THE GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT

The Talk And Cobden Review • Serving Union County Since 1849

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News Notes

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

Palm Sunday is April 13, followed by Good Friday on April 18 and Easter Sunday on April 20.

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The Wolf Lake Community Center/Park has announced that an Easter egg hunt is set for 10 a.m. Saturday, April 12.

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An "unofficial" report shared that more than a foot of rain may have fallen at a location in Union County during last week's deluge.

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A community yard sale which had been planned for Saturday, April 5, at the Anna City Park was rescheduled due to last week's heavy rain. The event now is set for Saturday, April 12, with hours from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Organizers report that more than 30 vendors had signed up.

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Anna School District 37 is congratulating assistant principal and special education coordinator Angela Clay for her nomination for Community Spotlight recognition through Delta Theta Tau. She was nominated for, and received, an Inspiring Woman honor. The school district shared that "Mrs. Clay is an exceptional leader."

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Through early this week, the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School softball team had compiled a 10-0 record while outscoring opponents by a 164-24 margin.

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Anna-Jonesboro Community High School cheerleading tryouts are planned for the evening of April 25. Ahead of the tryouts, open practice sessions are set for April 24-25.

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Anna School District 37 shared a reminder on social media that it will not be in session April 14-21 for spring break. School is scheduled to resume April 22. School is set to dismiss at 2:15 p.m. Friday, April 11.

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Anna School District 37 is planning to host its first "School's Out for Summer" yard sale Friday and Saturday, June 13-14, at Lincoln Elementary School. Proceeds will support field trips and student reward activities.

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A Dongola School Music Department spring concert is set for 6 p.m. on May 13. All grades will be featured. K-5 will be singing music from/about the Old West and the westward expansion, so students are being encouraged to dress up in western outfits.

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Lick Creek pre-kindergarten students had a chance to meet community helpers during a recent special trip.

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Rendleman Orchards near Alto Pass has planted a pear orchard with 150 trees. Harvest is anticipated in about four years. Rendleman Orchards noted the small orchard

(continued on page 2)

Proclamation Day event marks beginning Child Abuse Prevention Month



Proclamation read

Union County State's Attorney Tyler Tripp read a Child Abuse Prevention proclamation at Friday's ceremony.

Since 1983, April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the Unites States.

To commemorate the start of Child Abuse Prevention Month, a Proclamation Day ceremony was held at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro on Friday, April 4.

The theme of this years Child Abuse Prevention Month is "Powered by Hope, Strengthened by Prevention"

One of the speakers at the event was Brittney Hale of Prevent Child Abuse Illinois.

Hale discussed the theme of hope and how it can be used to help child abuse prevention.

"Hope is what fuels our dedication to raising awareness, to providing resources and advocating for stronger policies to protect children, said Hale. "Hope is in every single community that actively works to prevent child abuse before it ever occurs."

Hale discussed the shared responsibility that everyone in a community has towards protecting children.

"Everyone in this room knows at least one child, which means that everyone in this room has the power to be the one caring adult relationship in a child's life," said Hale. "That means you can prevent child abuse and neglect."

Kirsta Teckbrock, a forensic interviewer for Two Rivers Child Advocacy Center stressed the role that we all have in child advocacy.

"Strong communities protect kids. When families have support, resources and connections, children are safer. So check in on your friends. Offer them help. Advocate for strong policy."

State's Attorney Reads Proclamation

A Union County Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation was read at Friday morning's ceremony.

The proclamation was read by Union County State's Attorney Tyler Tripp.

The proclamation declared:

"...every child deserves to grow up in a nurturing environment, free from abuse, neglect, violence or endangerment of any kind...

"...child abuse and neglect causes serious harm to child development and has lifelong effects that endanger safety, hinder permanancy in relationships, and reduce well-being, creating greater demands on society...

"...child abuse prevention is a shared responsibility and finding solutions requires the involvement and collaboration of citizens, organizations, and government entities throughout Illinois and the country...

"...Illinoisans make more than 230,000 calls to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline each year, offer temporary safe haven for more than 18,000 children as foster homes, including 52 children in Union County, and have provided permanent, loving homes for more than 19,000 children through adoption over the last decade...

"...child abuse prevention programs in Illinois are effective because partnerships created by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, Children's Home + Aid Society of Illinois, Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois, Voices for Illinois Children and other government entities, social services agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, businesses and individual citizens."

The proclamation read by the state's attorney proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Union County.

The proclamation encouraged all of the members of the community to respond to the call of "How will you help?" by supporting child abuse prevention programs and reporting cases of abuse to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 25-ABUSE.

Record number of warnings

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reports that it issued 139 combined severe thunderstorm, tornado and flash flood warnings across its 58-county forecast area for the month of March.

This was the most in the month of March since record keeping began on keeping track of warnings, the office shared on social media.

As of Monday, the office had issued 147 warnings for the month of April. That ranked as the third most on record.

Seventy-nine warnings issued on April 2 were the third most for any calendar day on record.

The weather service office in Paducah serves Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri, Western Kentucky and southwest Indiana.

Unseasonable cold follows severe weather

County experiences tornadoes, heavy rainfall

Multiple rounds of severe weather occurred in the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky starting on Wednesday, April 2.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah confirmed that three tornadoes occurred in the Union County area on Wednesday, April 2.

More severe weather, including thunderstorms and heavy rain, along with possible tornadoes, happened in the county Friday night, April 4. Tornado warning sirens sounded in the county shortly after 7 p.m. Friday. Torrential rainfall continued in the Union County area from Friday night into Saturday.

The severe weather was followed early this week by unseasonably cold temperatures and a freeze warning.

Freeze Warning

A freeze warning issued for Monday night included all of Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky. The warning was in effect from midnight Monday through 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The weather service advised that sub-freezing temperatures in the upper 20s to the lower 30s were expected.

"Frost and freeze conditions could kill crops, other sensitive vegetation and possibly damage unprotected outdoor plumbing," the weather service advised.

Rare, Dangerous Weather Pattern

Alerts about the arrival of severe storms, extremely heavy rainfall and strong winds in the region began to appear early last week.

The weather service reported on April 1 that a rare and dangerous weather pattern and potentially catastrophic flooding were emerging for the region starting on Wednesday, April 2.

A significant severe weather event was expected Wednesday into Wednesday night, with a risk lingering through Saturday.

The region's residents were urged to prepare the impact of heavy rain and to go over plans for severe weather, including shelter.

Numerous rounds of heavy showers and thunderstorms were expected to produce multiple inches of rainfall through the period. The region was expected to receive anywhere from 7 to 12 inches of rain, with isolated higher amounts possible.

"These amounts will cause flooding of areas that do not normally flood, and that may have never flooded before," the weather service stated. "Impacts from this event will be significant and may be historic."

Wind Advisory

The weather service issued a wind advisory for the region which was in effect from 7 a.m. to midnight on Wednesday, April 2.

South winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour, with gusts up to 50 mph, were expected.

Wind gusts of 56 mph were reported on the afternoon of April 2 at the Southern Illinois Airport near Carbondale.

Severe Weather on April 2

By Wednesday, April 2, part of Union County was included in a Level 5 risk for severe weather. The risk level scale goes from 1 to 5. The highest risk level is 5. All severe weather threats were possible.

In a message posted on social media, Union County Sheriff David Wilkins urged the county's residents to be aware of the weather conditions expected in the area.

Union County was included in a tornado watch which was issued during the afternoon of April 2 by the weather service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla. The watch was in effect until midnight.

Ahead of the arrival of severe weather, Union County schools announced that they would dismiss early and cancel extracurricular activities. Churches cancelled Wednesday evening activities.

Severe weather arrived in the Union County area during the evening hours of April 2. Tornado warning sirens sounded and severe thunderstorms swept through the area.

At 7:11 p.m. on April 2, with a tornado warning in effect, the weather service urged those in the Anna-Jonesboro area to "TO TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY."

Three Confirmed Tornadoes

The weather service reported that tornadoes occurred on the night of April 2 in southwest Union County, as well as near Anna and near Buncombe.

An EF1 tornado occurred on April 2 in southwest Union County. The tornado began at 7:08 p.m. and ended at 7:20 p.m. The tornado had estimated peak winds of 95 miles per hour, a maximum width of 50 yards and a track length of 10.9 miles. No injuries or deaths were reported.

The weather service reported that the tornado impacted rural parts of southwest Union County. Damage was limited to uprooted or snapped trees and downed tree limbs along its path.

(continued on page 2)

Road closings, sandbag filling operations reported in area

Flooding in the aftermath of the past week's heavy rainfall has led to road closings and a sandbag filling operation in the area.

Shawnee School District 84

Shawnee School District 84 announced early this week on social media that due to flooded roads throughout the district, Alernative Bus Route Plan A "normal flooding" would be implemented on some routes on Monday, April 7.

The district noted that routes may have changed if flood waters rose. The district includes areas in western Union County, as well as in Alexander County and Jackson County.

Plan A included bus stops in Gale, East Cape Girardeau, McClure, the Hollow area at Reynoldsville, Ware, Wolf Lake and Grand Tower.

The district announced that it would run regular routes for all other routes not mentioned in Plan A.

Shawnee Community College

Shawnee Community College shared a message early this week on social media about the impact of the rainfall and flooding.

"As you are likely aware, our region has experienced significant rainfall and widespread flooding over several days," the message read.

"Rising water levels have led to road closures and damage in some areas, while others are currently under boil water advisories.



Water in Wolf Lake

Rain was falling late last Saturday morning when this photo was taken along Illinois Route 3 in Wolf Lake.

"For your safety, please avoid driving through flooded roadways. If conditions in your area are unsafe, we encourage you to stay home.

"This situation continues to evolve, so we urge you to stay informed by monitoring your SCC email, the Saints Alert text system, and our social media channels."

Pulaski, Alexander Counties

Pulaski County ESDA/EMA announced on social media that a Pulaski County/Alexander county joint sandbag filling operation would begin Monday, April 7, at CGB in Mound City.

Operations would be located at the south end of the CGB property located near the intersection of Main Street and Illinois Avenue in Mound City.

The filling operation is utilizing sandbagging equipment from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Sandbag filling operations were scheduled to start at noon Monday and run until dark. The plan then was to start at 9 a.m. each day and work as long as supplies are available or until dark.

Southern 7 Health Department was planning to set up in the Evelyn Lockard Community Center to administer tetanus boosters to anyone who needed one starting at 10:30 a.m. Monday. Insurance was accepted.

Those who would like to volunteer, those requiring sandbags or those needing more information were advised to message the Pulaski County ESDA/EMA Facebook page, email Pulaski_Co_IL_ESDA@mail.com or call or text 618-303-0493.

Officials noted that sandbags necessary for life safety and critical infrastructure protection would take priority over any other use of the bags.

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Tornadoes

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The tornado began near Reynoldsville and moved north-northeast. It then turned on a northeasterly path south of Ware, passing just south of the Pottsville community and ending at Illinois Route 146 just west of Jonesboro.

An EF0 tornado was reported April 2 north of Anna. The tornado began at 7:25 p.m. and ended at 7:27 p.m. The tornado had estimated peak winds of 85 mph, a maximum width of 25 yards and a track length of 1.3 miles. No injuries or deaths were reported.

The tornado caused damage to tree limbs and uprooted a couple of trees along U.S. Route 51 north of Anna.

An EF2 tornado was reported April 2 near Buncombe. The tornado began at 7:36 p.m. and ended at 7:43 p.m. The tornado had estimated peak winds of 125 mph, a maximum width of 250 yards and a track length of 5.8 miles. No injuries or deaths were reported.

