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Candidates for mayor Steve Dougherty, at left, and Dwayne Gerl, at right, take the stage at the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce political forum held Tuesday evening, March 23, at the Litchfield Community Center. *Journal-News/Bethany Martin*

Voters Hear From Local Candidates

Members of the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce provided voters a chance to hear from local candidates during the political forum held Tuesday evening, March 23, at the Litchfield Community Center. The forum was livestreamed on the chamber Facebook page, and will remain there for those who couldn't attend. The forum was moderated by Chamber President Mandy Jewell and Cory Evans, and streamed by Cass Cooper.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Roberta Meyer, candidates for Litchfield School Board, including Julie Abel and Gregg Hires, had the opportunity to give two-minute answers to questions selected by the panel. They are running unopposed. In answer to a question about their incentive to be a school board member, Hires said he strives to "do the people's will" and serve as the bridge between the com-

munity and the school district. Abel said she believes in donating her time and talents to organizations and causes she is passionate about, which includes the district. "I think Litchfield has a lot of potential, and I think at the heart of a strong community is a strong school district," Abel said. Both candidates are strong supporters for the proposed elementary school plans. Abel said the students and staff

deserve newer facilities that meet their needs as the current buildings have outlived their time. She advised that the district would be able to move forward with the plan without having to raise real estate taxes. Hires added that building new facilities would attract new families to the community, and will cause morale among students and staff to increase.

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Hillsboro Begins Discussion On New Main Building

by Mike Plunkett

Members of the Hillsboro School Board began a discussion that could lead to a \$20 million high school building project that would replace the old main building and connect a new one to existing campus buildings while not raising the district tax rate.

After hearing presentations about the scope of the project from district maintenance director Fred Butler, funding scenarios from Superintendent David Powell, and credentials for architectural work from Hurst-Rosche of Hillsboro, the board hired the local engineering firm for a potential high school building project during a special meeting on Tuesday, March 23, in the junior high cafeteria.

Superintendent David Powell called the plan "a good starting point for discussion" and a "much smaller and less expensive plan" than the one that was last presented to the voters.

Butler said buildings in the district are caught up on remodeling plans—except the old main building on the high school campus.

He suggested replacing the old main

building with 70,000 square feet of new construction that would connect to the gym and library buildings.

"I still see this as a two-story building, but that is ultimately up to how the architects see it," Butler said.

Estimating a \$20 million project cost, Powell said the district tax rate "should stay level or be reduced. I can say that with absolute confidence now," about a \$20 million project.

That prediction is based on using a combination of bonds funded by the school facility safety sales tax and general obligation property tax bonds, and bond rates predicted by district bond agent Stifel.

"Because of some existing debt that is scheduled to be retired in the next three years, we could finance this project and keep the same tax rate, or maybe even reduce the rate from its current level," Powell said.

Bond repayment would use half of the anticipated sales tax revenue for 25 years, and 15- or 20-year repayment of general obligation bonds paid by property taxes.

"There are a lot of moving parts to

this," Powell said of putting together funding predictions. One of those is the assessed value of Coffeen Power Station; the superintendent's estimate is based on a "significant drop" after the negotiated decrease in power plant EAV.

Voters would get a chance to approve the general obligation bonds in a referendum in either the spring or fall of 2022.

Before the presentation from Hurst-Rosche, Powell was direct in pointing out that the law does not allow taking "bids" from architects regarding costs; those firms may only be chosen based on qualifications. He also said he recommends Hurst-Rosche.

Firm President Jim Roth said Hillsboro resident Jeremy Connor would be the principal for the project, and Tim Downen, also of Hillsboro, would be the lead architect. Mark Ritter of Ramsey will be the lead mechanical-electrical-plumbing engineer.

"This would very much be a high-priority project for our firm," Connor said. "I went to school here, and my kids go to school here."

Continued on page 6A

AG: Hillsboro Violated Open Meetings Act

The city of Hillsboro violated the Illinois Open Meetings Act when it talked about Summer Street sewer lines in closed session last November, according to a March 4 decision by Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office.

According to the decision signed by Chief Deputy Attorney General Brent Stratton, the city "is directed to remedy this violation" by making public the recording of the Nov. 24 closed session and corresponding minutes concerning the sewer lines and the complainant, Eric Bradley.

