

THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Anna, Illinois

\$1.00

Volume 178, Number 10

News Notes

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



Old Man Winter appeared to have baked a snow cake last week. Plenty of the one necessary ingredient was available.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah has advised that river flooding, mainly on the Ohio and Green rivers, will improve this week as water levels are either cresting or have begun to fall. Temperatures will be above normal, a very welcome change following the extreme cold last week.

Spring severe weather awareness and preparedness campaigns are planned during early March in Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the church's season of Lent, is March 5.

An American Red Cross blood drive is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, in the library at Cobden High School.

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School is congratulating assistant principal Michelle Stevens and PE teacher Kerri Jones-Treece for receiving the Award of Excellence from the Illinois State Board of Education. They are among more than 500 educators across Illinois recognized by the state board.

The Union County Sheriff's Office in Jonesboro plans to conduct testing for dispatcher positions on March 4.

Hannah Prendergast Photography has a new studio at the Shawnee Hills Arts Council's old Anna city hall building.

FFA Week is being celebrated this week at Anna-Jonesboro Community High School with special activities.

A fund-raiser in support of the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School Marching Wildcats band was planned Monday afternoon and evening at Pizza Villa in Anna.

The Cobden Village Board of Trustees has approved the appropriation of \$92,000 in state motor fuel tax funds for street and highway maintenance work in 2025.

Renewal of 911 call handling agreements between

(continued on page 2)

Milder conditions this week

Winter storm brought heavy snow, bitter cold temperatures to region

Last week's snow and bitter cold temperatures have given way to milder weather in the region.

Highs in the 50s and 60s were expected early this week. Highs last week on several days only made it into the teens and 20s.

Heavy snow fell Tuesday night and early Wednesday, Feb. 18-19, in the region.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that right on the heels of a major flooding event, which produced rainfall amounts of 2 to 7 inches on Feb. 15, the area was transformed into a winter wonderland as snow quickly spread across the area on the afternoon and evening of Feb. 18.

Roads quickly became snow covered due to temperatures only in the teens to low 20s.

Parts of I-57 and I-24 were briefly closed overnight due to poor road conditions and accidents.

By the morning of Feb. 19, much of the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region had received anywhere from 3 to 8 inches of snow. Localized higher amounts up to 11 inches were observed in Southeast Missouri.

Wind gusts around 25 miles per hour also accompanied the event, leading to some blowing and drifting of the snow which made measuring it a bit of a challenge.

Snowfall amounts in the Union County area and in the surrounding region reported by the weather service included:

8.3 inches near Dongola.

7.7 inches in Cobden.

7.0 inches near Cobden.

An estimated 6.0 inches in Jonesboro.

5.9 inches in Murphysboro.

5.0 inches near Marion.

5.0 inches near Carbondale.

An estimated 6.0 inches in Tamm.

An estimated 6.0 inches near Brookport.

An estimated 5.0 inches in Pulaski.

6.0 inches in Vienna.

4.0 inches near Cypress.

11.0 inches near Patton in

Southeast Missouri.

8.0 inches near Cape Girardeau.

The winter storm was accompanied by bitter cold temperatures and wind chills.

A cold weather advisory was issued for the region for Thursday, Feb. 20. Wind chills as low as 15 degrees below zero were possible.

Anna police chief reviews 2024 activities

The Anna Police Department recorded more than 4,000 incidents during 2024.

Anna Police Chief Bryan Watkins shared department statistics for last year with city officials.

The report was presented at a regular meeting of the Anna City Council held Friday afternoon, Feb. 21. The meeting was at Anna City Hall.

The police chief's report shared statistics which included:

Total incidents: 4,338. Criminal arrests: 282. Total officer initiated: 834.

Total traffic stops: 589. Total traffic citations: 172. Total warnings: 706.

The weather service advised that extended periods below freezing could have put a strain on infrastructure and also would have been dangerous to those without adequate shelter.

The weather service office reported that records were broken last week for both low and high cold temperatures.

A record low for the date of 4 degrees below zero was reported Friday morning, Feb. 21, in Cape Girardeau. That broke a record of 5 degrees set in 1963. Records have been kept since 1960 in Cape Girardeau.

A record low of 3 degrees below zero was reported Friday morning in Carbondale. The record had been 3 degrees, which was set in 1963. Records have been kept in Carbondale since 1898.

The weather service office reported that record cold high temperatures for the date were shattered across the region on Thursday, Feb. 20, when readings were only in the teens and low 20s.

The high in Paducah was 21 degrees last Thursday. That broke a record of 30 which had been set in 2006. Records have been kept in Paducah since 1937.

The high in Cape Girardeau on Feb. 20 was a record 19. The record had been 28, which was set in 2006.

The high in Carbondale on Feb. 20 was a record 16. The record had been 24, which was set in 1929.

Last week's snow and bitter cold led to numerous closings and cancellations.

The Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro was closed Wednesday, Feb. 19, due to the severe weather. The courthouse reopened at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 20.

Due to the weather forecast, a regular meeting of the Anna City Council scheduled for Tuesday evening, Feb. 18, was moved to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21.

A Jonesboro City Council meeting planned for Feb. 18 was moved to Monday, Feb. 24.

Union County public schools closed due to the weather.

Shawnee Community College operated on a remote learning/work day schedule on Feb. 19.

The Shawnee Mass Transit District was closed Thursday, Feb. 20. The district planned to be in operation on Friday.

Anna City Council meets

Discussion includes praise for city employees and about possible new logo, update on proposed beautification project



Proposed designs for a new City of Anna logo.

Work done in response to recent winter storms was praised at last week's regular meeting of the Anna City Council.

The meeting was held Friday afternoon, Feb. 21, at Anna City Hall. The meeting originally had been scheduled for Tuesday evening, Feb. 18, but was postponed due to bad weather.

The council also discussed a proposal for a new City of Anna logo and received a disappointing update about a proposed community art and beautification project.

Mayor Steve Hartline praised city employee for the work they have done in response to several recent winter storms which brought heavy ice and snow to the region.

The mayor said he has received positive comments from Anna residents regarding the work which has been done. Similar positive comments also have been received at city hall.

Proposals for a new city logo were created by graphic designer Andrew G. Herbert, who is a Southern Illinois native. His designs feature the Annabelle hydrangea, a native plant which was discovered near Anna. The Annabelle now is celebrated with a festival which is scheduled each year in the Union County city. This year's Annabelle Festival is planned Saturday, June 14.

In explaining the designs, Herbert said the letter "A" in Anna combined with the Annabelle flower, when rotated and on their own, can be used as a standalone icon/branding



The City of Anna's current logo.

element.

Herbert said the design incorporates a "subtle nod and visual representation of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers made by the form of the 'A', the stem of the Annabelle flower then represents (roughly) Highway 146 that leads all visitors and residents in to our hometown. In this format and 'story' that is being shared, the Annabelle flower then rises up, elevated above the horizon to symbolize the wonderful flourishing community that is Anna."

City council members will be reviewing the proposed design and offering input.

In other business at Friday's meeting, it was reported that a proposed community art and beautification project involving concrete pillars near the downtown Anna area would not appear to be moving forward.

The project had been proposed by the Shawnee Hills Arts Council.

The concrete pillars were reported to have been used at one time for a water tower which was utilized by steam locomotives. Railroad tracks run through the heart of Anna. The pillars are located on leased Canadian National railroad property. An update



A community art and beautification project had been proposed for concrete pillars located along East Vienna Street in Anna.

shared at Friday's meeting indicated that the proposed arts council project would not be authorized by the railroad's legal representative.

Disappointment about the decision was voiced by city officials.



Snow near Anna school

A pile of snow was seen Thursday, Feb. 20, near Anna Junior High/Davie School in Anna. The snow had been removed from a parking lot at the school following last week's winter storm. Local schools were not in session late last week due to last week's heavy snow and bitter cold temperatures



THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

THE TALK AND COBDEN REVIEW

Serving Union County Since 1849

(USPS 215-280)

ISSN 2834-6165 (Print)

2834-6173 (Online)

112 Lafayette St.

Anna, Illinois 62906-0529

618-833-2158

news@annanews.com

Periodical postage paid at Anna, Illinois 62906-0529



PUBLISHED THURSDAY

Benjamin Marxer.....Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year • July, 2022

In Union County.....\$54.00

Elsewhere in 629 Zip Code.....\$56.00

Out of Area.....\$64.00

Per Copy.....\$1.00

E-edition.....\$54.00



POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

The Gazette-Democrat

112 Lafayette St.

Anna, Illinois 62906-0529

Advertising rates given on application.