The tornado began just north of Buncombe and traveled northeast. The tornado caused severe and extensive damage to hundreds of pine trees along its path.

One home lost its roof and a few outbuildings were destroyed. The tornado traveled through the Cedar Rock cabin area, where it did severe tree damage, as well as causing minor damage to the cabins. The tornado ended shortly after crossing Interstate 24 just south of Deer Ridge Road.

Severe Weather on April 4

Another round of severe weather swept through region Friday, April 4. Union County experienced more severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings on Friday evening.

A tornado warning was issued for Union County at around 7:40 p.m. Friday.

Very heavy rainfall accompanied last Friday night's storms. At about 8:40 p.m., the weather service issued a flash flood warning for the county. The weather service reported at the time that up to 1 inch of rain had fallen. Additional amounts of at least 1 to 2 inches were possible.

Flash Flood Warning on April 5

Heavy rainfall continued throughout the day on Saturday, April 5. Union County was under a flash flood warning during the day.

The weather service reported Saturday afternoon that "a particularly dangerous flooding situation" would continue throughout the day. Some areas in the region were expected to receive in excess of a foot of accumulated rainfall.

The weather service early Saturday afternoon that a location near Mayfield in Western Kentucky had received 13.40 inches of rain over 72 hours. In Villa Ridge in Southern Illinois, 9.74 inches of rain had been recorded.

At about 4:30 p.m. Saturday, the weather service advised that between 4 and 6 inches of rain had fallen in Union and Jackson counties. Additional rainfall was expected. Flash flooding was occurring in the counties.

Flood Warning Continued

The weather service reported that a flood warning remained in effect until 7 p.m. Sunday for Union County and other parts of Southern Illinois.

Flooding of rivers, creeks, streams and other low-lying and flood-prone locations was either imminent or occurring. Low-water crossings were inundated with water and may not have been passable.

By 8:17 a.m. Sunday, even though rain had ended, substantial flooding was continuing in areas included in the warning.

Between 5 and 9 inches of rain had fallen since Wednesday, April 2. Additional light rainfall was possible Sunday.

News Notes

(continued from page 1)is meant for their retail market and gift box shipping. The trees were planted by hand.

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This year's Earth Day observance is set for April 22.

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Anna-Jonesboro Community High School is looking to hire a custodian/bus driver and a head coach for the boys' soccer team. Applications are available at www.aj81.net or can be picked up in person at the school.

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In the "for whatever it might be worth category," the U.S. Drought Monitor reported that as of March 27, a small part of northwest Union County was experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Weather

6.39 inches of rain; high 82, low 31

Union County's weather during the period of April 1-7 was highlighted by tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, torrential rainfall and flooding and unseasonably cold temperatures.

Precipitation during the period totaled 6.39 inches.

Temperatures ranged from a high of 82 degrees to a low of 31.

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

Tuesday, April 1: high 63, low 32.

Wednesday, April 2: high 82, low 60. 0.95 of an inch of rain.

Thursday, April 3: high 66, low 52. 0.44 of an inch of rain.

Friday, April 4: high 62, low 51. 2.29 inches of rain.

Saturday, April 5: high 63, low 46. 2.61 inches of rain.

Sunday, April 6: high 47, low 41. 0.10 of an inch of rain.

Monday, April 7: high 64, low 31.

Cox takes oath as new Union County clerk, recorder

Meisenheimer reflects on service during time in office



Former county clerk honored

Family, friends, coworkers, office holders, department heads and colleagues gathered Thursday afternoon, April 3, to honor outgoing Union County Clerk and Recorder Lance Meisenheimer. Meisenheimer resigned from office and has taken a new job in the private sector. The gathering in his honor was held at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Former Union County Clerk and Recorder Lance Meisenheimer was honored last week.

Meisenheimer resigned as county clerk and recorder and accepted a new job in the private sector. Friday, April 4, was his last day in office.

He has been succeeded by Stephanie Cox of Anna. Cox took her oath of office Monday morning, April 7, at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro. The oath of office was administered by Union County Presiding Circuit Judge Timothy Denny.

A gathering in Meisenheimer's honor was held Thursday afternoon, April 3, at the county courthouse.

At that event, Union County Board of Commissioners chairman Max Miller thanked Meisenheimer for the work he has done.

"We appreciate what he has done for the county," Miller said.

Meisenheimer reflected on his time in office in a letter he sent to those he had worked with, including other Illinois county clerks and vendors, while serving as county clerk and recorder. He was a member of the Illinois Association of County Clerks and Recorders. He was honored as the association's clerk of the year in 2024. Excerpts and highlights from his letter follow:

"You know, at the end of the day, it's just your job, but let me tell you, this was more than that. This was a chapter in life that I'll never have a bad feeling looking back on. I got to personally and professionally prove myself and that was rewarding beyond belief.

"I didn't do this alone; I did this with you all and we do very important and critical work that I feel sometimes people take for granted but trust me we all know what it takes to make it look easy and keep it going.

"I have fully succeeded in my time in office, I feel accomplished, I set goals and I got to check them off my list, nobody can take that from me.

"But I wouldn't have even come close to being this satisfied as my role as county clerk and recorder if it wasn't for this association and the hard-working amazing group of people that you are. So, keep up the good work...

"I had the huge privilege of being your 2024 Clerk of the Year, trust me, because I'm leaving doesn't mean that this was still not one of the greatest awards I'll ever have and I'll be proud of for the rest of my life and no matter what happens to me.

Meisenheimer also was serving as the association's Zone 1 president for 2025-26. That role is being passed to Zach Price, who is Alexander County's clerk and recorder.

Meisenheimer also shared plans for his future. He said he plans to run for Union County commissioner in 2026.

Meisenheimer said that his successor as Union County clerk and recorder, Stephanie Cox, is "going to do many great things."

During a conversation at the county courthouse on his last day in office, Meisenheimer said he will miss working for the public "and everybody I worked with." He said his goal was to do the best job he could for the people of Union County.



New county clerk takes oath of office

Stephanie Cox took the oath of office Monday morning, April 7, as the newly appointed Union County clerk and recorder. The oath of office was administered by Union County Presiding Circuit Judge Timothy Denny. The ceremony took place at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro.

Flood warnings in effect for area rivers



Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau

The Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau is one of the rivers in the region which are under a flood warning following recent torrential rainfall. The photograph was taken Friday afternoon, April 4.

Flood warnings are in effect for rivers throughout the region following recent torrential rainfall.

The warnings include the Mississippi, Big Muddy and Ohio rivers in the Southern Illinois area. Union County is bordered by the Mississippi and Big Muddy rivers.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported that as of Sunday afternoon, April 6, the Mississippi River was already above flood stage in some locations. The river was expected to rise above flood stage during the course of the day on Sunday. As of Sunday, the river was expected to crest in the next seven to 10 days.

A flood warning was issued for the Mississippi River along Union, Alexander and Jackson counties in Southern Illinois and Cape Girardeau, Scott and Perry counties in Southeast Missouri.

A flood warning also is in effect for the Big Muddy River near Murphysboro.

The weather service shared the following information about local river conditions:

Mississippi River at Thebes

A flood warning is in effect from Sunday evening through April 13 for the Mississippi River at Thebes. Minor flooding was in the forecast.

At noon Sunday, the river's stage was 32.6 feet. Flood stage is 33.0 feet.

The river was expected to rise above flood stage late Sunday evening to a crest of 35.0 feet early Wednesday afternoon. It will then fall below flood stage late Saturday evening.

Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau

A flood warning is in effect until Sunday, April 13, for the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau. Minor flooding was in the forecast.

At noon Sunday, the river's stage was 36.0 feet. Flood stage is 32.0 feet.

The river was expected to rise above flood stage Sunday afternoon to a crest of 35.0 feet Wednesday morning. It will then fall below flood stage Saturday evening.

Big Muddy River near Murphysboro

A flood warning remained in effect until further notice for the Big Muddy River near Murphysboro.

Minor flooding was occurring over the weekend. Major flooding was in the forecast.

At 11 a.m. Sunday, the river's stage was 27.4 feet. Flood stage is 22.0 feet.

The river is expected to rise to a crest of 36.8 feet early Thursday morning, today.

Arts council fund raiser postponed to Saturday

The Shawnee Hills Arts Council's Raise the Roof fund raising event has been postponed due to recent severe weather.

The new date for the event is Saturday, April 12 at 6 p.m. at the arts council at 117 W. Davie St. in Anna.

The event will feature a dinner, local dance and drama talent, art work and the achievements of the arts center.

The event is being held to help raise funds for structure repair and roof replacement at the arts council's location in the original 1894 Anna city hall building.

More information is available by contacting Lee Hackney by phone at 904-625-1109 or by emailing vabchlee@gmail.com.

The Gazette-Democrat's office availability is changing

For the foreseeable future, the Gazette-Democrat's office in Anna will not be open for in-person visits.

We will still be reachable at 618-833-2158 or by appointment during regular business hours.We will also have a drop box available at our office at 112 Lafayette Street in Anna.

News and story submissions can be sent to news@annanews.com. Business inquiries including classifieds, ads, subscriptions and obituaries can be sent to classifieds@annanews.com.

We appreciate your patience during this transition and look forward to continue to cover the news of Union County and Southern Illinois.

After the storms, strong winds...

Damage was recorded and clean up work was underway after the Union County area experienced strong winds and severe storms on Wednesday, April 2.



Strong winds caused damage at the Jonesboro Cemetery. Wind gusts of up to nearly 60 miles per hour were reported in the region during the afternoon of April 2.



Crews were at work Thursday morning, April 3, along North Main Street in Jonesboro after damage was caused by a tornado which was reported to have struck the area on Wednesday, April 2.



Proclamation reading

A ceremony was held at the Union County Courthouse in Jonesboro marking April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Union County. Photo submitted

County Line News

(Mill Creek and Upper Elco)

By Suzan Harvel

Are you tired of the rain yet? I sure am. We, and a lot of others, are now dealing with extra ponds we didn't use to have.

We are also tired of the scary storms. The last one caught us leaving the pharmacy in Cape, Friday night, just after we'd gone out to dinner. I literally closed my car door and the sirens started going off.

My daughter, who lives in Cape, immediately called to say they were taking their children and headed to the basement and wanted to know "Where are you?"

Before we crossed the bridge back into Illinois, I'd had three more calls from friends (in Georgia) and relatives (in Tamms and South Carolina) wanting to know we were okay. One of my brothers called from Georgia to check on us today, too. It's nice to know folks are watching out for us.

We headed back to Mill Creek as fast as we could, but flooded roads meant taking the long way through Tamms. I wish tornadoes didn't like night so much…you can't see them coming very well.

We got home fine, unloaded, and even got the car under cover before it broke loose. The tornado had, thankfully, fizzled out before it got here, but the tons of rain didn't.

Today, I've seen news feeds from dozens of places that are flooded, roads washed out, and all kinds of damage that continues to pile up. It's just going to be one of "those" springs that come around periodically, and we'll have to deal with it, as best we can. Prayer helps.

Speaking of prayer, the Mill Creek Baptist WMU had a tea and dinner meeting on Monday, March 31, with 23 ladies in attendance. Their topic was Attitude of Prayer. It was so nice to see everyone, the tables were beautiful, the food plentiful, and the fellowship delightful.

Shirley Harvel was honored with a 90th birthday celebration at the Mill Creek Baptist Church on Saturday. She was so pleased to see how many came out despite the weather and other obligations, to spend a moment with her, say "Happy Birthday", and enjoy some desserts, and visit with others.