Bradley had been in front of the city council multiple times last fall after locating sewer lines under a parcel of residential property on Summer Street where he had planned to build a garage.

He was informed that at their meeting on Nov. 24, instead of discussing the issue in open session the council would take up the matter in closed session because of "possible litigation."

On Dec. 3, Bradley submitted a request for review to the attorney general's Public Access Bureau.

"None of the materials the city council submitted to this office indicate that the city council had reason to believe that litigation concerning the issue involving Mr. Bradley was 'probable or imminent,'" Stratton wrote in his decision. "Although the city council cited 'possible or threatened litigation' when voting to go into closed session and in its answer to this office, that is not the applicable legal standard. In addition, this office's review of the closed session minutes confirmed that the city council did not undertake to determine or enter a finding that litigation concerning the sewer was probable or imminent, or record such a finding in its minutes." He continues, noting that the remote possibility of litigation at some point in the future "was an insufficient basis for the closed session discussion."

Litchfield Police Arrest One In Sunday Shooting

A Litchfield man has been arrested in an alleged shooting on Sunday afternoon, March 21.

The Litchfield Police Department responded to reports of a shooting in the 1100 block of North Locust Street in Litchfield at 2:39 p.m. A 47-year-old man had been struck by multiple gunshots.

A Gillespie ambulance was passing through the area at the time of the incident and officers on scene flagged the ambulance, where EMS personnel provided assistance to the victim. He was later transported to a central Illinois hospital by ARCH helicopter.

Witnesses in the area told police that a male subject fled the scene prior to the arrival of law enforcement. A search warrant was issued for the residence and several pieces

of evidence were located.

Upon completion of the initial investigation, an arrest warrant was sought and issued for Justin J. Adkins, 46, of Litchfield on charges of attempted first degree murder and aggravated battery with a firearm.

Adkins was located in Litchfield and was taken into custody at 12:51 p.m. on Monday, March 22. He is being held for prosecution at the Montgomery County Jail.

Assisting the Litchfield Police Department in this investigation were the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, Illinois State Police, South Central Illinois Drug Task Force and the U.S. Marshal Service.

Easter Egg Hunt Schedule

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

10 a.m. Farmersville Park Farmersville

1 p.m. Litchfield Community Center Litchfield

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

10 a.m. Irving UMC Irving

12 p.m. Panama VFW Panama

12 p.m. Sorento Park Sorento

1:30 p.m. Village Park Harvel

2 p.m. City Park Witt

Ease Summer Stress By Pre-Paying Taxes

Those who want to use income tax returns or federal stimulus checks to make this summer less stressful may want to look at pre-paying their property taxes.

Montgomery County property tax installments are typically due in July and September, and according to Montgomery County Treas-

urer Nikki Lohman, there is no penalty to pre-pay, and the process is simple.

"For those who want to pre-pay, the easiest way is to make a payment based on last year's amount," Lohman said. "We can also accept any amount of partial payments."

Those who do make a pre-payment will only be billed for

the balance due when tax bills come out, and those who pre-pay more than the amount due will get a refund check when tax bills are mailed.

To make a pre-payment, go to montgomeryco.com, click on the "Treasurer & Collector" link, scroll down to the "Real Estate Pre-Payment Form," fill it out and bring it along

with any pre-payment to the treasurer's office on the first floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, or drop the form and payment in the courthouse drop-box.

Remember, though, that pre-payments can only be accepted until the beginning of May.

Weather Report			
	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Mar. 22	67	40	----
Mar. 23	64	54	rain
Mar. 24	64	49	----

See the current weather and forecast on www.thejournal-news.net



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Obituaries

2A - Thursday, March 25, 2021

Glenn E. Cole, 70 Worked For Tayloe Glass



Glenn E. "Pop" Cole, 70, of Wilsonville, died on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at his residence, surrounded by loved ones. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Kravanya Funeral Home in Gillespie is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Cole was born June 18, 1950, in Hillsboro, to Harry and Eva (Hankins) Cole. In 1968, he dialed a wrong number and met the woman who would become his wife. He married Karen "Suzie" Martin in 1970, and she survives. They celebrated their 50th anniversary last year.

In 1969, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served as a machine gunner in Vietnam until he was wounded. He finished his tour as an MP in 1971.

Mr. Cole began working at Tayloe Glass in Olivette, MO, in 1972, and worked for the same company for 27 years as a manager/installer until an accident forced his retirement. He enjoyed retirement and his many hobbies.

