. 1, at historic St. Anne's Church along South Main Street in Anna. The members of Back Porch Company presented a treasury of Christmas carols at the event. Members of Back Porch Company include Carla Anderson, Richard Johnson, Stuart Anderson, Jon Mark Aldridge and Warren Anderson.