Her granddaughter, Allison Austad and husband, Erik, came the farthest, from Prince Georgia, British Columbia, Canada; followed by a niece and her husband, Tammy and John Bolin from Westerville, Ohio. Three of her four children and spouses were able to be there, one was ill; all eight grandchildren were there with spouses; 17 of her 21 great-grandchildren were in attendance; but her two great-great grandchildren and their parents couldn't make it due to work obligations; and her sister was also ill and couldn't attend. More family members came, including two great-nieces, her last remaining sister-in-law, Connie Harvel, and a lot of friends came, as well.

Connie will be celebrating her own 90th birthday in July, so we'll do this all over again then. Shirley received many wonderful cards,a lot of flowers, and plants which she dearly loves. Happy Birthday, Shirley!

The board of P.A.S.T. of Union County was saddened to announce the retirement of their president of twenty years, Linda Hileman. Linda will remain on the board, but a new president will have to be chosen. Thank you, Linda, for your diligent work, creativity, and tireless efforts in promoting appreciation of our area's structural treasures!

The next P.A.S.T. house meeting will be Tuesday, April 29, at 6 p.m. with Marilyn Meisenheimer leading the meeting.

A farewell reception was held for Lance Meisenheimer on Thursday, April 3 at the Union County Courthouse, as Lance has taken a new job. County employees stopped in to offer their best wishes and thanks. Good luck, Lance, in all you do in the future!

Mill Creek Baptist Church met Sunday, April 5, with a good-sized crowd, given the flooding situation. Brother Bob Richardson gave his sermon from Genesis, chapter 3, on the origins of sin. Sin originated in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve chose to sin when Satan tempted them.

We must all try to resist those evil whispers, that lead to bad deeds we then regret, but must ultimately account for. Jesus came and died to take our sins away so that we get back our chance of everlasting life with God.

However, we must take those steps of acknowledging we are sinners, believing in Christ's redemption, and confessing those sins, and then asking God into our heart and lives, and then seek baptism to complete our transformation. It's worth the effort for eternal peace.

The prayer list has added the Amish Community in the loss of one of their young people and the hospitalization of another from a traffic incident with a vehicle and the buggy they were in. We've also added travel mercies for the Austad's as they fly back to Canada on Thursday and for Jim Morrow, as he heads back out on the road for work. Prayer is also asked for Vickie Jacobs, who has shingles; Sue Knowlton who is dealing with back pain; and Dawn Rider who is also dealing with severe back pain.

Mill Creek Baptist church will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12 at noon with a light luncheon followed by the egg hunt at 1:00 PM. Please, bring a basket or bag and join in the fun!



Shirley Harvel celebrates her 90th birthday

Union County Fixin's

By Suzan Harvel

Oyster Cracker Snacks

2 9 oz. bags of oyster crackers
1/4 cup butter, melted
6 tablespoons olive oil
1 large egg white
5 Tablespoons Everything Bagel Seasoning

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

In medium bowl melt butter in microwave, then let cool slightly.

Whisk in olive oil and egg white quickly, then set aside.

Place oyster crackers in large bowl. Pour butter mixture over the crackers and toss to coat completely. Add everything seasoning to crackers and stir again.

Spread the crackers evenly onto a rimmed baking sheet lined with parchment and bake for 10 minutes.

Remove and stir well. Then return to oven for additional 5-7 minutes, making sure not to burn them.

Cool completely and store in air tight container up to two weeks.

Worship at Kornthal

Worship at Kornthal will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Palm Sunday, April 13th. The service will feature special music. Kornthal is located 2.5 miles south of Jonesboro, just off Illinois 127.

Spring Gospel Meeting
Anna Church of Christ
104 Nile Street, Anna, Illinois 62906

April 13 - 16, 2025

Lessons

April 13 9:30 a.m.: Contemplating Psalm 23
April 13 10:30 a.m.: Set Your Mind on Things Above
April 13 1:30 p.m.: 5 Steps to Devil-proofing Your Life
April 14 7:00 p.m.: The Greatest Story Ever Told
April 15 7:00 p.m.: Justified
April 16 7:00 p.m.: You Need Endurance



Adam Cozort, Speaker

Adam Cozort has been preaching for over 20 years. He has preached full-time for congregations in Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, and Illinois. He is the author of 8 books and the Substack page "Adam's Bible Studies." Currently, he serves as a deacon at the Wetumpka Church of Christ in Wetumpka, AL. He continues to preach, speak on Lecture series, and conduct Gospel Meetings. He and his wife, Shearisa, have 5 sons between the ages of 9 and 18.

Join us each day for these thought-provoking topics!

Easter
EGG HUNT

Where: Jonesboro First Baptist Church
When: Saturday, April 19 - 1:00pm
Children Birth to 6th Grade
Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult
Free Train Rides & Prizes for all
(In case of rain treat bags will still be provided)
We look forward to seeing you for fun and Fellowship!

201 W. Walnut St. Jonesboro, IL
618-833-7981 • T-TH 8:00am-4:30pm

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, **UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS CAUSE NO. 2025TX4** TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS (AND IF DECEASED, TO THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES), AND TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND TO ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THEREOF, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES- COLLECTIONS, ILLINOIS DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPT OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES (PUBLIC AID) GENERAL COUNSEL AND UNION COUNTY CLERK, UNION COUNTY TREASURER, UNION COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY, CITY OF JONESBORO AND CITY OF ANNA, AND TO OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PARCELS HEREINAFTER NAMED:

Parcel Number	Owners/Parties Interested	Cert Number	Street Or Common Address
05-30-04-071-	MURRAY, ELISE	2021-00047	306 S. MAIN ST.
05-30-04-071-	CALDWELL, MORGAN	2021-00047	306 S. MAIN ST.
06-25-04-846-	EARNHART, JUSTIN T	2021-00059	124 FRONT ST.
06-25-04-846-	GOINS, TONI GAILA	2021-00059	124 FRONT ST.
06-25-04-846-	U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	2021-00059	124 FRONT ST.
08-50-06-311-	SHIPLEY, JIMMY I HEIRS AND DEVISEES	2021-00080	7850 STATE RT 146 W
08-50-06-311-	SHIPLEY, JASON HEIR	2021-00080	7850 STATE RT 146 W
08-50-06-311-	SHIPLEY, BRAD HEIR	2021-00080	7850 STATE RT 146 W
08-50-06-311-	SHAWNEE VALLEY UTILITIES	2021-00080	7850 STATE RT 146 W
14-00-07-555-	ODUOLA, KAREN	2021-00095	206 JOHN ST.
14-00-10-710-	NOLAN, TRACY	2021-00154	BRIDGE ST.
14-00-11-735-	SMITH, JOHN PAUL JR	2021-00166	OFF CROWELL HEIGHTS LOOP
14-00-11-735-	MIDLAND FUNDING LLC RA: MIDLAND PORTFOLIO SERVICES, INC.	2021-00166	OFF CROWELL HEIGHTS LOOP

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ABOVESAID PARCELS WERE SOLD ON FEBRUARY 15, 2023, FOR GENERALTAXES FOR THE YEAR 2021 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND THAT THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION FROM SUCH SALE EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 8, 2025. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR ORDER DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF TAX DEEDS HAS BEEN FILED IN THE ABOVESAID CAUSE AS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED PARCELS BY UNION COUNTY, AS TRUSTEE, AND THAT ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 AT 11:00 AM [COURTROOM 1], SAID PETITIONER WILL APPLY FOR AN ORDER THAT A TAX DEED ISSUE AS TO EACH ABOVESAID PARCEL NOT REDEEMED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 8, 2025. /S/ UNION COUNTY AS TRUSTEE, PETITIONER.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK
ADDRESS: 309 W MARKET ST ROOM 116, JONESBORO, IL 62952-1239
TELEPHONE: (618) 833-5711

Lady Wildcats keep wining, Craig leads state in home runs

Despite a series of rained-out games last week, the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School's softball team keeps their undefeated streak going into April.

The Lady Wildcats sailed past Murphysboro at home with the score of 16-1.

Three wildcats hit home runs in the game, with Jayci Needling, Kansas Craig and Jayda Shepard all going yard.

Jayci Needling had a big game at the plate, going 3-for-3 with 5 RBIs off of 2 doubles and a home run. Needling's performance also marked a milestone, earning the 100th hit of her high school career.

Kansas Craig was 2-for-2 in the game with a double and a home run, earning 2 RBIs for the game.

Jayda Shepard was 1-for-3 in the game, earning 3 RBIs off of her home run.

Olivia Scheafer, Ariana Turner, Molly Roach, Emma Craig and Carley Pearson all earned an RBI a piece.

Pitcher Ruby Yates also reached a milestone in the game. With the win over Murphysboro, Yates earned the 50th win of her career.

Yates allowed only 1 earned run in 4 innings pitched, allowing 3 hits and 0 walks with 7 strike outs.

A-J faced their first conference challenger of the season in the Nashville Hornets on Monday, April 7. The Wildcats had another shut out victory with the score of 14-0.

Kansas Craig and Jayci Needling continue to be a night mare for pitchers, both hitting home runs in the game.

Craig was 3-for-3 with 5 RBIs and with a double, triple and a home run in the game, was just a base hit away from hitting the cycle.

Craig is currently leading the sate of Illinois in home runs, with 10 home runs for the season so far.

Needling was 2-for-2 at the plate with 2 RBIs and a home run.

Jayda Sheperd contributed 2 RBIs to the score, batting 1-for-3 for the game.

Ruby Yates got the pitching victory for A-J. Yates pitched 3 shut-out innings, allowing 2 hits and 0 walks with 6 strikeouts.

A-J was scheduled to play Benton at home on Tuesday and Carterville at home on Wednesday.

Their next scheduled game is on Friday, April 11 at Pinckneyville.



50 wins for Yates

A-J pitcher Ruby Yates earned the 50th win of her high school career. The win came with a 16-1 victory over Murphysboro, with Yates allowing only 1 earned run off of 3 hits and 0 walks with 7 strikeouts.



Needling hits 100

A-J Lady Wildcats junior Jayci Needling reached a major milestone on Tuesday, April 1, with the 100th hit of her career. Needling batted 3-for-3 in the game against Murphysboro, with 5 RBIs, 2 doubles and a home run.

Coffman earns 9th Dan Black Belt, Grandmaster status



Grandmaster Coffman

Heather Coffman (left) of Coffman's Martial Arts has earned her 9th Dan Black Belt and has been granted the title of Grandmaster. Coffman was joined in the ceremony by ChunJiDo founder Soke Robert Cutrell (right).

Master Heather Coffman of Coffman's Martial Arts in Anna was promoted to 9th Dan Black Belt and Grandmaster in ChunJiDo in a ceremony held on Saturday, March 29.

The event was held at Coffman's Martial Arts in Anna, the world headquarters for ChunJiDo International.

A packed house witnessed the candlelight ceremony, which was monumental not only in Master Coffman's journey, but also in the history of the art of ChunJiDo and ChunJiDo International.

In addition to the Grandmaster title and 9th Dan promotion, she is also granted the transfer of ownership of the art of ChunJiDo and the leadership of the global ChunJiDo International organization. She intends to work side-by-side with, Soke Robert Cutrell, Founder of ChunJiDo, for many years to come.

"Grandmaster Coffman is an extraordinary leader, instructor,and martial artist, and is one of the most wonderful and compassionate people you will ever meet. Her commitment to the arts, and to everyone she trains, is second to none," said Cutrell.

"I have no doubt in my mind that Grandmaster Coffman will use her leadership skills and martial arts abilities to continue to build on the strong foundation developed over the last 29 years and with the collaboration of all of the wonderful members and students world wide, take the art of ChunJiDo and ChunJiDo International to even great heights in the future," Cutrell continued.