He collected hot wheels, enjoyed fishing, attending auctions, rebuilding and restoring lawn tractors, and many travel trips with his wife and family.

Mr. Cole was able to serve the community. He and his brother, Don, co-founded the Prairieland Leathernecks. He was also involved with the Marine Corps League in Litchfield, and spent Fridays servicing to God. He fried fish at Life Harvest Ministries in Wilsonville, which was his home church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sons, Shawn Cole of St. Ann, MO, Shane (Melissa) Cole of Wood River and Shad Cole of Wilsonville; sisters, Darlene Cole and Janet Halleman, both of Hillsboro; grandchildren, Jessey, Mackenzie, Katelyn, Alisdair, Makaylah, Austin, Alex, Cayden and Gabriel; great-granddaughter, Lylah; and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

Mr. Cole was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Jim, Don and Oliver Cole; and sisters, Deanna Logan and Eva Cole. Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society or Life Harvest Fish Fry Fund.

Online condolences may be left at www.kravanyafuneral.com.

Gertrude A. Wreath, 86 Worked For Doctor's Office



Gertrude Anna Wreath, 86, of Litchfield, died Tuesday morning, March 23, 2021, at 2:35 a.m. at Carlinville Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

Visitation will be held Saturday, March 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Litchfield Family Funeral Service. Funeral services will be held on Sunday, March 28, at 2 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield with Pastor Fred Kraemer officiating. She will be laid to rest next to her husband in Elm Lawn Cemetery in Litchfield. The service will be live-streamed on the Zion Lutheran Church Facebook page. CDC guidelines will be followed, and everyone is required to wear masks and social distance.

Mrs. Wreath was born April 12, 1934, in Litchfield, a daughter of the late Herman and Minnie (Beck) Ploczizka. She married LaVern W.D. Wreath on May 10, 1953, at Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield, and he preceded her in death on March 29, 2019.

On April 29, 1934, she received the washing of regeneration through water baptism, and she confessed her faith in Jesus as her Lord and Savior at her confirmation on March 21, 1948, by the Rev. J.L. Strelow at Zion Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Wreath was raised on the family farm. In her younger years, she was a member of 4-H, and she showed cattle at fairs and the local Dairy Days, where she met her husband. A 1952 graduate of Litchfield High School, she worked for the late Dr. L.G. Allen, M.D. in Litchfield for over 50 years.

She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, where she served as the Sunday school superintendent for many years along with her husband. She was a member of the Zion Ladies Aid and was known for her Heidelberg soup. She also worked alongside her husband as a part-time school custodian. She enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and taking trips with her family to Branson, MO. She enjoyed gardening, canning, doing embroidery work on quilt blocks and making quilts for her children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Wreath is survived by her daughters, Jane (Todd) Davidson of Litchfield and Janet (James, Jr.) Ferrero of Nokomis; son, James Wreath of Litchfield; and grandchildren, Emelia Ferrero of Nokomis and Lance, Paige and Cody Davidson of Litchfield.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband. Memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran Church or Coats for Kids.

Online condolences may be left at www.litchfieldffs.com.

Louise Simmons, 83 Medical Secretary



Louise Simmons, 83, of rural Vienna, died unexpectedly on Monday afternoon, March 15, 2021, at 5 p.m. at Baptist Health Care in Paducah, KY.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Private interment will be held at Wise-Robinson Cemetery, north of Ozark. Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna is assisting the family.

Mrs. Simmons was born Aug. 19, 1937, in Macoupin County, the second of eight children to George and Lorene (Sanders) Adams. She married Donald R. Simmons on July 19, 1957, in Springfield, and he survives.

She was a graduate of the Waggoner Public School system. In her youth, she helped with the operation of the family farm.

Mrs. Simmons was later employed as a medical secretary in the underwriting department at Franklin Life Company in Springfield. She was also a dedicated homemaker.

She enjoyed many types of handicrafts and was a particularly skilled seamstress and quilter.

Mrs. Simmons was a member of Egyptian Chapter #30 Order of the Eastern Star in Vienna. She was a faithful Christian and dedicated church worker. She and her husband worshipped together at the New Burnside Missionary Baptist Church. Through the years, she taught a number of Sunday School classes and assisted her husband in teaching as well. She was a student of the Bible and had read her Bible through many times.