The Gazette-Democrat | Monday's Pub.

www.annanews.com

facebook.com/gazettedemocrat

New exhibits on display at SIU's Sharp Museum

Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Sharp Museum features four new exhibits this spring, including works by local artist and SIU Carbondale alumna DeSande R and "UnEssay" projects by anthropology students.

DeSande R will showcase her paintings and artwork in a Labor of Love art exhibition that runs through April 5 in the museum's Hall of Art.

The exhibition is one of several at Sharp Museum this spring and additional installations are still being planned, said T Lance, who began as the museum's curator of exhibits in November.

"I want the SIU and greater Carbondale communities to take pride in our institution and see the resources available to them through Sharp Museum," they said.

"We are working diligently to get additional exhibits installed later this semester."

A Chicago-born artist now living in Carbondale, she earned her master's degree in painting from SIU in 2002 and has taught at John A. Logan College for 20 years.

Her artwork has been influenced by such diverse artists as Laura Wheeler-Waring, Archibald Motley Jr., Rembrandt van Rijn and Odd Nerdrum, as well as SIU faculty members Najjar Abdul-Musawwir and Robert Paulsen (emeritus). Her artwork showcases influential Black community members such as Billie Holiday and Nina Simone.

Students' creativity highlighted

The work of students in an SIU fall 2024 anthropology class is highlighted in "What is Anthropology — Anth 104 UnEssay Projects," on display through May 10 in the muse-

um's Study Gallery.

Chris Stantis, an assistant professor of anthropology, encourages students in her class to look around their world in an anthropological lens and then demonstrate what they have learned creatively.

Students can propose any sort of project to demonstrate the knowledge they have gained, including a business proposal, independent research or video for social media.

"These examples showcase both the depth of anthropology as well as the breadth of Saluki creativity," she said.

Galleries host other exhibits this spring

The Rosanna Sharp Gallery will feature contemporary art selections from the museum's collection of well-known artists' work, including Josef Albers, Salvador Dali, Richard Hunt, Stephen Pace, Gabor Peterdi and Andy Warhol.

Asian art, including a number of artifacts and scrolls from the museum's Cho-Yee To collection, will be on display in the Cho-Yee To International Gallery. Included is an ink block from the Song Dynasty, which dates from 960-1279, as well as three wood block prints from Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai.

For more information, contact T Lance at 618-453-5388 or t.lance@siu.edu or visit museum.siu.edu.

Sharp Museum hours are 12:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday. The museum is closed Sunday and Monday, and during all SIU breaks and holidays.

SIU offering free community tai chi classes

Free tai chi classes are available now at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, courtesy of a visiting scholar from China with SIU's Center for International Education.

Dan Li, a lecturer and martial arts instructor from SIAS University, a partner school in Xinzheng, Henan, China, is teaching the classes.

The classes help participants learn martial arts that can help them relieve stress and enhance their energy levels. No prior experience and everyone can participate at no cost.

The spring schedule includes:

February: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

March: Tuesday and Thursday, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

April: Monday and Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

All classes will meet at the Center for International Education (CIE), 425 Clocktower Drive, in the lower level of Woody Hall in Carbondale. No preregistration is needed.



Snow on the square

Piles of removed snow could be seen last week around the Jonesboro Square following a winter storm which swept through the region Feb. 18-19.

Fourth consecutive record-setting year of industry growth

Cannabis sales in Illinois exceed \$2 billion annually

As the State of Illinois celebrates the fifth anniversary of the legalization of adult use cannabis in Illinois, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) announced today that 2024 marked the fourth consecutive year of record-setting sales.

Overall, dispensaries report that more than \$2 billion of cannabis product was sold in 2024, a 2.5% increase from last year.

The \$2 billion of product includes a record-setting \$1.722 billion in adult use cannabis sales in 2024, with medical cannabis sales exceeding \$285 million. Sales taxes collected at Illinois cannabis dispensaries totaled more than \$490 million in 2024, per the Illinois Department of Revenue.

"The numbers are clear: five years after we legalized adult use cannabis in Illinois, we're seeing the economic impact of a thriving cannabis industry," said Governor JB Pritzker.

"With \$2 billion in record-setting sales and \$490 million generated in tax revenue, our first-in-the-nation equity-focused cannabis industry is the result of my administration's policies, which prioritized repairing the damage done by the failed War on Drugs, creating more good-paying jobs, and building a safe, equitable, and prosperous business sector—making Illinois by far the national leader in diverse ownership for this industry."

Governor Pritzker continued, "While I am pleased with the continued success of cannabis sales and revenues in Illinois, the market is being undermined by the proliferation of the unregulated intoxicating hemp market. Licensed cannabis businesses comply with strict state regu-

lations, pay significant taxes, and undergo rigorous product testing. This unchecked market not only undercuts legal operators but also puts consumers at risk by flooding the industry with untested, potentially unsafe products."

"The continued success of adult use cannabis sales highlights how equity-focused policies can create meaningful change," said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton.

"These sales allow us to reinvest in communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs, fostering growth and creating pathways to a more inclusive and prosperous Illinois."

In total, a record-setting 56,318,082 cannabis items were sold to customers in 2024, which shattered the previous record set in 2023 by more than 13%. This includes 48,953,392 items sold in Illinois adult use cannabis dispensaries, which represents another record total.

Additionally, adult use cannabis sales to Illinois residents totaled \$1,337,640,019.91, an increase of almost 10% from the previous record set in 2023. More than \$385 million of adult use cannabis product was also purchased by out-of-state residents. IDFPR's complete adult use cannabis monthly sales tracker may be found online here, with additional data available on the Illinois Cannabis Regulation Oversight Office website.

"As additional dispensaries open their doors, that increased competition leads to increased availability of product and better prices for consumers - just as we anticipated," said Cannabis Regulation Oversight Officer Erin Johnson.

"We look forward to the continued growth and success of Illinois' cannabis industry, leading to further econom-

ic development and public awareness and support for responsible consumption."

"The past five years represent a powerful journey that has improved Illinois' economy, empowered communities and individuals alike, and fostered a culture of acceptance and responsibility," said IDFPR Secretary Mario Treto, Jr.

"We fully expect that to continue over the next five years as additional dispensaries open their doors, leading to more opportunities for workers seeking to join the industry and increased resources for communities across the state."

There are currently 244 adult use cannabis dispensaries in Illinois, including 134 social equity dispensaries that have opened their doors.

Seventy applicants selected in the 2022 social equity lotteries are still in the process of receiving their full dispensary licenses from IDFPR, as are 51 applicants selected in the Social Equity Criteria Lottery (SECL) in July 2023.

The Department will continue to issue full adult use cannabis dispensary licenses as applicants meet the final licensing criteria. Dispensaries may begin adult use cannabis sales once they receive their full license from IDFPR.

Weather

8 inches of snow;
high 57 degrees,
low 5 below zero

A winter storm last week dropped as much as 8 inches of snow on the Union County area.

Arctic cold temperatures also were recorded. Temperatures during the period of Feb. 18-24 ranged from a high of 57 degrees to a low of 5 degrees below zero.

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

Tuesday, Feb. 18: high 25, low 12. 8 inches of snow (.40 of an inch of melted precipitation.)

Wednesday, Feb. 19: high 22, low 9.

Thursday, Feb. 20: high 19, low 0. Trace of snow and melted precipitation.

Friday, Feb. 21: high 29, low 5 degrees below zero.

Saturday, Feb. 22: high 38, low 9.

Sunday, Feb. 23: high 47, low 17.

Monday, Feb. 24: high 57, low 29.

Check out

The Gazette-

Democrat

on line at

annanews.com



"The Preaching Pen"

Save Now, We Pray



Words change over time. Some Bible translations change the complete meaning of words. Take the word "Hosanna" for example. Although we might not say it aloud, we should always be in a spiritual mindset to understand its meaning. Hosanna is a Greek word, which is transliterated from 2 Hebrew words. The definition becomes "to please save us or deliver us, we pray." Customarily, Hosanna hymns were sung during the Feast of Tabernacles. Today, Jews celebrate it to commemorate Israel's wandering in wilderness and God's provision, protection, and deliverance.

Hosanna is a plea for deliverance. In Psalm 118:25-26, David praises God for his mercy. Although the word is not written in the verse, the intention is clearly visible. It was an original cry for help and plea of urgency and desperation. Today, we still sense the urgency. In Romans 11:26, Jesus is called THE DELIVERER- Out of Zion whereas Isaiah 59:20 calls Christ the Redeemer to Zion. Jesus is still worthy of our praise, Psalm 145:3, 150:6, and 71:8. Hosanna is an exclamation of adoration. We should show our adoration through our worship of Christ. Our worship must come not out of obligation but of LOVE. Hosanna is that exclamation that acknowledges HIS ultimate sacrifice. Today, our adorations should be no less-Matthew 22:37 and Mark 12:30

-all our heart, soul, might.