"I want to personally thank everyone who attended, those who spoke on her behalf and the many organizational leaders, grandmasters, masters, sensei, black belts, and students around the globe who shared their support for Grandmaster Coffman and this promotion."

SIU Civil Service Council plans spring flea market

The region's vendors have an opportunity to sign up for the 2025 Southern Illinois University Carbondale Civil Service Council's spring flea market.

Proceeds from vendors' fees go to the Civil Service Education Assistance Fund toward scholarships for SIU students.

This year's flea market is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 26 in the Banterra Center parking lot. Customer parking will be in the adjacent lot.

If hazardous weather conditions, such as thunderstorms and lightning, occur, the event will be moved to April 27. There will be concessions.

The cost to sellers is $35 for a single space (18 feet wide by 18 feet deep) and $50 for a double space (36-by-18 feet). Additional individual spaces (9-by-18 feet) are available for $10 per space.

Payment is due by 4 p.m. April 17. Sellers renting space the day of the sale will pay an additional $10.

Applications to rent space at the market and to pay are available online at forms.office.com.

Because this is a fund-raiser for the Civil Service Council Education Assistance Fund, there are no refunds.

There are a few regulations for vendors to remember. The university is a gun-free school zone, and concealed firearms cannot be carried on campus.

Regulations also prohibit the sale of alcohol, ammunition, firearms, food, hazardous materials, live animals and pharmarceuticals.

There also cannot be amplified sound of any type, including microphones; or generators.

If fees are not paid online, send checks or money orders, payable to SIU Carbondale, can be sent to Civil Service Council, c/o Campus Mail Services, Professional Constituencies Office, Woody Hall, B342, Mail code 4712, 900 S. Normal Ave., Carbondale, Ill., 62901. Please include your mailing address and telephone number.

For more information and an application, if needed, contact Anthony Travelstead, vice president, SIU Civil Service Council, at 618-453-7601.

Easter Events at First Baptist Church

• **Sunday, April 13, 6:00 p.m.** - Palm Sunday, Easter Cantata, "One Day"
• **Friday, April 18, 6:00 p.m.**- Good Friday Service
• **Saturday, April 19, 1 p.m.** - Easter Egg Hunt
• **Sunday, April 20, 10 a.m.** - Easter Cantata, "One Day."

First Baptist Church, 201 W. Walnut, Jonesboro, IL
618-833-7981

Hikes, spring wildflower walks planned at Giant City State Park

Spring wildflower walks, an amphibian night hike and a mindfulness hike are planned at Giant City State Park near Makanda.

Wildflower Walks

Spring wildflower walks are scheduled Saturday, April 12, and Friday, April 18. Each walk is scheduled from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The walks will be on the park's Trillium Trail. The trail is one of the most diverse spring wildflower trails in Southern Illinois.

The park interpreter will lead the free walks, which are open to the public.

Registration is required. To register, or for more information, call the Giant City State Park visitor center at 618-457-4836.

Amphibian Night Hike

An amphibian night hike is planned from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, April 18, at the park.

Local forester and amphibian enthusiast Jeremy Schumacher will lead the hike. Participants will learn how to identify calls and search for amphibians during the spring breeding season.

Organizers noted that participants should be prepared for very wet conditions and darkness.

Call 618-457-4836 for more information or to register for this free program

Mindfulness Hike

A mindfulness hike is planned from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 19.

This walk will offer participants a chance to slow down and bring full awareness to their walking experience.

Call 618-457-4836 for more information or to register for this free program

Jonesboro School names third quarter honor roll studnts

The Jonesboro School District has recognized the students earning honor roll and high honor roll status for the third quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

High Honor Roll

8th grade

Levi Hill, Allison Lee and Clara Mix.

7th grade

Eli Fehrenbacher and Peyton Harvel.

6th grade

Charlie Barlow, Jayden Benefield, Eli Cohen and Lawson Ury.

5th grade

Landon Hill, Emma Lambdin, RJ Turner and Dylan Walker.

Honor Roll

8th grade

Kylie Dillow, Lindyn Eudy, Hayden Lewis, Scarlet Myers, Kynlee Needling, Gabby Newberry and Smith Wilson.

7th grade

Colton Barnhart, Arianna Black, Reagan Cheek, Jaycee Clutts, Addison Ebberts, Hank Goss, Gavin McFadden, Ryley Nance and Coby Sawyer.

6th grade

Knox Harris, Jonah Miller, Nolan Newberry, Conner Pind, Kadence Poe, Aiden Shepard, Collin Staples, Creighton Todd, Madi Wilkins and Kaitlyn Zimmerman.

5th grade

Zella Baggott, Mahayla Dukes, Chase Heern, Jackson Jordan, Lillian Newberry, Kheaton Rains, Kamiya Velasquez and Nora Wheeler.





Heavy rain
Saturday, April 5, 2025

Union County, Illinois

Photos of the flooding were taken around midday on Saturday. A flash flood warning was in effect at the time.

The photo of the sign at Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church in Anna was taken prior to the start of heavy rain which fell last week.



Sign at Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Anna, April 1, 2025



Kornthal Church, south of Jonesboro



Trail of Tears State Forest



Pine Hills Campground Road near Wolf Lake



Clear Creek, west of Jonesboro along Illinois Route 146

Obituaries

Bruce Edward Kelle



Bruce Edward Kelle was born on January 14, 1950, in Crawfordsville, Ind., to William F. Kelle and Kathryn Manhart Kelle.

He passed away on Feb. 1, 2025, at Warren-Barr of Buffalo Grove in Buffalo Grove, Ill., at the age of 75.

Bruce graduated from Anna-Jonesboro High School in Ann with the Class of 1968. He then attended St. Louis College of Pharmacy in St. Louis, earning his degree in 1973. During his time there, he was a member of the Kappa Psi fraternity.

Bruce dedicated his career to pharmacy, working as a retail pharmacist and owning Landmark Pharmacy in Woodstock, Ill., from 1979 to 1989. He later worked for larger chain pharmacies for the remainder of his career.

Beyond his profession, he had a passion for building and renovating houses, along with an entrepreneurial spirit that led him to pursue various small business ventures.

Throughout his life, Bruce lived in several towns across Illinois, forming lasting friendships along the way. He had a deep love for photography, skiing, Ford Mustangs and reconnecting with old friends.

In his later years, he especially enjoyed celebrating with his five grandchildren, attending family gatherings, and dining out. His grandchildren fondly remember his love of chocolate, diet sodas, and fast food.

Bruce spent his final years in Gurnee and Buffalo Grove, Ill. He was of the Methodist faith.

He is survived by his children: Angela (Rob Lundin) Kelle of Minnetonka, Minn.; Suzanne (Greg) Lindsay of Deer Park, Ill.; Brad (Amy Reynolds) Kelle of Connecticut; and Jamie Dunn of Las Vegas, Nev. He is also survived by his five grandchildren: Julianne and Caroline Lindsay, Vivienne and Joe Lundin, and Braden Kelle; his sister, Kathy (Jim) Madison of Hayti, Mo.; his niece, Amy (Lucas) Branson, and great-nephew, Will Branson, of Jefferson City, Mo. He is also survived by his former spouse, Joanne Treadwell of Wauconda, Ill.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, his niece, Ashley Rogers, and his infant granddaughter, Ruth Kelle Lindsay.

A graveside ceremony will be held with family and friends on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 10 a.m. at Anna City Cemetery, 608 E Davie St in Anna.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Camp Odayin, a camp for children with heart disease at campodayin.org/donate/ways-to-give/

Crain Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of local arrangements.

Joan Hartline Gibson



Joan Hartline Gibson, 94, of Anna, passed away Saturday, April 5, 2025, at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born on March 25, 1931, in Cobden, the daughter of Edward H. "Doc" and Vivian Lee (Bloodworth) Hartline. She married Floyd Gibson on June 21, 1948, in Alto Pass. He preceded her in death on Jan. 23, 1992.

Joan is survived by her children, Barbara Kay Neace and Floyd Dewayne (Mary) Gibson; daughter-in-law, Rebecca Gibson; grandchildren, Jonathan Neace, Christopher (Teresa) Gibson, Marjorie Jo Darnell, Angela (Kenny) Perry, Michael A. Gibson, Keith Gibson, Lindsey (Jerry) Weddle, Darin (Katie) Gibson, Donald Gibson and friend Alecia, and David (Jennifer) Gibson; great-grandchildren, Ethan (Kristina) Perry, Jordan, Karson, Mariah, Caleb, Landen, Cameron, Rynnleigh, Raelynn, Brady and Kayson Gibson, Jaziah, Blake, and Fiona Weddle, Aizlin and Austin; sisters, Patricia Boner and Linda Johnson; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, daughter, Nancy Joan Gibson; son, Rev. Michael G. Gibson; son-in-law, Rev. John D. Neace; and siblings, Betty Bess, Margie Henson, Bobby Hartline, Shirley Hartline and Richard Hartline.

Joan was of the Pentecost faith.

She was a wonderful, Christian woman who loved her Lord and Savior. She loved working in the churches she attended, making pies and chicken and dumplings to help keep the church going. She served on the Cypress Revival Center Church board and was the treasurer for three years.

She worked at Choate Mental Health and Development Center for three years as well as working for many local vegetable farmers but made a living for her family working at the Florsheim Shoe Factory for 25 years, retiring in 1988

Funeral services for Joan Gibson were held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden with Pastor Kenny Perry, Ethan Perry and Pastor Jonathan Neace officiating. Interment followed in the Alto Pass Cemetery.

To visit Joan's memorial page and leave online condolences for her family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

View Obituaries Online at annanews.com

Michael Wayne Morgan



Michael Wayne Morgan, 74, of Jonesboro, passed away Saturday, April 5, 2025, at his home.

He was born on Feb. 16, 1951, in Anna, the son of William Paul and Luella Marie (Kelley) Morgan. He married Karen Cantrell on March 22, 2003.

Mike is survived by his wife, Karen Morgan; step-daughter, Tonya (Chris) Kendall; grandchildren, Caleb and Ethan Kendall; siblings, Randy (Mary) Morgan, Paula Morgan and Van (Beth) Morgan; nieces and nephews, Danielle (Brandon) Smithey, Andrew (Jordan) Parr, Shelley Morgan, Jenifer (Jamie) Eddleman, Miranda (Brett) Wright and Katy (Garret) Williams and "The Boys", his great-nephews, Reed, Clay and Axton. Mike was also loved and will be missed by cousins and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew, Duane Morgan.

Mike was a faithful member of the Refuge Worship Center. His relationship with God and his church were most important to him.

He grew up farming with his family and continued to do so, helping Brandon on the farm. He was a truck driver and member of the Teamsters Union for over 20 years.

After retirement, he enjoyed time spent outdoors, especially watching birds and working in his shop.

Mike was a soft-spoken, kind and gentle man that enjoyed helping and giving to others.

Funeral services for Mike Morgan were held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna with Rev. Danny Jones officiating. Interment followed in the Jonesboro Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Refuge Worship Center. Envelopes are available at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home.

To visit Mike's memorial page and leave online condolences for his family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

Pauline Ruth Farrar



Pauline Ruth Farrar, 90, of Marion, formerly of Carbondale, passed away, Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at the Voyage of Marion.

She was born April 18, 1934 in Cobden the daughter of Milo M. and Inis H. (Hayden) Starling.

She married Edward Farrar on Dec. 8, 1952 in Jonesboro. He preceded her in death on Dec. 20, 2004, together they shared 52 wonderful years of marriage.