She will be remembered for her loving and giving heart, her strong work ethic and her dedication to her family and friends.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Simmons is survived by her daughters, Lila Elaine (Bill) Neely of Vienna, Deanna Lynn (David) Bremer of Metropolis and Laura Jean (Ron) Rawlinson of Kaufman, TX; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; siblings, Bonnie Davis of Springfield, Georgia Mae (Dave) Williams, Robert (Cathy) Adams, both of Butler, David (Sally) Adams of Hillsboro, John (Charlene) Adams of Altha, FL, and Barbra Jean Flitz of Litchfield; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant son, Marc D. Simmons; infant brother, Billy Wayne Adams; brother and sister-in-law, Leroy (Dorothy "Leelee") Adams; and brother-in-law, Danny Davis.

Memorials may be directed to New Burnside Missionary Baptist Church, c/o Irene Horn, 2327 Palzo Road, Creal Springs, IL 62922.

Online condolences to the family may be left at www.baileyfh.com.

Robert G. Allen, Jr., 68 Veteran Of U.S. Navy

Robert Gerard Allen, Jr., 68, of Walshville, died Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021, at his home with family members at his side.

Inurnment services will be held Thursday, April 15, at 1 p.m. in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, MO. Becker and Son Funeral Home in Mt. Olive is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Allen was born Nov. 8, 1952, the oldest son of Robert and Marie Allen.

His family moved to Illinois in 1962, and he graduated from Roxana High School in 1971. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served for 20 years and raised his family.

He is survived by his former wife, Debie Allen, the mother of his two children, Robbie Allen of Houston, TX, and Kristy Allen of Alton; stepdaughters, Kelly Hutchins and Amy Swanson; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Rushelle Novosel of Walshville; and a niece and nephew.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his two wives, Stacia Allen and Patricia Allen.

Betty L. Hefley, 86 Hostess At Hardees



Betty L. Hefley, 86, of Schram City, died on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at Hillsboro Area Hospital.

Graveside services will be held Sunday, March 28, beginning at 2 p.m. at St. John's Cemetery in rural Irving with the Rev. Ron Butler officiating. Hough Funeral Home in Hillsboro is assisting the family.

Mrs. Hefley was born Aug. 12, 1934, in Hillsboro, to Clarence and Ethel (Sammon) Durbin. She married Homer L. Hefley in November 1950, and he preceded her in death on Jan. 19, 2007.








She was a homemaker, cook and hostess at Hardees in Hillsboro.

Mrs. Hefley is survived by her sons, Bill (Kay) Hefley, Larry (Janice) Hefley and Steve (Lisa) Hefley, all of Hillsboro; daughter, Sherry (Gary) Loskot of Irving; five grandchildren, Chris Dobson, Nick Hefley, Tyler, Kaitlyn and Ella Loskot; four great-grandchildren, Hannah and Kenley Hefley, Paige Mullen and Jacob Dobson; one great-great-grandchild, Rylinn Mullen; and sister, Edna Wilhelm.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; son, Robert Hefley; great-grandson, Christopher Dobson; and two sisters, Hazel Traylor and Effie Payne.

Memorials may be directed to St. John's Cemetery in rural Irving. Online condolences to the family may be left at www.houghfuneralhome.com.

Weather Forecast

Thu 25	58°/43°		Thunderstorms
Fri 26	59°/46°		AM Clouds/PM Sun
Sat 27	73°/42°		Partly Cloudy
Sun 28	59°/39°		Mostly Sunny
Mon 29	65°/48°		Sunny
Tue 30	66°/48°		Partly Cloudy
Wed 31	55°/34°		Showers

Kim A. Dammermann, 68 Electrician



Kim A. Dammermann, 68, of Gillespie, died on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 11:50 a.m. at OSF Richard Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.

Visitation will be held Saturday, March 27, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Bass Patton Dean Funeral Home in Hillsboro. Funeral services will follow, beginning at 12 p.m. at the funeral home with Mark Noyes officiating. Burial will be held at Wares Grove Cemetery in rural Butler. Military rites will be conducted by the U.S. Department of Defense and American Legion Post #425. CDC guidelines will be followed, including masks and social distancing.

Mr. Dammermann was born March 17, 1953, in Hillsboro, to Raymond and Maryellen (Homann) Dammermann. He married Janna Ishmael on Sept. 24, 1988, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, and she survives.