Ryan Thornsberry,
Anna Church of Christ



Obituaries

Sammy Lee Bryan

Sammy Lee Bryan, 76, of Dongola, formerly of Peoria, passed away, Wednesday, Feb. 12, at his daughter’s home.

He was born July 26, 1948 in Peoria, the son of George Merrill and Maude Viola (Fox) Bryan. He married Mary Vogel on May 29, 1969.

Sammy is survived by his loving wife, Mary Bryan of Dongola; daughter, Kathy Bryan (Steve Hornbeak) of Anna; son, Sammy Bryan (Teri Hogan) of Carbondale; son in law, Ryan Schubert of Pekin; grandchildren, Rachel, Riley and Sophia Bryan; step-granddaughter, Jaclyn (David) Frank; step-great grandchildren, Asher and Violet Frank; sister, Gennie (Bill) Steele of Mapleton; other relatives and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Patricia Jane “P.J.” Schubert; and three brothers, Claud Youngren, Richard Youngren, and George P. Bryan.

Sammy retired from Keystone Steel and Wire in Peoria where he worked for forty-two years.

Back in the late 60’s Sammy was a member of the band **RENDLEMAN & HILEMAN FUNERAL HOMES**



Changing Times. He was a talented musician, playing the drums and strumming guitar. He shared his love of music with his family, playing and singing, just enjoying everyone and having a good time.

Sammy enjoyed mowing on his property and was an avid animal lover. He loved his family dearly and was a good husband and father. He will be deeply missed.

A celebration of life will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 1 at KiKi’s Coffeehouse in downtown Anna.

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

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

Dorothy “Dolly” Johnson

Dorothy “Dolly” Johnson, 96, passed away on Feb. 17, at the Lutheran Home Hospice Care Unit in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

She was born on March 4, 1928 in Cairo, the daughter of the late Alex and Mary Farah Johnson.

Dorothy worked for many years in the family grocery store. After the closing of the grocery store, she worked at Burkart Foam, Inc., and later continued her career working for the Cairo Police Department as a Deputy Clerk for 32 years. She loved her job there and worked until she retired at the age of 89.

She attended the First Presbyterian Church in Cairo.

Survivors include one sister, Rose Nasser, one brother and sister-in-law, George (Kay) Johnson, all of Cairo; one sister-in-law, Rachel Johnson of Tarpon Springs, Fla.; nieces, Mary Kay Krousos of Largo, Fla., Carla Bell of Sikeston, Mo., Pam (Darrell) Hoppe of Cairo, Julie (David) Mason of Thebes; nephews, John Wayne Guetterman of Cape Girardeau, Mo., Jack Guetterman, Jr., George John Nasser, George Johnson, Jr., all of Cairo, Dr. Johnny Johnson, Jr and Dr. Alex Johnson of Fla.; along with several great-nieces and great-nephews.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by two sisters, Alice Johnson and Sara Guetterman; two brothers, Johnny Johnson, Sr. and Alex Johnson, Jr.; two brothers-in-law, Charles Nasser, Jr. and Jack Guetterman, Sr.; one nephew, Charles Nasser III; and one niece, Deborah Rose Nasser.



A private graveside service will be held at Green Lawn Memorial Gardens in Villa Ridge, Ill.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests memorials be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or Magnolia Manor, 2700 Washington Ave, Cairo, Illinois 62914.

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

Crain Funeral Home in Dongola was in charge of arrangements.

Janis J. “Jan” Smith

Janis J. “Jan” Smith, 82, of Anna, passed away Saturday, Feb. 22, at her home, surrounded by her family.

She was born on Feb. 6, 1943, in Decatur, the daughter of Francis and Lorene (Wright) Alexander. She married Clarence Smith on Aug. 25, 1963, in Decatur. He preceded her in death on Aug. 19, 2011.

Jan is survived by her children, Shelly (Alan) Stadelbacher of Anna and Gregg (Anna) Smith of Maryville; grandchildren, Lukus A. and Tanner M. Stadelbacher and Payton Jeene Smith; brother, James (Marcia) Alexander; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, grandson, Joseph A. Smith and a special nephew, Ken Smith.

Jan was a member of Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Delta Theta Tau, Anna-Jonesboro Garden Club and the Anna Chamber of Commerce. She also served on the Teen Town board.

She, along with her husband Clarence, owned and operated Smith’s Clothing and Smith Motors. For many years, she served our community as a social worker at various senior care facilities and at Choate Mental Health and Development Center.

Jan enjoyed gardening, arts and crafts, and bird watching.



She loved spending time with her family and the “birthday group”.

Funeral services for Jan Smith will be held at 1 pm Thursday, Feb. 27, at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with Stevie Guined officiating. Interment will follow in the Anna Cemetery.

Visitation will take place from 11 a.m. until the service time at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to Hospice of Southern Illinois. Envelopes are available at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home.

To visit the memorial page of Jan Smith and leave online condolences for her family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com

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

News from

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

On Sunday, Feb. 23, Pastor Perry Williams spoke in all of our services.

His morning message addressed abundant life and victory and the importance of being where God wants you. His text was found in the tenth chapter of John in the New Testament and also in the seventeenth chapter of Exodus, found in the Old 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.

Music director Dee Rose led worship along with along with this month’s prayer team, featuring Rodger Goines, Marion and Joyce Hill and Sharon Morgan.

Debbie York was the pianist, and Rodger Goines and Robert McCain sang a

medley of “One of These Days I’m going to Heaven” and “Amazing Grace.”

Men’s and women’s Bible studies were scheduled at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16. Birthdays: Marilyn Hale, Feb. 16; Jackie Dilow, Feb. 19; Cynthia Hall, Feb. 21; Jean Eudy, Feb. 23; Alma Osterholm, Feb. 24; Chris Dale and Kye Wheaton, Feb. 27; and Joan Mowery and Marc Sheffer, Feb. 28.

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.

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

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

A morning worship service was held Sunday, Feb. 23.

Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins.

A Letter of Renewal of Church/Pastoral Relationship from Illinois District Superintendent, Dr. Terry Armstrong was read by church board secretary, Jessica Elkins.

The letter stated that Armstrong had met with the church board on Thursday, Feb. 20 and the board was unanimous in their consensus to continue current pastoral relationship with Pastor Randy Wright.

It would be another four years before the next review. Pastor Wright was given a card of appreciation along with a gift card.

The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team. The message “True Happiness” was brought from Matthew 5: 3-12, 2 Chronicles 7:14, James 4:6, 2 Corinthians 12:9.

The evening service was held at 6 pm with Pastor

Wright bringing the message.

Birthday: Tonya Hammer, Feb. 26.

Anniversary: Richard and Brenda Keeley celebrated 22 years.

Sunday, March 2
Breakfast, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning service, 10:35 a.m. with Alabaster Offering taken. Evening worship service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, March 5
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.

Thursday, March 18
The Spring 2025 Southern Zone Mission Rally with guest speakers Rodney and Sarah Reed.

The reeds are the 2024 Links missionaries and well be in the midst of their retirement deputation tour.

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.

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

We can certainly hope those snowy days are behind us. I am appreciative of the warmth, as well, of the coming days.

The snow days have certainly created havoc with structures, trees, and vehicles. Roofs and gutters have taken a lot of abuse, of late, and a lot of folks are finding new leaks. Tree debris will be a long time clean up event for sure.

Spring hasn’t arrived yet, so now might be a good time to schedule all those places that need servicing before those spring storms make their appearance.

Please check those trades people thoroughly to make sure they are bonded and licensed, however. Get recommendations from people you know who have used their services and even ask your insurance companies.

Also, don’t forget your vehicles. They need to be washed well to get rid of the treatment from the roads. These treatments are often corrosive. Just call it all early spring cleaning.

Bad weather has even led to events having to be rescheduled, as well. The Anna Arts Center has moved their Civil War Weekend event to the March 7th weekend. You have a few added days to buy those tickets and make plans to attend.

Mill Creek Baptist was blessed this last go-around of bad weather to have church members plow parking lots and clean steps and wheelchair ramps as well, so we could have services this Sunday. We are blessed!

This Sunday Brother Bobby Richardson led the congregation in worship from Psalm 121 and Matthew 10: 32-33.

These passages tell us to trust God. How do we do that? We must have a relationship with God. His eye is always on us. His ways, however, aren’t always what we’d like them to be. We must have faith and trust that He will lead us where we need to be.

At the end of services, we brought up all our children and grandchildren and prayed over them and the congregation prayed over them and those that weren’t there, as well.

Believe me, in today’s world, they need it. We should all be praying for

our families daily. Asking and trusting God to watch over them and protect them in all ways, even when we are standing next to them.