Pauline is survived by her two granddaughters, Andrea (Charles) Swope and Jerrica (Vince) Perez; eight great-grandchildren; brother, Ardell (Jane) Starling; sisters, Barbara Waldrop, Patricia (Lynn) Newcomb; sister-in-law, Carole Starling, several nieces and nephews; great nieces and nephews; other extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Edward Farrar; son, Greg Farrar; and nephew, Michael Newcomb.

Pauline was a member of the Gospel Assembly Church in Paducah for many years. She retired from Southern Illinois University where she worked for twenty years as an Administrative Secretary.

Funeral services were on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at the Rendleman & Hileman Funeral Home in Anna. Interment followed in the Cobden Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Gospel Assembly Church or donor's choice.

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

Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Anna in charge of arrangements.

News from

Camp Ground Church, Community

Sunday's sermon was "Fear No Evil". The main scripture was Psalm 23:1-4

The sermon stated:

"It is natural to be afraid, but God will be with us through anything that threatens us."

"David, composer of Psalm 23, knew fear but he realized God had been with him in the past and he trusted Him to protect him in the future."

"David said that God provides all that we need, He gives us peace, He restores us to a right relationship with Him, and God will protect us not just from the evil that surrounds us, but also the evil that can develop within our hearts."

"We should "run" to God for comfort. We have the God of our salvation on our side."

Greetings to Sara Poole whose birthday was Sunday, the 6th.

Kayton Crane ran the bell to begin Worship. Kayton and her grandfather Rodney Miller took up the morning tithes and offerings.

Our Elder for March is Karen Vaughn.

Camp Ground Church invites all to join them on April 13, Palm Sunday, as they commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, which was marked by the waving of palm branches, and begins Holy Week. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m.

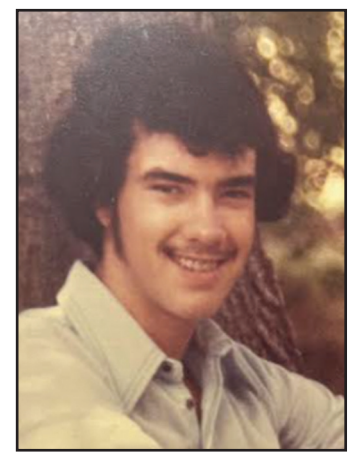
Our Good Friday service will commence at 7 p.m. on April 18. The church will gather in solemn remembrance of Christ's sacrifice, commemorating His crucifixion and death, and reflecting on the profound message of love and redemption as well as singing songs of praise and worship for all He has done.

Details of their community egg hunt the April 19 and Easter Worship will be highlighted in the column next week.

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.

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

Clyde Duane Smith



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Clyde Duane Smith who passed peacefully on April 3, 2025, at his home.

Born on Jan. 27, 1961, in Cobden, the proud son of Clyde Eugene and Geneva Irene (Wright) Smith.

Clyde was a graduate of Cobden High School. Throughout his life, he worked as a concrete laborer, notably for Smith Concrete. He was a hard worker and took a great amount of pride in his work.

Clyde was a member of the Harvest Church in Anna. He was a hunting guide for Grassy Lake Hunting Club for many years. He was an avid Kansas City Chiefs and St. Louis Cardinals fan, but an even bigger fan of his grandkid's sports teams.

To cherish his memory, Clyde is survived by his three children, Beth Smith, Bruce (Melissa) Smith, and Abigail Smith; his grandchildren Brayden Smith, Prestyn Smith, and Jordy Unnerstall; his siblings, Jim (Joan) Smith, Susan (Jeff) Forby, and Deanna Smith; His nephews Joe, Jimmie, and Jason Smith, Chris and Jon Gibbons as well as his niece Emily Forby Gaddis. Clyde is also survived by his special great nieces and nephews as well as many beloved friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Clyde Eugene Smith and mother Geneva Irene Smith; his sister Martha Smith; and both his paternal and maternal grandparents.

Clyde's hard work, selflessness, and love for his family will live on through his firm foundation that he built before he left.

Graveside services for Clyde Duane Smith will be at 1 p.m. Friday, April 11, 2025, at the Cobden Cemetery.

Family and friends may gather at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home in Cobden from 11 a.m. until the service time at 1 p.m. on Friday.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project. Envelopes are available at Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home.

To visit Clyde's memorial page and leave online condolences for his family, please visit the Rendleman and Hileman Funeral Home website at rendlemanhilemanfh.com.

March climate review for region

Warmer, wetter than normal; two significant severe weather events

The month of March was warmer and wetter than normal across much of the Southern Illinois, Southeast Missouri and Western Kentucky region.

The National Weather Service office in Paducah reported in a climate review for the month that March also was highlighted by two significant thunderstorm events.

Temperatures

Temperatures finished above normal by 5 to 6 degrees.

There were brief cool periods on March 2, 6, 16-17 and 20-21. Lows dipped into the 20s or low 30s on those days.

Otherwise temperatures were largely above normal most days.

The warmest periods were focused around March 11-15, 18-19 and 28-30.

High temperatures were primarily in the 70s to low 80s on those days, including a few record highs being broken.

It was the fourth warmest March on record in Paducah and Cape Girardeau and the sixth warmest March in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Precipitation

Precipitation averaged drier than normal across Southeast Missouri, Southern Illinois and a large portion of Western Kentucky (especially areas along and west of the Lakes).

These areas only received rainfall amounts 1.5 to 3.5 inches, which was roughly 1 to 3 inches drier than normal.

It was the sixth driest March on record in Cape Girardeau.

Meanwhile, it was slightly wetter than normal in the Pennyrile region of Western Kentucky where amounts were largely in the 4 to 6 inch range. This was right near normal to about 2 inches wetter than normal.

Severe Weather

There were two significant severe thunderstorm events that impacted the region during the month.

The first was a tornado outbreak from the evening of the 14th into early morning on the 15th. There were a total of 14 tornadoes with this event, including six EF-3's, which was the most in any one event in the history of the weather service office in Paducah.

Another severe thunderstorm event impacted the region March 30 with very large hail, damaging winds, and two EF-1 tornadoes.

Broadband meeting set at Stinson

Stinson Memorial Public Library in Anna is partnering with the Southern Illinois University Office of Innovation and Economic Development to host a Broadband READY informational meeting.

The meeting is scheduled from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at the library, which is located at 409 S. Main St.

The meeting will provide participants with information from the Illinois Broadband Lab about Broadband initiatives and opportunities.

Broadband READY is designed to identify digital inequalities and will encourage collaboration between community organizations, education and stakeholders to address them.

Grants are provided to qualified regional entities to explore opportunities for advances in broadband access, adoption and utilization.

Those wanting to attend the meeting are asked to RSVP to swatkins@stinsonlibrary.org. Further information is available by contacting vsneed@siu.edu

A-J Honor Society hosts book drive

Anna-Jonesboro Community High School's National Honor Society is hosting a book drive during April to support local elementary grade grade classrooms.

The honor society is collecting books at the 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade reading level books.

New or gently used (and in great condition) books are welcome.

Chapter books, fiction, nonfiction, adventure, science, graphic novels and others can be donated.

Books can be brought to the A-JCHS office in the mornings or after school.

News from

Anna First Baptist Church

Anna First Baptist Church met for worship on Sunday, April 6.

The call to worship was on The Lord's Supper.

The worship team led in the singing of "You Are My All In All," "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" and "God on the Mountain."

Pastor Lupe's sermon was titled " "Worthy is The Lamb," continuing the study of the book of Revelations.

Highlights of Pastor Lupe's sermon were: God reigns supremely, and Christ alone is worthy to carry out God's plan of redemption and judgment. The passage emphasizes in chapters 4 and 5 demonstrate that all creation exists to worship God and the Lamb—a theme that sets the stage for the rest of Revelation's unfolding events.

The Lord's Supper was shared at the close of our service, in a time of remembrance of the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross.

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

The church's worship service for adults and children's church start at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday.

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

The church will be holding a Good Friday candlelight service on Friday, April 18 at 6 p.m.

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 Facebook page is Facebook.com/AnnaFirstBaptistChurch.

The church's email is fbcanna409@gmail.com.

News from

Anna Nazarene Church

The morning worship service was held Sunday, April 6.

Announcements were given by Jessica Elkins.

The worship service was led by Pastor Wright and the worship team.

The message "The Way To The Cross" was brought by Pastor Wright from Mark 8: 34-38, Acts 4:12, Matthew 7:21-23, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:5-11, Isaiah 53.

The evening service was held at 6 p.m. with the message brought by Pastor Wright.

Celebrating a birthday this week is 9th Marilyn Elkins

Sunday, April 13

Breakfast, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Morning service, 10:35 a.m. Evening worship service, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16

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.

Friday, April 18

Good Friday Passover meal at 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday. Make Easter a day to remember this year by: finding Jesus in The Sanctuary, an Easter egg hunt following the service and a family photo booth for making memories.

Saturday, April 26

Teen party from 6 to 10 p.m.

Sunday, April 27

Annual church elections will be held with voting from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. before Sunday school and after morning worship until 12:30. All active members 15 or older may vote.

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.

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

Sharing the Glory



Photo Credit istockphoto.com/mandygodbehar

We have the opportunity to share God's love with each other every day in the simplest of ways. When you smile, your happy spirit shows through your eyes. When you speak to a friend, a gentle touch on the shoulder speaks volumes. Just listening with a sympathetic ear can be invaluable. It's as simple as loving one another without judgment. Visit God's House this week; share His glory and hope for the future. Then take it back out and share it with others.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40.1-31	Isaiah 49.1-26	Isaiah 51.1-23	Isaiah 52.1-12	Isaiah 52.13-53.12	Matthew 20.1-19	Matthew 20.20-34

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Apostolic Lighthouse Church
Breakfast and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
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You're Invited!
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Sunday
Worship Service
10:30am
Wednesday
Bible Study
7pm
409 S. Green St, Anna, IL 62906 (Corner of West Spring and S. Green St)

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Jonesboro, Illinois 62952
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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

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BUSINESS

Memorial Flowers, M&M Creations, Open April 23rd through May 27, 2025. Monday-Saturday 10 – 5, Sunday 12-4. Closed Mother's Day. Located on 146, one-half mile east of Hwy 37. Looks for our signs. Details 618-771-2777

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Shawnee Community College is looking for full and part-time Custodian for their Ullin Campus and The Massac County Extension Center. For more information, please Call 618-634-3200 Ext. 3436

Help Wanted: The Voyage Senior Living of Anna is hiring for a part-time/full-time CNA position $16.50/hr. Call Katie at 618-833-5495. EEO/AA Employer

YARD / GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale: April 12th, 8 – 12pm. 1160 Lingle Creek Road Jonesboro. Living room chairs, curtains, baby items. Walker, bath seat, 2 Bumba's, 2 Sit Me Up chairs, Infant girl up to 6 months. Little Girl up to size 5. Set of bedside tables, bed frame, toys. Make an offer.

By Appointment – Anna. Hands Tools, Power Tools, Table Saw, Ladders, Air Compressor, New Snow Blower, Wheel Barrow, Patio Table with 4 chairs, plus more. 72" cut Hustler Zero-Turn, 125 hrs, like new! 2010 Club Car Golf Cart 4-seater. Cash Sale: 618-614-5134, 9am to 6pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

ESTATE OF MILLICENT C. HANKLA, DECEASED. NO. 2025-PR-5 IN PROBATE

NOTICE OF DEATH INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CLAIM DATE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to creditors of the death of MILLICENT C. HANKLA, of Anna, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 27, 2025, to ELIZABETH CRANFILL, 2306 EMELINE PLACE, MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28557, whose attorney is Elvis C. Cameron, 205B N. Main St., Anna, Illinois.