He graduated from Nokomis High School and attended Kaskaskia College in Centralia. He served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam with a rank of SGT. He was discharged in 1978.

During his career, Mr. Dammermann was a self-employed electrician and owned Quality Electrical Services in Gillespie.

He was a member of the Bass Club in Gillespie and Trinity Lutheran church in Nokomis. He loved to garden, be outdoors, deep sea fishing, snorkeling, rafting and camping. Throughout his lifetime, he lived in Nokomis, Texas, Georgia and Gillespie.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Dammermann is survived by his daughter, Jala (husband Paul) Damery of St. Joseph, MO; four grandchildren, Noah, Joshua, Asher and Hannah Damery; and sisters, Bonnie (Bill) Landsea of Miami, FL, and Loleta Morgan of Pekin.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Mervin R. Dammermann and Gary Dammermann.

Memorials may be directed to Paws Care of Montgomery County or Adopt-A-Pet in Bend.

Online condolences to the family may be left at www.basspattondeanfhs.com.

Construction Resumes On I-55 Near Litchfield

The Illinois Department of Transportation announces that work on Interstate 55 between the Litchfield and Carlinville interchanges resumes this week, Monday, March 22.

Nighttime lane closures and the installation of a temporary concrete barrier will occur through the end of March. The use of median crossovers will restrict traffic to one lane in each direction beginning in April and will continue until November.

This is part of a \$34.2 million project that includes rehabilitating eight bridges and resurfacing 7.4 road miles and interchange ramps at Illinois 108 (exit 60). Benefits from the project include providing a smoother road surface, installing safety equipment and needed maintenance.

Motorists can expect delays and are asked to allow extra time for travel through this area. To avoid the area, when feasible, the use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to watch for stopped or slowed traffic, pay close attention to changing conditions and signs in the work zone, obey posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,300 miles of highway and 8.4 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Year One included approximately \$2.7 billion of improvements statewide on 1,706 miles of highway and 128 bridges along with 228 additional safety improvements.

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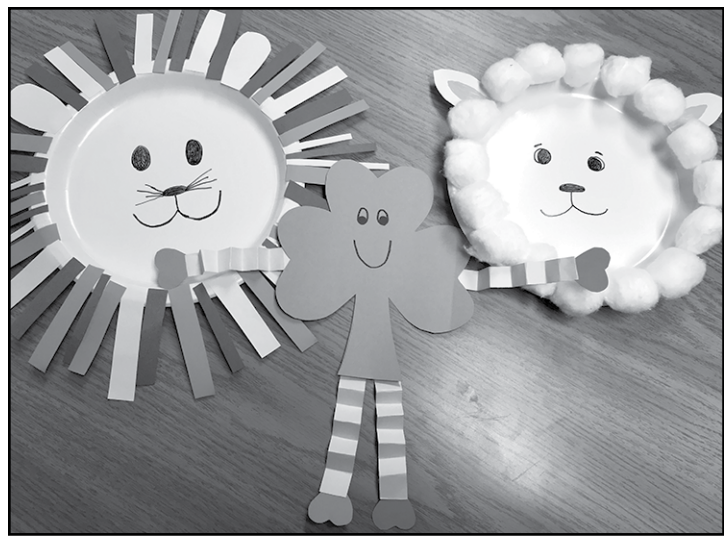
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Hillsboro Public Library Offers March Craft Kits

The Hillsboro Public Library will offer March Craft Kits-To-Go on Tuesday, March 30, from 1 to 5 p.m. A "Shamrock Friend" craft is available for toddlers and preschoolers, while the "In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb" craft is available for children grades kindergarten through sixth. Older children will get the choice of either the lion or the lamb activity.

All materials are provided except for glue sticks, scissors and markers. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are encouraged for those wishing to pick up more than one craft. To make alternative arrangements to pick up on a different day or time, contact Director Shelley Kolb at 217-532-3055.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church Hosts Easter Week Revival

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church will host an Easter Week Revival, beginning on Wednesday, March 31, at 7 p.m. with a message of "Jesus praying for the believers."

The revival will continue on Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m. with the message on "servanthood," where they will serve prepackaged communion. On Good Friday, April 2, at 7

p.m. the message will center on the cross and what Jesus' crucifixion did for repentance.