My children are in their thirties and forties and my grandchildren just in the single digits, but believe me, as long as I’m alive, I’ll be praying every day and specifically when it’s called for.

Those added to our prayer list this week are: The Jan Smith family in her passing; the Andrew Duarte family in his passing; Braden Rider as he mourns the lost of his friend Andrew who was killed in the line of duty; Cookie Goodwin as she recovers from surgery and the infection that came afterwards; Jim Helton who is undergoing tests; Gary Rider as he recovers from surgery that thankfully went really well; Lety Powles as she mourns the loss of her mother; Mary Powles in the loss of a beloved pet and for her knee issues; Nikki Bates who needs affordable MS medication; Parker Branscum who has been seriously ill; Patty Barra who has cancer; Lester Wallace who has cancer; Reba Short who has had the flu; Sue Starr who is still in the hospital; and Rachel Cobb for health concerns.

The Harvel’s had a bit of company this past week. Shirley Harvel was blessed to have her daughter, Tina Moore, and her husband, Darron, come to visit from Poplar Bluff, Mo. over the President’s Day holiday.

They took Shirley out to lunch and invited Richard and Suzan Harvel to join them over in Cape Girardeau. It was a very nice visit and good to see them.

Then, Nikki Bates and her husband and children visited this past Sunday with Richard, Suzan, and Shirley Harvel. One grandson got to show off his big gap smile now that he’s lost both front teeth, and even has a wiggler on the bottom. The tooth fairy will be fixing him up soon!

Another grandson helped his Nana and Pa cook supper. This also helped him with a homework assignment since his job was to measure ingredients. Great job boys! Little sister’s job was just to look cute, which she managed quite well.

Union County Fixin’s

By Suzan Harvel

Chicken Pot Pie

1 whole chicken
Water to cover and cook chicken
1/2 large onion, diced small
1 garlic clove, diced small or 1 teaspoon minced garlic
1 stalk of celery, diced small
1 stick of butter
2-3 tablespoons of flour
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 tablespoon chicken base or bouillon paste
3 cans mixed vegetables rinsed and drained, or 2 cups saved leftover vegetables from freezer, or whatever diced and drained vegetables suit your tastes.
2 boxes of refrigerator pie crusts or make your own if desired. If you don’t want a bottom crust, only 1 box is needed or use 2- 10 count cans of small flaky-style biscuits for topper.

eBoil cut up chicken. Cool and de-bone. Cut into bite size pieces and refrigerated until needed. Reserve broth in covered mixing bowl in refrigerator until fat comes to the top and solidifies. Then skim fat off and discard. (Should be about 4-5 cups). You can use a rotisserie chicken and two cartons of chicken broth, also, to save time.

To a large stock pot or Dutch-oven add: onion, garlic, celery, & 1 stick of butter.

Sauté until tender, on low.
Bump the heat up to medium and add enough flour to make a thick paste (roux) and reduce heat back to low and stir constantly to keep from scorching for 3 minutes.

Add skimmed chicken broth, base, and can of cream of chicken soup and whisk until incorporated and heated thoroughly.

Add mixed vegetables and chicken.

Mix well and cook at medium-high heat until thickened. If not thick enough, mix a tablespoon of cornstarch with a cup of cold water and add to vegetable mix.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In deep casserole dish or shallow roaster pan add two of piecrusts and press to seal edges, tearing leftover edges and adding to make a complete crust up all sides of the dish. Bake for 8 minutes.

Add chicken and vegetable mix until an inch from top. Reserve the rest for later. Prepare top crusts so that it forms a crust that covers the top then add and seal edges. Prick top crust and bake for 40 minutes. (If using canned flaky biscuits for topper, separate them to cover the top completely. Flip biscuits over half way through to keep them from becoming too soggy.)

View Obituaries
Online at
annanews.com

In Loving Memory of
Evelyn Roberts
October 1, 1932 - February 11, 2022

Another year the Good Lord Blessed us to see, with memories of you. I miss you so much, mama. It is hard for us to believe that you have been gone fourteen years. We could always talk to you about everything. As the years have gone by, all the dreams we had as children growing up and being able to come to talk to you about things on this earth we go through as we get older. You gave us so much love growing up; by teaching us to have compassion and respect for others. People always tell us they can tell we were brought up right. We truly love and miss you everyday. God Blessed us with a beautiful mother, that was so radiant inside - out.

*Love you
Always & Forever
your children.
Missing our siblings,
Ronald and Jerome
Rest in peace*

Legion post planning chicken dinner

Louis Phares American Legion Post 178 invites the public to a chicken dinner in celebration of the 106th birthday of the American Legion organization.

The event will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Legion Hall located at 1853 Olmsted Road in Villa Ridge.

The menu includes smoked chicken quarters, a variety of delicious side dishes, drinks, and birthday cake.

Tickets are \$12 at the door, and carry-outs will be available.

The American Legion was founded in March 1919 by veterans of World War I and

formally chartered by the US Congress in September of that year.

The Louis Phares American Legion Post 178, named for a Pulaski County WW I veteran, was incorporated in January 1935.

Post 178 provides military honors for veterans at Mound City National Cemetery and other local cemeteries, helps organize Memorial Day, Flag Day and Veterans' Day ceremonies, provides the color guard at local parades and civic events, and serves local veterans and our community in many other ways.

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

It was nice to have moderating temperatures and to be back to in-person worship Sunday.

Bro. Easton's sermon was "Battlefield of the Mind" with his main scripture 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

The sermon stated:

"Every day we are in a battle of some sort; conflict is all around us."

"We must prepare each day to be strong in the Lord by girding ourselves in the full armor of God."

"God is working in us according to His good purpose. Faith is the only thing that God requires."

"Regardless of the battle we are in, if we stay close to God, we will be protected. Through Jesus Christ we have victory over all things."

"Satan is always trying to get us to take our eyes off Jesus. Let us not change the truth of God for a lie of Satan."

Addi and Raelynn Bonner took up the morning tithes and offerings.

Our Elder for March will

be Rachel Bonner.

Dwight Boaz's birthday was Feb. 24.

Cape Ground Church recognizes the accomplishments of their students. Raelynn Bonner attained High Honor Roll at Anna Junior High, Conner Pind Honor Roll at Jonesboro, Aldi and Vodra Gerard Honor Roll at Cypress School, Addi Bonner Honor Roll at A-JCHS, Matthew Boaz High Honor Roll, Morris High School, and Andrew Boaz, High Honor Roll at Saratoga School, Morris, Ill.

Camp Ground Church invites anyone who does not have a church home to join them in study and worship any or every Sunday.

Fellowship and coffee are at 9:15 a.m., followed by Bible study for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

In case of inclement weather, check our Facebook page, "Camp Ground Cumberland Presbyterian Church", as to whether services will be in-person or online.

The church is located at the intersection of Camp Ground Road and Tunnel Lane east of Anna and just north of Illinois Route 146.

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



618-893-2861 • 618-534-2391

Custom Processing of Beef-Pork-Goat-Sheep
Deer Processing Oct. 1st through Jan. 30th.



5565 St. Rt. 146E
Anna, IL 62906
618-833-5986

Jason Martin, Owner
Visit our website:
triplecmeats.com

Duty's Auto Glass
Windshields • Door Glasses
Back Glasses • Chip Repair

*Serving All of Southern Illinois
Over 30 Years Experience*

324 Willard Ferry Rd. • Jonesboro
833-2923 or Toll Free 866-759-2923



**Anna-Jonesboro
National Bank**
Dedicated to our customers, committed to our community

201 South Main • Anna, IL • 618-833-8506
512 E. Vienna St. • Anna, IL • 618-833-2922
1002 Public Square • Jonesboro • 618-833-4547





SOUTHERN FS Inc.
*Bulk & Bag Feed
Pet & Horse Supplies
Home & Garden*

Not just for farmers anymore! Take a look around!