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

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

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this court at the Union County Courthouse, 309 W. Market St., Jonesboro, Illinois, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before October 10, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Executor is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of the State of Illinois, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Executor and to the attorneys within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: April 1, 2025.
ELIZABETH CRANFILL
CAMERON LAW FIRM, LLC
ELVIS C. CAMERON
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
205B N. MAIN ST.
ANNA, ILLINOIS 62906
PHONE: 618-833-2220
ARDC# 6244394
8221-952080

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

ESTATE OF: BRADLEY HARKER, Deceased.
Case No.: 2025-PR-6

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Bradley Harker. Letters Testamentary were issued to Brittney Hilt, whose address is 170 Toler Lane, Anna, IL 62906, and whose attorney of record is Roderick Throgmorton of 300 North Monroe, Marion, IL 62959. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Union County Courthouse, Anna, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 14, 2025, or three months from the date of mailing or delivering notice pursuant to 755 ILCS 5/18-3(a), whichever is later, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

By: /s/ Roderick Throgmorton
Keller & Associates, LTD
Timothy Keller #6225309
Roderick Throgmorton #6339752
300 North Monroe Street
Marion, Illinois 62959-2326
Telephone: (618) 998-9988
Facsimile: (618) 993-2565
Email: tkeller@quitamlaw.org
rthrogmorton@quitam-law.org
8221-952073

NOTICE UNDER ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME ACT
State of Illinois
SS
County of Union

Notice is hereby given pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Name in the conduct of Transaction of Business in the State," as Amended that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Union County,

Filed this 2nd day of April, 2025, under the Assumed Name of Mike's Metal Sales, with the place of business located at 5475 St. Rt. 146 E, Anna, IL, and that the True Name(s) and Residence Address of the Sole Owner(s) and Proprietors of said Business is:

Owners: Dallas Diller
Address: 5475 St. Rt. 146 E,
Anna, IL 62906
Lance Meisenheimer
Union County Clerk
8221-952110

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Lick Creek Community Consolidated School District #16

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Lick Creek Community Consolidated School Board of Education of School District Number 16, in the County of Union, State of Illinois, that a tentative amended budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the District Office in this School District located at 7355 Lick Creek Road, Buncombe, Illinois from the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning Monday, May 19, 2025.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said amended budget will be held at 5:15 p.m. on the 23d day of June, 2025 at Lick Creek Community Consolidated School located at 7355 Lick Creek Road, Buncombe, Illinois in this School District Number 16. Dated this 14th day of April, 2025.

Lick Creek Community Consolidated School Board of Education of School District Number 16, in the County of Union, State of Illinois.

Jordan Suits, Principal
8221-952231

Anna Jo Garden Club prepares for spring, discusses state parks



The Anna Jo Garden Club frequently hosts "potting parties."



Members of the Anna JO Garden Club attended the garden club district meeting recently.

By Julie O Murphy
AJGC Secretary

Daffodils nodding. Beauty in blossoms of magenta magnolia and yellow forsythia. Golden sunshine and lovely colorful quiet quince.

We gardeners are glad to see signs of spring's return everywhere.

We invite Union County to make plans for the AJGC Spring Plant sale on Saturday May 10.

AJGC includes members from all over Union County, and one of our members suffered losses in the tornado of Friday March 14, over by Vienna, in Johnson County. They are rebuilding and were not injured so we are all grateful.

Our March meeting was well attended and we learned of the potential benefits and possibilities of a Shawnee National Park. Tourism is key to our economy, and we all treasure the beauty of our beloved Shawnee. Protecting our Shawnee would seem to be best for all of us.

We learned of the financial benefits to gateway communities in the area of a National Park. We learned about habitat protection (a garden club essential for our state and national pledge includes "to protect all wildlife").

We learned about areas that are already federally protected for wildlife and unique plant communities, and the wonderful special regions of our Shawnee, like LaRue Pine Hills and those lovely sites on the east side of the Forest, including Bell Smith Springs.

We learned about partnership agreements between state and local entities, as well as the department of the interior (which manages national parks) and that the establishment of a national park is by an act of Congress.

We learned about the most recent national park in Virginia which was established in 2020, and which our Representative Bost supported.

We learned about the special designations within a national park that can limit or extend usages within the park, and allow hunting and fishing and collecting. We were reminded that at Mammoth Cave, over in Missouri (our closest national park) that there are no fees and few restrictions, except when actually going into the cave.

We heard that people from around the country agree that our region is worthy of a national park – just as beautiful, just as unique, just as wonderful as all those out west, or east.

We were reminded that people from all over the country already come here to climb the bluffs, kayak the lakes, run the River to River, shop the antique malls, eat at the eateries, visit the wineries and treasure the experience of our special forest and very special region.

We learned that the establishment of a national park increases the numbers for visitors tremendously, simply by the designation.

Most certainly we might all agree that our Shawnee is just as lovely as the Indiana Dunes, the next closest and also a recently established national park.

In other club news 11 members attended the district meeting recently.

The April Garden of the Month was selected. Louann and J-bird Elwell of Cobden are especially proud of their fruit producing pear tree.

We of the Anna Jo Garden Club invite and welcome new members, with a special discount in April. Only $10 per year. Otherwise $15/year.

We meet monthly and have interesting speakers, fun field trips and a great time gardening in the parks of Anna – our AJGC Park (Hindmann) and Anna City Park, as well as "potting parties."

Local garden clubs are also forming in both Alto Pass and Cobden with the intention of beautifying other small towns and villages in Union County, and throughout southern Illinois.

Jonesboro Library events slated

Jonesboro Library hosts book sale, other April events The Jonesboro Public Library is hosting a book sale from April 22 to 26 from 1 to 5 p.m. The library will be offering a bag of books for $5.

The Jonesboro Public Library will also be hosting a variety of events throughout April.

The library is located at 412 S. Main St. in Jonesboro. Regular hours are scheduled from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

The April schedule of weekly events at the library include:

"Crafternoon" every Tuesday from 1 to 5 p.m. All ages are welcome to bring a craft to work on or start a new one.

Teen Hangout every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Homework Hangout, every Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Adult Craft every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

In addition, the library will be holding special Saturday events throughout the month.

Saturday, April 12, the library will hold Bubbles and Storytime at 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 26, the library will hold Sunflower Storytime at 2 p.m.

River to River Trail Society hike planned

A River to River Trail Society has announced its eighth public hike of the 2025 spring hiking season for April 19 at the Crest Trail in Saline County.

The hike is free and open to the public. This will be a linear thru-hike of moderate difficulty over established trail, with 4 hours of hiking time, requiring shuttling.

The leader of the hike can be reached at 630-470-7692 for more information.

Hikers are asked to meet at 10 a.m. at the Old Stone Face Trailhead off of Stone Face Lane.

The trail society said 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, **UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS CAUSE 2025TX5**: TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS (AND IF DECEASED, TO THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES), AND TO THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE VEHICLE SERVICES AND UNION COUNTY CLERK, UNION COUNTY TREASURER, DITECH FINANCIAL LLC CORP AGENT: C T CORP SYSTEM, RITHM CAPITAL, UNION COUNTY STATES ATTORNEY, AND TO OCCUPANTS AND UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PARCELS HEREINAFTER NAMED:

Parcel Number	Owners/Parties Interested	Cert Number	Street Or Common Address
02-005-	JERRELL, RICK	2022-90002	845 HUMMINGBIRD RD
02-005-	ANNA-JONESBORO NATIONAL BANK	2022-90002	845 HUMMINGBIRD RD
04-017-	CHAIREZ, CIRO	2022-90004	550 WRIGHTS CROSSING RD
04-121-	WALKER, MARY	2022-90005	WATER VALLEY RD
04-273-	PEARSON, RICHARD	2022-90007	395 PEARSON
05-408-	BAILEY, KATHLEEN	2022-90009	785 TOLLGATE RD
05-458-	MCCAIN, HELEN	2022-90010	129 ASHLAR ST
05-458-	MCCAIN, WILLIAM R	2022-90010	129 ASHLAR ST
06-191-	TINGLEY, THOMAS G	2022-90014	29 PUSH LANE
06-191-	TINGLEY, VICHIAN	2022-90014	29 PUSH LANE
08-155-	BELL, MIKE	2022-90016	255 WHEATON DR
08-155-	BELL, TERI	2022-90016	255 WHEATON DR
08-526-	KNIGHT, RICHARD D	2022-90017	743 BERRYVILLE RD
08-554-	TREXLER, HEATHER	2022-90019	27 PUSH LN
09-007-	GOODMAN, REBECCA	2022-90020	550 HARVEL LN
14-002-	MCCAIN, HELEN R	2022-90022	203 N J ST
14-007-	ODUOLA, KAREN	2022-90023	206 NORTH JOHN ST
14-079-	CAMPBELL, HOMER	2022-90024	420 E CHESTNUT

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ABOVESAID MOBILE HOMES WERE SOLD ON FEBRUARY 15, 2023, FOR DELINQUENT MOBILE HOME LOCAL SERVICES TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2022 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND THAT THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION FROM SUCH SALE EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 8, 2025. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR ORDER DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF TAX CERTIFICATES OF TITLE HAS BEEN FILED IN THE ABOVESAID CAUSE AS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED MOBILE HOMES BY UNION COUNTY, AS TRUSTEE, AND THAT ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 AT 11:00 AM [COURTROOM 1], SAID PETITIONER WILL APPLY FOR AN ORDER THAT A TAX CERTIFICATE OF TITLE ISSUE AS TO EACH ABOVESAID MOBILE HOME NOT REDEEMED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 8, 2025. /S/ UNION COUNTY AS TRUSTEE, PETITIONER.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK
ADDRESS: 309 W MARKET ST ROOM 116, JONESBORO, IL 62952-1239
TELEPHONE: (618) 833-5711

Wellness on Wheels Van Clinics planned

Southern 7 Health Department (S7HD) announces its April Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Van Clinics for Southern Illinois.

The schedule for the month includes:

April 16. Sunshine Inn Senior Center at Faith Community Church, Anna, 9 a.m. to noon. Shawnee Community College's Union County Extension Center, Anna, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

April 23. Happy Hearts Senior Center, Metropolis, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Big John's Super Store, Metropolis, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

April 30. Golden Circle Senior Center, Elizabethtown, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Bob's Food Mart, Rosiclare, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Free services available on the WOW Van include NARCAN training, blood pressure check, home colorectal cancer tests (FIT), medication disposal packets, COVID test kits, and condoms.

Charged services which are available include blood lead, hemoglobin and cholesterol screenings, STD tests (including chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis), HIV, pregnancy and TB skin tests, TD/Tdap shots for adults, well water tests and hereditary genetic cancer testing.

Charged services, excluding a well water test, require a health insurance card. All services, both free and charged, will be offered while they are available on day of service.

Flu shots will be provided to patients based on vaccine availability the day of the clinic and while supplies last. Health insurance cards are required. Those requesting a COVID booster are advised to contact their local Southern 7 public health clinic for details.

Through a grant funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), S7HD provides many healthcare services through IDPH Wellness on Wheels Van Clinics.

The WOW Van rotates throughout high, health-risk communities each Wednesday in the lower seven counties in Illinois.

The WOW Van, a multi-disciplinary mobile unit, is available to S7HD through a partnership with IDPH to provide health screenings and other services. IDPH partners with health agencies and hospitals to provide staff and services on the WOW Van at sites where people can come for medical services.