Resurrection Day services will be conducted Sunday, April 4, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with a video on the resurrection. It will continue with a message on "Jesus is alive forevermore" at 10:30 a.m. and an additional sermon about Christ's return at 5 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend. CDC guidelines will be followed and free packs of cloth masks will be available.

The church is located at 410 West 3rd North Street in Mt. Olive. For more information, call 217-299-0508.

Litchfield Church Will Host Easter Event Saturday

The community is invited to participate in an egg hunt while walking through the Passover event, this Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Litchfield Southern Baptist Church, located at 706 W. Sargent Street.

on-line all the time
www.thejournal-news.net

Births

Jose and Rachel (Ernst) Lopez of St. Louis, MO, announce the birth of their son, Henry Antonio Lopez, born at 5:09 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO. He weighed 8 lbs., 9.6 ozs., and measured 20.47 ins. long.



Henry was welcomed home from the hospital by his big brother, Oliver Roberto Lopez, age two and a half. Both of their parents are civil engineers with the US Army Corp of Engineers in St. Louis, MO.

Paternal grandparents are Robert and Doris (Aviles) Lopez of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Maternal grandparents are Steve and Ruthie Ernst of Hillsboro.

Paternal great-grandparents are the late Pedro Lopez and Gloria Santiago and the late Luis Aviles and Estrella Domenech. Maternal great-grandparents are Beverly Ernst of Hillsboro and the late Henry Ernst and the late Earl and Mary Ann Hayes.

Jesse and Nathan Holmes of Gillespie have announced the birth of their son, Gunner Wayne Holmes, born Monday, March 22, 2021, at 8:44 p.m. at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. He weighed 7 lbs., 7 ozs., and measured 20 ins. long.

Gunner was welcomed home by his big brother, Jay Holmes, age four.

Maternal grandparents are Kathy Arnold of Jerseyville and Aaron White of Gilbert, AZ. Maternal great-grandparents are Thelma Arnold of Jerseyville and Jackie White of Phoenix, AZ.

Paternal grandparents are Mark and Terrie Holmes of Gillespie. Paternal great-grandparents are Kathy and Joe Grove of Gillespie.

NO news is BAD news

Share your news at
thejournal-news@consolidated.net



Raymond Scouts Donate To Pantry

Raymond Scout Troop 747 and Scout Troop 74 participated in this year's annual Scouting for Food Drive, collecting just over 440 pounds of food for the Panhandle Food Pantry. The group distributed bags door-to-door on Saturday, March 13, and picked up, as well as presented the donated items to the pantry the following Saturday morning on March 20. "Thank you so much to everyone who donated to Scouting for Food," said Troop Leader Andrea Curtis-Horath. In front, from the left, are Olivia Horath, Emma Horath, Peyton Elvidge, Lilian Horath, Lilyan Hill and Weston Elvidge. Back row are Joseph Falter, Isabella Falter and Hannah Hill.

The Panhandle Food Pantry is open each Saturday, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Donations are welcome during operation hours.



Robin Davis taught Montgomery County Clovers 4-H Club how to decorate cookies during their February meeting. Pictured in the front row, from left to right are Josiah Hughes, Willow McSperritt, Robin Davis and Joelle Hughes. In the back row are Milla and Ian Anderson, Jon Schmidt, Frankie Huber, Amanda Niemann and Emma Hughes.

Clovers 4-H Club Stays Connected, Active

The Montgomery County Clovers 4-H Club has been staying active with Zoom and in-person meetings when possible.

During their February meeting at the Extension office in Hillsboro, Robin Davis taught members how to decorate Easter cookies. They

also worked on a community service project by making paper heart-shaped flowers for nursing home residents.

In the previous two months during Zoom meetings, Susan Collins taught members about leadership and Sara Marten helped them think about their future careers.

Through COVID-19, the Clovers have remained active and continued to learn.

To learn more about 4-H opportunities, visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/cjmm/4-h-montgomery-county> or call 217-532-3941.

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 Serving from 12 Noon-6 p.m.

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Our Famous Spiral Potato — \$5



Sorento School Holds Mobile Food Pantry

On Tuesday, March 9, Sorento School held a mobile food pantry on the school parking lot. Pictured above are Sorento School teachers who helped with the pantry. The next mobile food pantry will be held Monday, March 29, at 4 p.m. at the school. From the left are Sarah Coulter, Sarah Falston, Tammy Hudson, Kristy Tipsword, Sondra Maxwell and Melissa Pierce.