400 S. Main • Jonesboro, IL 62952
Phone (618) 833-2494
Fax (618) 833-3868



Josh's Heating & Cooling

P.O. BOX 775
Jonesboro, IL 62952
618-697-8490

joshuahathy@gmail.com



**Dine-In
Carryout
Delivery**

1835 E. Vienna St. • Anna, IL
(618) 833-2415
www.pizzahut.com

Cardinal Corner



409 Grand Tower Road
Grand Tower, IL
618-565-1064
Your Hometown Store

**GROSS
BUSTERS**
Exterior Cleaning

Pressure Washing • Deck Staining • Gutter Cleaning
618.697.5968



Streams Turn Into Rivers



Photo Credit istockphoto.com/Nopparat05081977

A mighty river is created from many small streams. With each joining tributary, meandering streams become part of a more powerful force moving with purpose toward a goal. Like a little stream, each of us is capable of becoming part of a more powerful influence for good; God's House is made up of many souls joining to form a spiritual river which can flow through the community, the state, the nation, and ultimately, the world. Our Lord declares in John 7:38, "He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Join the river at your house of worship.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
1 John 2.7-29	1 John 3.1-24	1 John 4.1-21	1 John 5.1-21	2 John	3 John	Colossians 1.1-23

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

©2025, Keister-Williams Newspaper Services, P.O. Box 8187, Charlottesville, VA 22906, www.kwnews.com

Community Integrated Living, Inc.
*Improving the lives of the
individuals we serve.*

201 E. Chestnut St. • Anna, IL
618-833-2500
www.communityintegratedliving.com



**FARMERS
STATE BANK**
55 N. Elm St. • Alto Pass, IL
(618) 893-2464
www.myfsb.com





**A&G
AUTOMOTIVE, INC.**

109 Transcraft Drive
Anna, IL 62906
833-8755





**THE FIRST STATE BANK
OF DONGOLA**
Old and Reliable, Established 1906

108 SE Front Street • Dongola, IL 62926
618-827-3451





**MIDWESTERN
PROPANE GAS CO.**
Anna, IL • 833-6300
Mike Jones, Manager

Apostolic Lighthouse Church



Breakfast and Sunday
School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship service
at 10:45 a.m.
Midweek service
Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**423 S. Front St.
Cobden, IL 51-3GC**



**You're Invited!
CrossPointe
Church**

409 S. Green St, Anna, IL 62906 (Corner of West Spring and S. Green St)

**Sunday
Worship Service
10:30am**

**Wednesday
Bible Study
7pm**



GIVE US A CALL....WE CLEAN IT ALL
618.697.7030
618.697.9502



BEUSSINK, HICKAM & KOCHEL P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

139 W Vienna St – Anna, IL 62906
(618) 833-2721

Serving the area for over 35 years
**Gurley & Son Heating
& Air Conditioning**

INSTALL CONFIDENCE

1540 Old Hwy. 51N • Anna, IL
(618) 833-5211
"Hope to see you in church Sunday"



**Schaefer
Enterprises**
Website: www.sewlparts.com

P.O. Box 136 • Wolf Lake, IL 62998
Email: parts@sewlparts.com
800-626-6046 • (618) 833-5498
Fax: 618-833-7765



**WHITNEY
ACCOUNTING**
(618) 833-2145
105 Transcraft Drive - Anna, IL

**WINTERS
ROLL-OFF**
LLC

Michael Winters • Owner **Unwanted Clutter**
618-614-0885 **Hauling Service**
Dumpster Rentals

Serving the community since 1979!
DUTCH GUTTERING
CALL FOR SUMMER SPECIALS!
618-351-1881

Seamless Aluminum Guttering
Gutter Clean Outs • Leaf Guards
Roof Repairs • Home Improvement
Service and Repair • Siding & Overhang



**Anna
STATE BANK**

100 E. Vienna Street • Anna, IL
833-2151
www.annastate.com





**Union County
Abstract Office, Inc.**

Chicago Title Insurance Company
Susan T. Holderfield, President
304 West Market Street • P.O. Box AC
Jonesboro, Illinois 62952
(618) 833-6521

To support your community Church Page, contact Meta for more details at 1-800-293-4709.

The Gazette-Democrat
Classified Section

Anna Office
618-833-2158
classifieds@annanews.com
AD DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. MONDAY

CLASSIFIED RATES
Classifieds35¢ per word
\$8.00 minimum for each paid ad per week

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY RATES
Per inch\$14.00

REAL ESTATE

Looking to buy a home, very private. Around 1,800 to 2,000 sq ft., acreage OK. Location in the city limits or AJ vicinity. Call 618-614-2777

10-13gp

FOR RENT

For Rent: Very nice 1,000 sq. ft. one bedroom apartment with garage, laundry and free city utilities. Call 618-833-0433.

11-12gp

HELP WANTED

The City of Anna, IL is accepting applications for the position of a General Clerk. Applicants must be 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. The position will be 40 hours a week, 8 am to 4 pm. Candidates must have a positive attitude, be able to multi-task and work well with the public and employees. Duties include but are not limited to: greeting customers, answering multi-line phone system, collecting and posting payments, entering data and creating customer bills. Must be able to operate basic office equipment, proficient computer skills (including Window Office), and basic accounting knowledge. Applications will be available for interested candidates at Anna City Hall or online at cityofanna.org. Please return resume and employment application to the Human Resources Department at Anna City Hall, 103 Market Street Anna, IL 62906 or by email to mmcreynolds@cityofanna.org. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

11-12g

Knollwood
Apartments

112 Leigh Ave.
Anna, IL 62906

Professionally managed by

WINTERWOOD
INCORPORATED

Accepting applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments.

EEO
Equal Opportunity Employer

(618) 833-7766
TDD 800-648-6056
Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m
www.WinterwoodOnline.com

Equal Opportunity Provider
Equal Housing Opportunity

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO. 2025TX3
FILED February 18, 2025
TAKE NOTICE
TO: LANCE MEISENHEIMER, UNION COUNTY CLERK; SHAWN SILLIMAN; ERNEST D. HUBBS; DONNA D. HUBBS; OCCUPANT; CATLIN MARKS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF ERNEST D. HUBBS; UNKNOWN OWNERS OR PARTIES INTERESTED; AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS.
This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property: LOT NUMBERED EIGHTEEN (18), IN BLOCK SIX (6), IN VILLAGE OF ALTO PASS, UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Parcel Index Number 14-00-10-880
On August 20, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. the Petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on February 15, 2023 for general taxes of the year 2021. The period of redemption will expire August 15, 2025.
Stuart E. Morgenstern, Attorney for Petitioner (618) 357-5315
Cert. # 2021-00161 8221-950662

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with Section 17-20 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/17-20), notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at 12:00 PM, 18-Mar-2025, in the Offices of the Illinois Department of Revenue, 101 West Jefferson Street, Springfield, Illinois, for the purpose of taking evidence which may be pertinent to the Department's estimate of the percent to be applied to the aggregate assessment of locally assessed property in Union County for the assessment year 2024. This hearing is required by the Property Tax Code.
Based on the comparison of assessed valuations, the analysis of property transfers, and other available information, the estimated percentage to be applied to the aggregate assessment of locally assessed property other than property assessed under Sections 10-110 through 10-140 and 10-170 through 10-200 of the Property Tax

Code (35 ILCS 200/10-110 through 10-140 and 10-170 through 10-200) is 0.00%. Accordingly, the tentative equalization factor is 1.0000.
This meeting will be accessible to persons with disabilities in compliance with Executive Order #5 and pertinent state and federal laws upon notification of anticipated attendance. Persons with disabilities planning to attend and needing special accommodations should contact the Property Tax Division, by telephone at 217 785-6619, email Rev. SR-EQUAL@illinois.gov or letter at Illinois Department of Revenue, Property Tax Division MC-3-450, P.O. Box 19033, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9033, by 11-Mar-2025, to inform of their anticipated attendance.
8221-950754

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

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF Alexis Roeker, Petitioner, vs. Aurora Roeker, Respondent
Case No. 2024-DN-22

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN YOU, Aurora Roeker, that this case has been commenced in this court by the petitioner against you for dissolution of marriage and other relief.
UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Circuit Court of this Court in the Union County Courthouse, Jonesboro, Illinois, on or before 10:00 AM on March 24, 2025. A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE PETITION.
Dated: February 6, 2025
Keri E. Clark
Clerk of the Circuit Court
8221-950393

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VICKY ARNOLD Deceased
2024PR31

NOTICE TO UNKOWN CREDITORS
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of: VICKY ARNOLD of Jonesboro, Illinois
Letters of Office were issued on 01/13/25 to Independent Administrator Connie Arnold, 485 Saint Johns Road, Anna, IL 62906. The estate will be administered without Court supervision, unless any interested party terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition to terminate to the clerk under 755 ILCS 5/28-4.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, IL 62952, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the initial date of publication, and any claim filed with the clerk must be delivered to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. Any claim not filed within that time will be barred.
January 14, 2025 /s/Matthew Benson
Matthew Benson, IL ARDC 6282507
The Benson Law Firm, PC
601 S. Washington St. DuQuoin, IL 62832
(618)542-5500
notice@mbensonlaw.com
8221-950159

Cobden Elementary School honors students who reached reading goals

Cobden Elementary School regularly recognizes students who reach their goals in the schoolwide Accelerated Reading program. Students are required to read books and take comprehension tests on the computer to achieve their points. Students who reached their goals in January are featured. Photos provided.