No appointment is needed for services. Walk-ins are welcome. Clinic dates, times, and available services are subject to change without notice.

For information about WOW Van services, upcoming dates and how to become a sponsoring location, contact Sharyl Betts at 618-634-2297, extension 970154, download the Southern 7 app or visit www.southern7.org.

Television Listings

THURSDAY APRIL 10, 2025

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local	Local Programs	Masters	Bang (HD)	(5:57) ★★½ "Bad Boys" ('95, Action) Martin Lawrence. (HD)	Big City	"Furiosa: Saga" ('24)	"Winter's War" ('16)	(5:15) "Foxfire" ('96)
:30			Local		SC at the	Bang (HD)		Big City			
7 PM	9-1-1 *"Sick Day"* (HD)	Marriage	Next Level Chef (HD)	Law & Order (HD)	2025 Masters Golf Tournament *from Augusta National Golf Club* (R)	Bang (HD)		Primos	The White Lotus (HD)	"The Curse of La Llorona" ('19)	Yellowjackets (HD)
:30		Ghosts				Bang (HD)		Primos			
8 PM	Doctor Odyssey (HD)	(:01) Matlock (HD)	Farmer Wants a Wife	Law & Order: SVU		Bang (HD)		Miraculous	(:01) The White Lotus		★★★½ "Inglourious Basterds" ('09, Drama) Brad Pitt. (HD)
:30						Bang (HD)	★★★ "Creed III" ('23, Drama) Michael B. Jordan. (PG-13)	Miraculous		(:34) "Drag Me to Hell" ('09) (HD)	
9 PM	Grey's Anatomy (HD)	Elsbeth (HD)	Local Programs *Local info.*	Found (HD)		Bang (HD)		ZOMBIES	(:03) The White Lotus		
:30						Bang (HD)		ZOMBIES			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local	SportsCenter (HD)	"Training Day" ('01) Denzel Washington. (HD)		Jessie	(:03) The White Lotus	(:13) "Martha Marcy May Marlene" ('11) (HD)	"Halloween" Malcolm McDowell.
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:50) Late Show Stephen Colbert		(:35) Tonight (HD)				Jessie			
11 PM	Nightline		Local Programs	Late Night	SportsCenter (HD)		Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	(:04) The White Lotus		
:30								Bluey			

THURSDAY

7:00pm

HBO The White Lotus "Same Spirits, New Forms" One week after a group of vacationers arrive on the Thai island of Koh Samui, one visitor's meditation session is interrupted by gunshots. TVMA (HD)

8:30pm

USA Creed III ★★★ (2023, Drama) Michael B. Jordan, Jonathan Majors. A boxer discovers that his next opponent is his childhood friend, who lost his boxing career years prior due to an incident that landed him in prison. PG-13

FRIDAY APRIL 11, 2025

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	Masters	Bang (HD)	(4:30) "Creed III" ('23)	Big City	The White Lotus (HD)	"Prisoners" ('13) (HD)	(:15) "Strange Darling" ('24) Willa Fitzgerald.
:30					SC at the	Bang (HD)		Big City			
7 PM	Shark Tank (HD)	NCIS: Sydney (HD)	UFL Football *Arlington Renegades at Birmingham Stallions* (Live)	Grosse Pointe (HD)	2025 Masters Golf Tournament *from Augusta National Golf Club* (R)	★★½ "White House Down" ('13, Action) Channing Tatum.	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (T) (HD)	"Movie"	(:07) "Central Intelligence" ('16) Kevin Hart.	"Triple 9" ('16, Thriller) Casey Affleck. (R) (HD)	Yellowjackets (HD)
8 PM	(:01) 20/20 *Investigative news.* (HD)	Fire Country (HD)		Dateline NBC *Investigative news.*				StuGo			
:30		S.W.A.T. (HD)						StuGo	Real Time with (HD)	"Sherlock Holmes" ('09) Robert Downey Jr.	"Last Stop in Yuma County" (R)
9 PM						(:45) "Training Day" ('01, Drama) Denzel Washington. (R)		Moon Girl			
:30								Moon Girl			
10 PM	Local	Local	Local Programs	Local	SportsCenter (HD)		Resident Alien (HD)	Moon Girl	The White Lotus (HD)		"Hell or High Water" ('16) (HD)
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:50) Late Show Stephen Colbert		(:35) Tonight (HD)				Moon Girl			
11 PM	Nightline		Local Programs	Late Night	SportsCenter (HD)		(:08) 9-1-1 *"Suspicion"*	Big City		"War on Everyone"	
:30								Big City	Real Time		

FRIDAY

7:00pm

MAX Triple 9 ★★★ (2016, Thriller) Casey Affleck, Woody Harrelson. A rookie police officer, who survives an attempt on his life by the Russian Mafia and corrupt police officers, must try to bring them down. R (HD)

9:45pm

TBS Training Day ★★★½ (2001, Drama) Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke. A rookie police officer finds that he is in a moral dilemma because of the methods his training officer uses to rid the streets of drug dealers. R TV14 (HD)

SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2025

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	★★★½ "The Ten Commandments" ('56, Drama) Charlton Heston. (NR) (HD)	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	College Softball (Live)	Bang (HD)	Nike Hoop	"Movie"	The White Lotus (HD)	"Mechanic" ('16) (HD)	"Saving Private Ryan" ('98) Tom Hanks. (HD)
:30						Bang (HD)	Nike Hoop Summit *"Portland, Oregon"* (Live)				
7 PM		Tracker *"Trust Fall"*	Next Level Chef (HD)	The Hunting Party	UFC 314: Volkanovski (Live)	Bang (HD)			"Crazy Rich Asians" ('18) Gemma Chan. (HD)	★★½ "Ride Along 2" ('16) Ice Cube.	
:30						Bang (HD)					"Before Dawn" ('24) Levi Miller.
8 PM		48 Hours (HD)	Farmer Wants a Wife	Dateline NBC		Bang (HD)		Moon Girl			
:30						Bang (HD)	Nike Hoop	Moon Girl		(:42) "House Party" ('23) Jacob Latimore. (HD)	
9 PM		48 Hours (HD)	Local Programs	Saturday Night Live	SportsCenter (HD)	Bang (HD)	Nike Hoop Summit *"Portland, Oregon"* (Live)	StuGo	The Last of Us *"Lost Darkness"*		(:45) "Flags of Our Fathers" ('06, Drama) Ryan Phillippe.
:30						Bang (HD)		StuGo			
10 PM		Local Programs *Local info.*	Extracted (HD)	Local	SportsCenter (HD)	"San Andreas" ('15) Dwayne Johnson. (HD)		Big City			
:30	(:44) Local			Saturday Night Live (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	Big City	(:28) The White Lotus (HD)	"American Honey" Sasha Lane.	
11 PM	Local Programs		Local Programs		SportsCenter (HD)			Big City			
:30								Big City			

SATURDAY

7:00pm

CBS Tracker "Trust Fall" Colter's search for missing campers leads to meeting a retired police officer convinced that a nefarious serial killer is on the loose. TV14 (HD)

9:05pm

HBO The Last of Us "When You're Lost in the Darkness" Twenty years after the violent outbreak of a fungal pandemic, a jaded survivor accepts a mission to transport a teenage girl while searching for his brother. TVMA (HD)

SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2025

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Home Videos (HD)	60 Minutes (HD)	Extracted (HD)	The Americas *"Andes"*	MLB Baseball *Chicago Cubs at Los Angeles Dodgers* (Live) (HD)	"Doctor Strange"	Law & Order: SVU	★★★ "Ice Age" ('02) Ray Romano.	(:16) The Last of Us	The Knick *"Whiplash"*	(:05) Yellowjackets
:30						Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		(:07) The Last of Us	"Mike and Dave Need Dates"	Yellowjackets (HD)
7 PM	American Idol *"809 Hawaii 1"* (HD)	Tracker (HD)	Simpsons	The Americas (HD)		Bang (HD)		StuGo			
:30			Family Guy			Bang (HD)		StuGo	The Last of Us (HD)	"Good Luck Chuck" Dane Cook.	MobLand (HD)
8 PM		Watson	(:02) North	Suits LA *"Acapulco"*		Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	StuGo			
:30			Krapopolis			Bang (HD)		StuGo			
9 PM	(:01) The Pyramid	The Equalizer (HD)	Local Programs	Dateline NBC (HD)	NHL Hockey *Colorado vs Anaheim* (Live)	Bang (HD)	Poker Face	Primos	Righteous		Yellowjackets (HD)
:30						Bang (HD)		Primos	Righteous		
10 PM	Local Programs *Local info.*	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local		★★★ "Godzilla vs. Kong" Millie Bobby Brown.	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards	(:20) Last Week (HD)	(:19) "Wanted" ('08, Action) James McAvoy.	MobLand (HD)
:30				Local Programs *Local info.*				Wizards			
11 PM		Local Programs	Local Programs		Sports		Law & Order: SVU	Bluey	(:01) The Last of Us		Yellowjackets (HD)
:30								Bluey			

SUNDAY

7:07pm

HBO The Last of Us "Look for the Light" After surviving a series of bloody trials against all odds as they traveled across the ravaged United States, Joel and Ellie prepare to complete their mission. TVMA (HD)

9:01pm

ABC The $100,000 Pyramid "Ana Gasteyer vs Kevin Nealon and Scott Wolf vs Atsuko Okatsuka" "Saturday Night Live" stars Ana Gasteyer and Kevin Nealon compete before actor Scott Wolf and actress Atsuko Okatsuka take to the stage. TVPG (HD)

MONDAY APRIL 14, 2025

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Local Programs	Countdown	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	"The Bank Job" ('08)	★★★ "RoboCop" ('14)	"Inglourious" ('09) (R)
:30					2025 WNBA Draft (Live)	Bang (HD)		Phineas			
7 PM	American Idol *"Top 24 Aulani"* (HD)	Neighbor.	Extracted (HD)	The Voice *"The Knockouts Part 3"* (HD)		Bang (HD)	WWE Monday Night Raw (HD)	"Toy Story 2" ('99) Tom Hanks.	(:58) The Last of Us	"Brick Mansions" Paul Walker.	MobLand *"Plan B"*
:30		Poppa's				Bang (HD)					
8 PM		NCIS *"Killer Instinct"*				Bang (HD)			Celtics City		Yellowjackets (HD)
:30					Eight on Eight	Bang (HD)		Phineas		(:31) "Stone" ('10) Robert De Niro.	
9 PM	Paradise *"Sinatra"*	NCIS: Origins *"Bugs"*	Local Programs *Local info.*	Found (HD)		Dad (HD)		Phineas	(:02) The Last of Us		Happy Face (HD)
:30					SportsCenter (Live) (HD)	Dad (HD)		Phineas			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local		Dad (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Lady Dragon	(:04) Celtics City	(:16) "Prisoners" ('13) Hugh Jackman. (R) (HD)	Yellowjackets (HD)
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)		Dad (HD)					
11 PM	Nightline	Midnight	Local Programs	Late Night	SportsCenter (HD)	Dad (HD)	Race *Alaska race.*	Wizards	Righteous		"48 Hrs." Nick Nolte.
:30						Dad (HD)		Wizards	Last Week		

MONDAY

7:00pm

DISN Toy Story 2 ★★★ (1999, Comedy) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen. Buzz and the other toys set out on a rescue mission after Woody is accidentally sold to a greedy toy collector at the family's yard sale. G TV G

8:31pm

MAX Stone ★★½ (2010, Drama) Robert De Niro, Edward Norton. A parole officer attempting to reach retirement as peacefully as possible faces trouble when he is approached by a convicted arsonist's stunning wife. R