TOPPER TALK • by Sarah Huber at Hillsboro High Josten's Will Deliver Caps, Gowns On March 30



Congratulations to senior Ally DeVore, junior Quaid Floyd, sophomores Sumner Smith and Cameron Hacke and Freshman McKenzie Raymond for receiving the Topper Pride award for the third quarter! The students were nominated by teachers and chosen by Mrs. Heyen for showing characteristics of leadership, attitude and direction.

There are new guidelines for volleyball games: 225 home fans, including students, are allowed on a first-come, first-served basis and clickers will be used to keep track of numbers.

Tickets for the HHS performance *Into the Woods* will be available for purchase at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, March 29. All sales will be through hillsborohighschool.ludus.com. This platform automatically places empty seats between different transactions in order to socially distance households. Reserved floor seats are \$12, general admission (bleacher seating) is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students, from pre-K through college; and general admission for children ages two and under are free.

The last day to order a yearbook is Wednesday, March 31. You can order them through the office with cash, check or online with the link on the high school's website. The yearbooks cost \$50.

Josten's representatives will deliver caps and gowns on Tuesday, March 30, either outside of the library building or in its lobby, depending on the weather. Early-order students may pick them up after sixth hour, but all other students must pick them up after seventh hour. All items must be paid in full prior to pick up.

Seniors will be able to vote for the 2021 Prom Court from Monday, March 29 through Tuesday, April 6.

Additional Seniors' To-Do List and Reminders: 1) Take the career readiness survey that should have been sent in your emails or on Schoology. 2) File your FAFSA or complete the waiver (it is a graduation requirement)! 3) Turn your graduation and baby pictures, along with any other pictures of you and your classmates, in to Mrs. Rench. 4) Take advantage of the scholarships on Mr. Morford's website and turn them in early!

On Saturday, March 27, the boys soccer team will host a noon game against Springfield Lutheran. The varsity team will then travel to Roxana on Tuesday, March 30, for a 4:30 p.m. match. On Thursday, April 1, the team will host Staunton for a 4:30 p.m. game.

The volleyball team will host a game against Piasa on Monday, March 29, at 6 p.m.

The varsity football team will travel to Greenville for a 6 p.m. game on Monday, March 29.

Good luck to all of the teams on their upcoming games. Have a great week!

"In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun." -Mary Poppins

Archibald Wins Crazy Cash In St. Louis School Benefit

Molly Archibald of St. Albans, MO, is this week's winner of \$225 in the Crazy Cash drawing at St. Louis School in Nokomis.

Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100. They are available at the school office or by calling 563-2721.

LANCER LINES • by Jordyn Gerlach at Lincolnwood Lancer Lines Spotlight On Lexie Millburg



This week's Lancer Lines will be spotlighting Senior Lexie Millburg.

Lexie is the daughter of Carrie and Brian Millburg of Raymond. During high school, Lexie has been involved in FFA, Spanish Club, Lincolnwood Community Service Organization, National Honor Society, Volleyball, CNA and Student Council.

She has also served the FFA organization by serving as the Lincolnwood FFA reporter for two years. Lexie has been successful on and off the court. She has been on the LHS Honor Roll for four years, and her junior year she won the serving award for the Lincolnwood girls volleyball team. After high school, Lexie plans to attend Lincoln Land Community College to attain her associate's degree in nursing. After Lincoln Land, Lexie plans to work as a nurse at a



Lexie Millburg

local hospital. Lexie says she wants to be a nurse because, "It is very rewarding, and I want to help those in need."

When asked what her favorite high school memory was, Lexie responded, "I really enjoyed Homecoming week my senior year!"

We wish Lexie the best of luck in the future and we know she will continue to make Lincolnwood High School proud! Congratulations Lexie!

DRAGON BEAT • by Addison McLaughlin at HJHS HJHS Hosts Annual Art Show This Friday



Hello Dragons! Welcome to another article. Today is International Waffle Day and Interna-

tional Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade History.

The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade History Day honors the memory of all slaves that have suffered or died due to slavery. The theme for this is "Ending Slavery's Legacy of Racism: A Global Enterprise for Justice."

The start of the Dragons girls' basketball team was Monday, March 22. They played in Carlinville. The seventh grade team got defeated with the score of 21-16. The eighth grade team also lost with the score of 37-30.