25 Point Club: In the first row are Jett Sanders, Marci Taylor, Thorin Leek and Aaron Wooters. In the second row are Walker Schilling, Mia Guzman, Alyna Calderon, Katie Flick and Evie Jackson. Brenleigh Miller could not be present for the picture.



50 Point Club: In the first row are Esleie Boyles and Lilli Paulson. In the second row are Lydia Wright, Kenna Haynes, Troy Williams, Wyatt Schilling, Iker Nava, Maddox Gibson, Fernando Salas, Liam Hess, Oliver Byers and Evvy Pearson. Flynt Brumleve could not be present for the picture.

Nominations sought for Senior Hall of Fame

The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) is seeking nominations for the 2025 induction class of the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame, which honors the accomplishments of Illinois residents aged 65 and older.

“Whether it’s the teacher who goes the extra mile for their students or the neighbor who’s always ready to lend a hand, our seniors are the backbone of our communities — embodying kindness, generosity, and ingenuity,” said Governor JB Pritzker.

“Each year, my administration is proud to honor four older adults for their contributions in community service, education, arts, and labor by inducting them into the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame. I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to nominate the older adults in their lives whose impact deserves to be recognized and celebrated.”

Each year, four older adults are inducted into the Hall of Fame for their work in the arts, sports, and entertainment; community service; education; or the labor force. Anyone may nominate an older adult for consideration.

To be eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame, nominees must be:

- At least 65 years old at the time of nomination; and
- A current Illinois resident or a previous resident of Illinois for most of their life.

Posthumous nominations are also accepted, provided the nominee was 65 or older and living in Illinois at the time of death.

To guarantee consideration for the 2025 induction class, nominations must be submitted on or before June 2, 2025. Nominators of new Hall of Fame inductees are expected to participate in an award ceremony honoring their nominee and highlighting their accomplishments.

“The Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame honors outstanding older adults who have made and continue to make significant contributions to their communities,” said IDoA Acting Director Mary Killough.

“If you know someone who fits this criteria, please nominate them to be recognized and celebrated.”

Completed nomination forms may be submitted electronically or returned via U.S. mail, fax, or email. For more information, please visit ilaging.gov/resources/news-publicationsandreports/halloffame.html.

100 Point Club: Logan Brumleve.

Check out
The Gazette-Democrat
on line at
annanews.com

An Homage to Hometown Happenings

By Kate B. Jerome

No matter where my travels take me, I always seek out the local newspaper. I know. My smartphone easily provides more detail about a town than I will ever need. But the local paper does so much more. That’s because it fits the many pieces of the community puzzle together. Where else can you get a glimpse of what a citizenry most values and fears – all within a few recyclable pages?
In the tiny town where I grew up, the local paper was a powerful tool – no doubt for many reasons beyond my young comprehension. However, I looked forward to the daily delivery for two simple reasons.
First, I loved to read the personal stories – from tragedy to triumph – about the people in my own community. It was the first inkling I had that I might be part of something larger than the family who lived at 12 Parkview.
Second, I couldn’t wait to hear the interesting dinner conversations that some tidbit in the paper was bound to spark. Of course, my favorites were the most heated discussions. And when my parents resorted to spelling out words? Well, let’s just say the training led to considerable success in my grade school spelling bees!
Decades of educational publishing experience later, I know my hometown paper was just one arrow in the successful child-raising quiver my parents used. But it was an important tool, and the outcomes it helped produce are still of the utmost importance today.
You see, building a strong sense of place plays a key part in a child’s social and emotional development. When children connect with the community around them, it helps them develop their own personal identity. An added benefit is the sense of stewardship it often inspires.
And the value of generating meaningful conversations? In my view, it’s off the charts. Too often in our busy world, dialogue with our kids tends toward the practical (Did you pick up your toys?) rather than the profound (Keep trying even when it’s hard!). So any tool that inspires discussion of such issues as friendship and community should be deeply valued. Why? Because that’s when our own stories of personal grit and resilience begin to flow.
And aren’t those the kind of Hometown Happenings that we really want our children to remember?

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

Send Classified
Ad sand Legal
Notices to
classifieds
@annanews.com

Union County Museum in Cobden set to reopen in March

The Union County Museum will reopen after being closed for winter on Saturday, March 8, at 1 p.m.

The museum will feature two special displays along with its permanent displays of Anna Pottery and local history.

Farrell Trumbley of Thompsonville will be exhibiting his bird egg collection. Trumbley amassed a unique collection of bird eggs that includes a variety of species.

The eggs will be displayed with information on each bird. The collection was donated by his widow last year.

The other display is on the history of Cobden’s first chartered bank, The First National Bank, which was founded in 1900.

A variety of photos and documents highlight the 125 year history of the bank. There are advertising pieces from the early 1900s that list the board of directors along with infor-

mation on pre-1900 banking history in Cobden.

There are photos of staff members and past presidents of the bank. The bank played an important part of Cobden’s development. The Cobden branch of the bank was closed in January 2025 by the US Bank Corporation.

The Shop for the Benefit of the Museum will also open. The shop features collectibles, house wares, decorative items, soft goods and much more.

Spring related and Easter merchandise will also be offered. Proceeds go to the operation of the Museum.

The Union County Museum is located at 117 S. Appleknocker in downtown Cobden, Ill.

Hours are Saturday/Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday afternoons by chance. Phone number is 618/893-2865. The Museum is operated by the Union County Historical & Genealogy Society.

Trail Society hike planned

A River to River Trail Society has announced its third public hike of the 2025 spring hiking season for Saturday, March 15 at Jackson Falls in Pope County.

The hike is free and open to the public. This will be a loop hike of high difficulty 3.5 miles in length, with 3 hours of hiking time.

The leader of the hike can be reached at 618-534-8139 for more information.

Hikers are asked to meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Hill Church in

Ozark, Ill.

The trail society has stated that the hike is intended for people in good health who have done some hiking.

Hiking sticks and boots or sturdy shoes are recommended. Hikers should bring their own water and snacks. Hikers are asked to not bring dogs.

More information, including driving instructions to the meeting area, can be found online at the River to River Trail Society’s website at www.rivertorivertrail.net

Television Listings

THURSDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	Wom. College Basketball (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	“Beverly Hills” (‘84)	Big City	★★★ “Deep-water Horizon” (‘16) Dylan O’Brien.	“Mechanic” (‘16) (HD)	“Interstellar” (‘14)
7 PM :30	Ext. Makeover (HD)	Marriage Ghosts	Next Level Chef (HD)	Law & Order (HD)		Bang (HD)	(:58) “National Lampoon’s Vacation” (‘83)	Big City		“Deadpool” (‘16) Ryan Reynolds.	Yellowjackets (HD)
8 PM :30	(:01) Scamanda (HD)	Matlock “Pregame”	Animal (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Women’s College Basketball from Site TBA	Bang (HD)		Primos	Eyes On The Prize III	(:49) “Sherlock Holmes” (‘09, Action) Robert Downey Jr.	“Geostorm” (‘17, Thriller) Gerard Butler. (HD)
9 PM :30	(:01) Perfect Wife	Elsbeth “Tearjerker”	Local Programs Local info.	Found (HD)		Bang (HD)	(:15) ★½ “National Lampoon’s European Vacation” (‘85)	Wizards	Eyes On The Prize III		
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Jokers		ZOMBIES	Jessie	(:05) The White Lotus	★★★ “Tropic Thunder” (‘08) Ben Stiller. (HD)
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Foul Play		Jessie	Bluey	(:58) “Wanted” (‘14)	
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Reese Witherspoon.	“Hills” (R)	Bluey			

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

FRIDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA (HD)	Bang (HD)	★½ “Euro. Vac.” (‘85)	(5:10) “Raya” (‘21)	The White Lotus (HD)	(5:24) “Crank 2” (‘09)	“Star Trek: Section 31” (‘25) Michelle Yeoh.
7 PM :30	Shark Tank (HD)	NCIS: Sydney (HD)	College Basketball UCLA vs Purdue (Live)	Place Night (HD)	(:43) NBA Basketball Cleveland vs Boston (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)		Wizards	(:05) “End of Watch” (‘12) Jake Gyllenhaal.	★★★ “RoboCop” (‘14, Action) Joel Kinnaman.	Yellowjackets (HD)
8 PM :30	(:01) 20/20 Investigative news. (HD)	Fire Country (HD)		Dateline NBC		“Straight Outta Compton” (‘15, Drama) Jason Mitchell.	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (HD)	Jessie			
9 PM :30		S.W.A.T. (HD)	Local Programs		NBA Basketball Los Angeles vs Los Angeles (Live) (HD)	(:49) ★★½ “Get Hard” (‘15, Comedy) Will Ferrell. (R) (HD)		Miraculous	Real Time with (HD)	“Eye in the Sky” Helen Mirren.	“Breathe” (‘24) Jennifer Hudson.
10 PM :30	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local			Bel-Air	Wizards	The White Lotus (HD)	(:41) ★★½ “War on Everyone” (‘16)	(:35) Yellowjackets
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)			9-1-1 Plane crash.	Big City	(:05) Real Time with		“Irenas Vow”
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night	SC (HD)			Big City			