TUESDAY APRIL 15, 2025

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	SportsCenter (Live)	MLB Baseball *Cleveland Guardians at Baltimore Orioles* (Live) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	"Crazy Rich Asians" ('18) Gemma Chan. (HD)	"Three Musketeers"	★★★ "Point Break" ('91) Patrick Swayze. (HD)
:30								Phineas			
7 PM	Will Trent (HD)	FBI *"Blkpill"* (HD)	The Cleaning Lady	Medical	NHL Hockey *Washington vs New York* (Live)		Law & Order: SVU	Phineas		"Sherlock Holmes" ('09) Robert Downey Jr.	
:30				Night (HD)				Phineas			(:05) Yellowjackets
8 PM	The Rookie (HD)	FBI: International	Alert (HD)	The Voice (HD)			Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	"Movie"		
:30								Phineas			
9 PM	(:01) Bad Romance	FBI: Most Wanted	Local Programs *Local info.*	The Irrational (HD)		MLB on TBS	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas		★★½ "Cut Bank" Liam Hemsworth.	(:05) "The Girl on the Train" ('16) Emily Blunt.
:30					NHL Hockey *Los Angeles Kings at Seattle Kraken* (Live)	Family		Phineas			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local		Family	Law & Order: SVU	Miraculous: New York	(:58) The Last of Us *"The March of Progress"*	"Deadpool" ('16) Ryan Reynolds.	
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)		Family					★★½ "Halloween" ('07)
11 PM	Nightline	Midnight	Local Programs	Late Night		Family	Law & Order: SVU	Wizards			
:30						Family		Wizards			

TUESDAY

7:00pm

ABC Will Trent "A Funeral Fit for a Quartermaine" Rafael looks to Will following his grandmother's death, and they both must reckon with life-threatening dangers and their painful pasts. TV14 (HD)

9:05pm

PARSHO The Girl on the Train ★★★ (2016, Mystery) Emily Blunt, Haley Bennett. A young woman becomes involved in a mystery after seeing something shocking happen in a couple's backyard during her train commute. R (HD)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2025

	ABC	CBS	FOX	NBC	ESPN	TBS	USA	DISN	HBO	MAX	PARSHO
6 PM	Local Programs	Local Programs	(5:00) Local Programs	Local Programs	NBA (HD)	Bang (HD)	SVU (HD)	Phineas	(5:50) ★★★ "The Accountant" ('16) Ben Affleck.	★★½ "Gods of Egypt"	"Collateral" ('04, Drama) Tom Cruise. (R) (HD)
:30					(:45) NBA Basketball *"Teams TBA"* (HD)	Bang (HD)	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas		"Candyman: Farewell" ('95) (HD)	
7 PM	Conners	Survivor *Deserted island.* (HD)	The Masked Singer	Chicago Med (HD)		AEW: Dynamite *"Spring Breakthru"*		Phineas			"Minority Report" ('02, Science Fiction) Tom Cruise. (HD)
:30	Elementary						Law & Order: SVU	Phineas	"Movie"	(:35) ★★★½ "Midsommar" ('19, Horror) Florence Pugh. (HD)	
8 PM	Celebrity Jeopardy!	The Amazing Race (HD)	(:02) The Floor (HD)	Chicago Fire (HD)				Phineas			
:30							Law & Order: SVU	Phineas			
9 PM	What Would You Do?		Local Programs *Local info.*	Chicago P.D. (HD)	(:05) NBA Basketball *"Teams TBA"* (HD)	Family		Phineas			
:30						Family	Law & Order: SVU	Phineas			
10 PM	Local	Local		Local		Family		Tales Shadybug	(:58) The Last of Us *"The March of Progress"*		"Vanilla Sky" ('01) Tom Cruise. (R)
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) Late Show (HD)		(:35) Tonight (HD)		Family	Law & Order: SVU			"Curse Llorona" ('19)	
11 PM	Nightline	Midnight	Local Programs	Late Night	SC (HD)	Family	SVU (HD)	Wizards			
:30						Family		Wizards			

WEDNESDAY

7:00pm

NBC Chicago Med "Together One Last Time" Hannah makes a difficult call to save a life; Frost and Ripley treat a young patient with a snake bite; Archer has Naomi handle a patient on her own. TV14 (HD)

8:02pm

ABC Celebrity Jeopardy! "Semifinal #3: David Friedberg, Sean Gunn and Mina Kimes" Businessman David Friedberg, actor Sean Gunn and journalist Mina Kimes compete in the semifinals as they play for selected charities. TVPG (HD)

Opinion and Commentary

Lawmakers must step up and address opioid crisis in Illinois

By Jeremy Lloyd
Johnson County State's Attorney

Like everywhere across the United States, Illinois continues to struggle with the opioid crisis, but rural communities like Johnson County face unique challenges in addressing this epidemic.

Many residents in our community struggle to access basic health care services, and finding quality, affordable addiction treatment can be even more difficult.

When one of our neighbors develops an opioid dependency and can't get the care they need, the ripple effects are felt throughout the community – impacting families, straining law enforcement, and stretching our limited local resources even thinner.

As the state's attorney for Johnson County, I've got a front row seat to this crisis. Our law enforcement officers, who already work under immense pressure, are often the first responders to overdose calls. More of these cases than you can imagine can be traced back to a prescription opioid used to manage pain.

It's time for Illinois to ensure that safe and effective pain management options are available to every patient before they are ever put on a path toward opioid dependency, despite the best intentions of their providers.

One step toward tackling this crisis is passing Senate Bill 1238, legislation that would make it easier for residents in our state to access nonopioid pain treatment options. This bill would prevent health insurance companies from denying a patient coverage of a non-opioid in favor of an opioid drug, ensuring patients can choose safer pain treatments options without financial or bureaucratic barriers.

SB 1238 also recognizes that not enough people know about the non-opioid options on the market, and patients can't choose a treatment option they don't know exists. To fix this, the legislation would allow the Illinois Department of Public Health to author and publish a pamphlet to educate the patients and providers about non-opioid pain treatments.

These policy changes are crucial for protecting Illinois residents from the devastating effects of opioid addiction. By making nonopioid alternatives more accessible and affordable, we can keep patients off the path to opioid addiction.

This is not just a public health issue; it's a matter of public safety and fiscal responsibility. Every overdose call strains emergency response resources, and every new case of opioid addiction adds to the long-term health care and law enforcement costs our state must bear.

SB 1238 is a commonsense proposal that puts patients first, prioritizes public safety, and helps break the cycle of opioid addiction before it begins. I urge the Illinois Legislature to pass this bill and take a critical step toward combating the opioid crisis in our state. Illinoisans deserve better than a system that prioritizes opioids over safer, nonaddictive treatments. I urge our state lawmakers to pass this bill.

The Illinois Press Association distributed this op-ed written by Johnson County State's Attorney Jeremy Lloyd.

Jazz music concerts set at SIU

The SIU School of Music plans to celebrate jazz with two performances in April that feature the musical talents of students and faculty.

The performances are part of Jazz Appreciation Month.

The SIU Jazz Combo is scheduled to perform a free Jazz Appreciation Month recital at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 14, in the Old Baptist Foundation recital hall on the SIU Carbondale campus.

On April 29, the SIU Studio Jazz Orchestra is scheduled to present its final spring recital at 7:30 p.m. in Shryock Auditorium on the SIU campus.

The performance is $1,0 with free admission for SIU faculty, staff and students with ID.

The concert will premiere Lausell's "The Jazz Suite," a five-movement work that features a collection of base forms and rhythmic structures that compose the jazz genre.

The celebration kicked off April 1 with a concert by the SIU Studio Jazz Orchestra.

Please read this...

By Geof Skinner

Tornadoes, downpours, Polar Vortex, Critters...

Well, now, hasn't our weather been just a little bit more than interesting?

On Monday morning, the seventh day of April, I looked outside and saw FROST on the windshield of our vintage 2007 model automobile. FROST? WHY? It's April.

I suppose the sight of frost should not have come as a big surprise, given the exciting weather Mother Nature has shared with us recently.

Meanwhile...

Sunday afternoon, at about the time I decided to head out for a daily walk, the temperature, on the sixth day of April, which I believe is still one of the months in the season of SPRING, was a balmy 46 degrees. A check on the website for the National Weather Service office in Paducah showed that the wind was blowing out of the north at 16 miles per hour, with gusts up to 26 miles per hour. The combination of the very un-Spring-like temperature and the not-so-tropical breeze made for a wind chill of 38 degrees. I would not have been surprised to see a few snowflakes flying around in the chill wind.



An egret was seen in a tree at the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area near Ware.



Is water off a goose's back the same as water off a duck's back?



A turkey was spotted hanging out in a field on one of our recent rainy days.



The photographer may have been getting the "stink eye" from a turkey vulture.

The weather service website also showed that various watches in place for our region included a freeze warning, a frost advisory and a freeze advisory.

And, just to make sure that Old Man Winter, who is still a blockhead, apparently is not done with us yet, there was a headline in USA Today that declared: **"Polar vortex makes an icy return in April weather forecast."**

Polar vortex? In April? Good grief...

Meanwhile...

Of course, another round of unexpected temperatures more suited to Spring time in Alaska were not the only exciting weather we had during the past week...

How 'bout those tornado warnings? Thanks to the kindness of a friend, we had shelter available. Still, there's something very disconcerting about hearing the sounds of those warning sirens. We heard them Wednesday night, April 2, and again, quite unexpectedly, on Friday night, April 4.

We were grateful not to hear the sirens last Saturday night. Well, almost. We were watching an episode of the television show "Bull" on one of the channels we can get for free with our old school rabbit ears antenna. The episode was set in Texas. Where tornadoes sometimes happen. The story line included a tornado...and the sound of a tornado warning siren. Good grief...

And how 'bout all that rain? Our unofficial rain gauge in the back yard showed seven and one quarter inches. The Other Half's garden got just a little bit wet; then again, her newly planted vegetable seeds and other such things probably needed the rain.

(Something to ponder...or not...if the rain which fell in our back yard had been snow, we might have had about 72.5 inches of the white stuff...based on the idea that an inch of snow is estimated to be equal to about 10 inches of snow...)

On Saturday, while the rain was still falling, I went on a journey around Union County to check out the usual places for getting a photo of flood waters doing their thing. The sound of turbulent brown/white water rushing through what are "normally" relatively tranquil creek beds also is a bit disconcerting, no matter how often I hear it. A creek at the Trail of Tears State Forest should not sound like a miniature Niagara Falls...

Meanwhile...

We had some Critter Sighting Updates...

At least some of the Critters spotted amidst the stormy, windy, floody, rainy, tornado-ey, frosty Journey Through Life during the past week or so did not seem to have their feathers ruffled by the weather.

Over the course of a few days, yours truly spotted some eye-catching egrets at the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area (known to most of us as the "refuge") near Ware; a wild turkey hanging out in a field on a rainy morning; a couple of turkey vultures that gave the photographer the "stink eye" (like vultures would have any other kind of eye) while hanging out in a field, also on a rainy morning; and a Canada goose, hanging out in a pond, on a rainy afternoon.

Oh, well, at least the wind keeps a-blowin' and the weather keeps giving us something to talk about...like how we're going to wake up one morning, probably sooner rather than later, when the temperature will be 80 degrees in the shade and the humidity will be about 147 percent...





Garden of the month

The Anna Jo Garden Club has announced the winner of their first Garden of the Month award of the season. Louann and J-bird Elwell of Cobden have received the honors of Garden of the Month for the month of April. Louann and J-bird are especially proud of their fruit producing pear tree.