FEBRUARY 28, 2025

SATURDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local	Local Programs	NRL Rugby League (Live) (HD)	Local Programs	(5:00) NHL Hockey Detroit vs Columbus (Live)	Bang (HD)	(3:30) IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship (HD)	Big City	The White Lotus (HD)	“The Martian” (‘15)	Yellowjackets (HD)
7 PM :30	NBA (Live)	FBI: International		The Hunting Party		Bang (HD)		Big City		“Knight and Day” Tom Cruise.	Yellowjackets (HD)
8 PM :30	NBA Basketball Golden State vs Philadelphia (Live) (HD)	48 Hours (HD)	Wom. College Basketball USC vs UCLA (Live)	Dateline NBC	College Basketball Arizona vs Iowa State (HD)	★★★½ “Mad Max: Fury Road” (‘15, Action) Tom Hardy. (HD)		“Movie”	To Be Announced Info unavailable.	(:50) ★★ “Need for Speed” (‘14, Action) Aaron Paul. (HD)	“Strange Darling” (‘24) (R) (HD)
9 PM :30		48 Hours (HD)		Saturday Night Live		(:45) “I Am Legend” (‘07, Science Fiction) Will Smith. (HD)	9-1-1 (HD)	StuGo	(:18) The White Lotus (HD)		(:45) ★★★★★ “Pulp Fiction” (‘94, Crime) John Travolta. (HD)
10 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	Local	Local	College Basketball		9-1-1 (HD)	Miraculous	“Ghostbusters” (‘84) Bill Murray.	(:01) “High Life” (‘19)	
11 PM :30	Local Programs		Local	Saturday Night Live (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)		9-1-1 (HD)	Big City			

MARCH 1, 2025

SUNDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	The Oscars (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	Extracted “The Hunt”	The Americas (HD)	NBA Basketball Oklahoma City vs San Antonio (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	The White Lotus (HD)	(:12) The Knick (HD)	Yellowjackets (HD)
7 PM :30		Tracker (HD)	Family Guy Grimsburg	The Americas (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(:51) The White Lotus	“Sherlock Holmes” (‘09) Robert Downey Jr.	Yellowjackets (HD)
8 PM :30		Watson	North (HD)	Suits: L.A. “Hanrahan”	(:35) NBA Basketball Minnesota vs Phoenix (Live) (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	The White Lotus (HD)		Yellowjackets (HD)
9 PM :30	American	The Equalizer (HD)	Local Programs	Grosse Pointe “Pests”		Foul Play	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	(:03) The White Lotus	(:09) “X-Men: Apocalypse” (‘16, Action) James McAvoy.	“Million Dollar Baby” (‘04) Clint Eastwood.
10 PM :30	(:02) Local Programs Local info.	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local		★★★ “Men in Black III” (‘12) Will Smith. (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	StuGo	Last Week		(:15) Yellowjackets
11 PM :30		Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs Local info.	SportsCenter (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	Hamster	(:47) The White Lotus		
						“Men Black”		Bluey	(:50) Lotus	“Outlaws”	

MARCH 2, 2025

MONDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	College Basketball Wake Forest vs Duke (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	(5:55) “Movie”	“Green Lantern” (‘11)	(5:10) “In Time” (‘11)	“Bad Moms”
7 PM :30	The Bachelor (HD)	Neighbor.	Extracted (HD)	The Voice “The Blind Auditions Part 5” (HD)		Bang (HD)	WWE Monday Night Raw (HD)		(:56) The White Lotus	“Free Fire” (‘17) Sharito Copley.	“The Glorias” (‘20, Drama) Julianne Moore. (HD)
8 PM :30		NCIS “Close to Home”	Rescue: Hi-Surf (HD)		College Basketball Kansas vs Houston (Live)	Bang (HD)		Wizards	Celtics City		
9 PM :30	(:01) Mormon Wives	NCIS: Origins (HD)	Local Programs Local info.	The Hunting Party		Dad (HD)		Wizards	(:02) Celtics City	“The Hole in the Ground” (‘19)	Yellowjackets (HD)
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Dad (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	To Be Announced	(:04) The White Lotus	“The Boondock Saints” (‘99) Willem Dafoe.	School Spirits (HD)
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Dad (HD)	Race Alaska race.	Bluey	(:06) Celtics City		Yellowjackets (HD)
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Dad (HD)		Bluey			

MARCH 3, 2025

TUESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	TGL Golf (Live)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	“Movie”	(:19) Last Week (HD)	“The Iron Claw” (‘23)	(5:45) “Only the Brave” (‘17) Josh Brolin. (HD)
7 PM :30	Will Trent (HD)	The Price Is Right	Kitchen Nightmares	Deal or No Deal (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		“Lady Bird” (‘17) Saoirse Ronan.	“The Martian” (‘15, Science Fiction) Matt Damon. (HD)	Yellowjackets (HD)
8 PM :30	ABC News Special “Address Congress” (HD)	Joint Session of Congress	Address to Joint Session	NBC News Special “Presidential” (HD)	College Basketball “Teams TBA” (HD)	The Joe Schmo Show	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	(:35) “Barbie” (‘23, Comedy) Margot Robbie.		Ride x (HD)
9 PM :30			Local Programs Local info.			Family	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards		“Captain Fantastic” (‘16) Viggo Mortensen.	
10 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	To Be Announced	(:32) The White Lotus		“Son Of A Gun” (‘87)
11 PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)	SportsCenter (HD)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey		“Under”	
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Family		Bluey	Celtics		

MARCH 4, 2025

WEDNESDAY

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM :30	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Cleveland Cavaliers (Live)	Bang (HD)	SVU (HD)	(:15) “Movie”	★★ “The Forger” (‘15)	“Love & Other” (‘10)	“Southpaw” (‘15) (R)
7 PM :30	Gears	Survivor Deserted island. (HD)	The Masked Singer	Chicago Med (HD)		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		(:58) The White Lotus	★★ “Magic Mike’s Last Dance” Salma Hayek.	“Million Dollar Baby” (‘04) Clint Eastwood.
8 PM :30	Elementary						Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	To Be Announced Info unavailable.		
9 PM :30	Celebrity Jeopardy!	(:02) The Floor (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)	Chicago P.D. (HD)	(:35) NBA Basketball Dallas vs Milwaukee (Live) (HD)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards		(:52) “Black Christmas” (‘19) (HD)	(:15) ★★★★★ “The Godfather” (‘72, Crime) Marlon Brando. (R) (HD)
10 PM :30	What Would You Do?	The Amazing Race World race.	Local Programs Local info.	Chicago P.D. (HD)		Family	Law & Order: SVU	To Be Announced	(:18) “Elevation” Morena Baccarin.	(:25) ★★ “Morgan” (‘16) Kate Mara.	
11 PM :30	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	Family	Law & Order: SVU	Bluey			
	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)	Local Programs	(:35) Tonight (HD)		Family					
	Nightline	Midnight		Late Night		Family	SVU (HD)	Bluey			

MARCH 5, 2025

THURSDAY

7:00pm

MAX Deadpool ★★★★★ (2016, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Morena Baccarin. After he is subjected to an experiment, in which he’s tortured and disfigured, a man adopts an alter ego, and sets out to locate the man who ruined his life. R (HD)

8:01pm

ABC Scamanda Thousands of people cheer on a wife and mother with a tragic cancer tale who has a big secret that she is desperate to keep hidden. (HD)

FRIDAY

7:00pm

NBC Happy’s Place “Don’t Sweat It” Bobbie asks Isabella to move in with her, but Isabella worries it might not be the best idea when she sees how Bobbie addresses conflict in a direct way. TVPG (HD)

10:00pm

USA Bel-Air “No One Wins When The Family Feuds” As the Banks family celebrates Will’s birthday, his mom comes to visit, causing tension; the adults consider if it’s time to tell Will about his father. TV14

SATURDAY

7:00pm

CBS FBI: International “The Other Hard Part” The team is forced to rush to the scene after a U.S. ambassador and the crew of Netherlands TV station are taken hostage by a mysterious group. TV14 (HD)

9:45pm

PARSHO Pulp Fiction ★★★★★ (1994, Crime) John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson. Two eccentric hit men interact with diverse characters from the Los Angeles world of crime while they search for their tough boss’s misplaced suitcase. R (HD)

SUNDAY

7:00pm

NBC The Americas “The Wild West” Coyotes are faced with a snowbound Yellowstone, rattlesnakes move in the hundreds, woodpeckers compete to store food and bison face off on the Great Plains. TVPG (HD)

9:00pm

CBS The Equalizer “Dirty Sexy Money” A family asks McCall for help after they lose their life savings in a suspicious fire; Mel opens up to her parents about her struggle with PTSD. TV14 (HD)

MONDAY

8:00pm

HBO Celtics City “Chapter I: Founding Fathers” The origins of Boston’s legendary team begins with early struggles and triumphs by the visionaries who built its foundations as an early franchise in the NBA. TV14

9:01pm

ABC The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives “The First Book of Sin” A wild trip to Sin City tests faith, friendships, and the future of marriages. TV14

TUESDAY

7:00pm

ABC Will Trent “Breathe with Me” Evelyn Mitchell gets involved in a case regarding a rare stolen coin as she returns to town, and Faith tries to juggle her roles as a daughter and a detective. TV14 (HD)

8:35pm

HBO Barbie ★★★★★ (2023, Comedy) Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling. A woman and her boyfriend from a colorful world get the chance to go to the real world, but they soon discover the joys and perils of living among humans. PG-13 (HD)

WEDNESDAY

7:00pm

NBC Chicago Med The daily lives of some of Chicago’s most talented medical professionals are chronicled, including the relationships and chaos that are all a part of the job. TV14 (HD)

9:15pm

PARSHO The Godfather ★★★★★ (1972, Crime) Marlon Brando, Al Pacino. A decorated veteran takes over control of his family’s criminal empire from his ailing father as new threats and old enemies conspire to destroy them. R (HD)

Opinion and Commentary

Do you need REAL ID?

Illinois Secretary of State’s office raises awareness as deadline approaches

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias wants Illinoisans to make sure they know if they need a REAL ID ahead of the federal deadline, now less than three months away.

The Secretary of State’s office is proactively raising awareness about the uses of REAL IDs and clarifying that they are not mandatory for driving a vehicle or required for valid identification or proof of citizenship.

The primary reason for Illinoisans over the age of 18 to obtain a REAL ID is to fly domestically on a commercial aircraft or visit certain federal facilities, such as a military base or federal courthouse as of May 7. Individuals who have a valid U.S. passport and those under the age of 18 will not need a REAL ID.

The deadline for obtaining the REAL ID has been pushed back multiple times, most recently in 2022 when the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, cited the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the DHS has not provided details on how it plans to enforce the REAL ID Act once the deadline arrives, suggesting it will implement a “phased enforcement approach” over a two-year period, which could allow travelers to board flights with warnings about the requirement.

“Between implementation delays and a lack of clarity about enforcement procedures, the REAL ID initiative has led to a great deal of confusion and misinformation about what is required and how the federal government plans to implement it,” Giannoulias said in a news release. “We do know that REAL IDs will not be mandatory for most tasks other than flying, and our employees have been doing an outstanding job at handling this unprecedented demand.”

Giannoulias launched the office’s “Get Real Illinois” campaign last May to raise awareness about the requirements and deadline associated with the federal initiative. The campaign has leveraged partnerships across the state to boost enrollment through a series of REAL ID “pop-up” events throughout the past year.

Giannoulias’ office has experienced an uptick in REAL ID issuances with 628,279 issued in 2022, 864,240 in 2023 and 1.1 million in 2024. In January of 2025, the office issued 128,000 REAL IDs, a record for a single month.

Currently, just 3.4 million Illinois residents with a driver’s license or state ID – or about 30 percent – hold a REAL ID driver’s license or ID.

Giannoulias also stressed that Illinoisans who need a REAL ID should make an appointment at a DMV to avoid longer lines closer to the deadline or wait until after May 7 to apply if they do not have immediate travel plans.

Individuals applying for a REAL ID must do so in-person at an Illinois DMV and are required to present:

A U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport, Naturalization Certificate, Report of Birth Abroad or a Certificate of Citizenship. If you are not a U.S. citizen, an employment authorization document, a permanent resident card or a foreign passport with an approved I-94 form is also acceptable. If you’ve changed your name, you’ll need to provide name change documents.

Proof of a full Social Security number, SSN. Examples include a Social Security card, a W-2 or a pay stub with your full SSN.

Two current residency documents that list your full name. Examples include a utility bill, rental agreement, deed/title or a bank statement.

Proof of your signature. Examples include a signed credit or canceled check or current state driver’s license or state ID.

Illinois residents can go online to access an interactive checklist to make sure they have the documents they need before heading to a DMV.

Some Illinois DMVs require an appointment, so residents are encouraged to plan ahead and visit www.ilsos.gov if they need to schedule one.



At least the sun was shining

Sunlight was shining through icicles on a structure at the Anna City Park on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 20. Such icy images were common in the area last week following a winter storm which was accompanied by bitter cold temperatures.

Please read this...

At least it wasn’t 107 degrees below zero...

Why do I live where the air hurts my face?
That question came to mind during the noon hour on the 18th day of February.

That was about the time that your writer decided to go on a daily walkabout. At the time, it was a balmy 17 degrees in our backyard. Which wasn’t bad, considering that the temperature dropped to something like 1 or 2 degrees below zero in the morning a couple of days later.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah shared on its website that when I decided to go outside and spend some time in the cold, it was 16 degrees at the Southern Illinois Airport near Carbondale. With a wind out of the north at 13 miles per hour, the wind chill was 2. Perfect time for a walk. Since the sun was shining, it actually was not a bad time to go for a walk.

Just for the sake of knowing such things, I decided to check on the weather in a couple of other places at the time. More or less...

For example...in Antarctica, the temperature was 35 degrees. Below zero. With a wind out of the northwest at 15 miles per hour, the wind chill was 64 degrees. Below zero. I have never been to Antarctica. Got “close” one time. If 3,900 miles away is close...

A little bit off to the north, as in Utqiagvik, Alaskas, which is north of the Arctic Circle, the temperature on the day of my walk through a winter wonderland was a little bit warmer...at 9 degrees below zero. The wind was out of the north at 7 miles per hour, so the wind chill was just 24 degrees below zero. Probably about time to start think about getting the lawn mower ready for spring...if such things are done in Utqiagvik.

Far, far away from Antarctica and Alaska...and pretty much everywhere else for that matter, a high temperature of 15 degrees below zero was reported...at the Gale Crater...which is in the southern hemisphere...of the planet Mars. Temperatures on the red planet home of Looney Tunes character Marvin the Martian are being recorded by the rover Curiosity and can be found online. The 15 degrees below zero high temperature actually was recorded on February 12, when the low was...107 degrees below zero. Hmmm...if our porch swing happened to be on Mars, Bob and I could sit outside in such weather and not worry about mosquitoes...or much of anything else for that matter.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, the latest edition of the Polar Vortex is a rapidly fading memory in a winter most of us would like to forget.

I did get in a walk Monday afternoon as well. Most of the snow had melted. No icicles were to be seen. Some of the damage to trees caused by our ice storm in January looks like it will be with us for a while. The walk also reminded me that we are in the last days (I hope) of winter, and the world around us just seems kind of brown and soggy. Hopefully, we’ll soon be seeing the flowers and blossoms of spring...and the little bit of grass we have in our front yard will start to turn green... Do you think Marvin the Martian has to mow his lawn?

Meanwhile...

How ‘bout a Critter Sighting Update or two?

Starlings. Lots of starlings. Yup. As usual, they seem to be pretty much everywhere. I’m guessing they are among the critters having a tough time this winter.

White-tailed deer looking for something to eat in a snow covered landscape. Yup. One hawk gliding through a clear blue sky. Yup. Sunday afternoon. The deer were sighted thanks to the sharp eyes of The Other Half. We took a bit of a short road trip along a couple of country roads, just to see that what we might see. Oh, yes, along with the deer and the hawk, we saw some cows and several dogs which seemed to decide that chasing our car would be fun. It occurred to me at that moment in time that I have never seen cats chase a car...



A bird, perhaps of the woodpecker variety, found a snack at a feeder. The photographer is grateful that he does not have to eat dinner in this manner.

By Geof Skinner



These may be the only folks in Union County who were happy with last week’s Arctic cold temperatures. As of last Sunday afternoon, they did not appear to be doing well in our somewhat warmer temperatures...and by Monday afternoon they were, well, gone...



A bluebird was doing its best to stay warm in the cold Thursday afternoon, Feb. 20, at the Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro.



A white-tailed deer was one of the few critters spotted on a Sunday afternoon drive through the country.