On Tuesday, March 23, the teams played against Vandalia at the Hillsboro High School. The seventh grade team had a good game. In the first half, Kearstynn Davis, number 14, got 8 points.

Adding to the Dragon score were Mackenzie Jarman and Jaylen Gunderson each scoring a point. In the second half, Davis scored 6 points. Gunderson scored one point. Jarman scored 5 points. The final score was 25-7, with the seventh grade Dragons winning.

The eighth grade team had an amazing game too. Leading the Dragons to victory is

number 10, Ella Greenwood. Greenwood had a total of 20 points. Addison Lowe had 16 points. Kamryn Langston, Reagan Lentz, Cheyenne Harston each scored two points. The final score of this game was 45-29.

Where did the Easter Bunny go for breakfast? (See answer below.)

In Scholar Bowl news, the Dragons hosted Litchfield last Thursday, March 18. The 7th grade won their matches 95-120 and 85-100. The 8th grade team were victorious in their first match 80-95, but lost the second one 75-50.

While some of our Dragons are running around the track or on the basketball court, one of our Dragons, Hope Speiser, is in Florida competing in the American Youth Championship for swimming. We wish her the very best and hope that she is shattering her PR and getting all the medals!

Come check out all the talent at HJHS tomorrow! It is the sixth annual Art Show! Ms. Butler has been busy putting up student entries into the art show outside the cafeteria. The show is from 6 to 7 p.m. Friday night in the Dragon Café. The public is invited to view the fabulous entries, but must wear a mask to enter the building.

Thanks for reading this week's article. Always remember, "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forward." -Soren Kierkegaard.

(Answer to riddle above: IHOP!)



Nokomis Cheerleader Signs At Illinois College

Nokomis High School senior Chloe Guinn has committed to furthering her education at Illinois College in Jacksonville and signed a letter of intent to be part of their Cheer Squad on March 19. She is pictured above with her parents, Christy Guinn and Steve Guinn. A four-year cheerleader for the Nokomis Redskins, Guinn plans to pursue a career in nursing.



Earl Flack of McKay Auto Parts gave students in the Montgomery County CEO program a tour of the Litchfield store and distribution center on Tuesday, March 16.

CEO Students Take Tour At McKay In Litchfield

"When everyone steps back, someone has to be willing to step forward," Earl Flack told Montgomery County CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) program students in a tour of McKay Auto Parts in Litchfield on Tuesday, March 16.

Flack gave CEO a tour of the Napa store in Litchfield as well as the new distribution center for their 23 stores in the McKay Corporation.

"We take pride in being a family owned business and investing in our local communities," Flack explained. "I started behind the counter, worked hard, and became a store manager, and then vice-president, and now the president. While I don't have the McKay last name, I've been part of this family for over 40 years. I like to think

we treat our employees like family, too."

Flack shared key principles for running a successful business including an emphasis on customer service, "something a locally owned business specialized in to compete with the bigger box stores." He explained the importance of hiring motivated employees and paying competitively, maintaining accurate and in real time inventory, "which saves money on loss and lost time."

Flack also explained the importance of maintaining a happy life and work balance. "I get up and run three to four times a week just to have that time to think and get some fresh air. And I don't have the phone out at the dinner table. You need to make time for yourself and your family, too."

Gary Wemple E. A. is now
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Litchfield Political Forum

Continued from page 1A

When asked what they are looking to accomplish going forward, the candidates both touched on the new building, as well as growing the career and technical education program.

"I'm extremely proud of what this administration has done in the past year alone during this pandemic," said Abel. "Our district is not only surviving, we are thriving, and there are great plans to move us forward."

Candidates for Litchfield City Council were present, including Mark Brown in Ward 2, Ray Kellenberger in Ward 4 and Cassidy Paine in Ward 3, who is running as a write-in.

All three candidates were asked what their top priority is in their role as council. Brown said he would like more attention directed to Lake Lou Yaeger as it is the community's source of water, recreation and tourism. Both Kellenberger and Paine wish to grow the population, with Paine stating retention is an important key factor. She also plans to continue focusing on clean up.

The candidates encouraged their constituents to reach out when issues surface, with all stating they're available by phone. Paine said she is also active on social media and Brown said being present within the community helps him keep in contact with those

he is serving.

As part of a question regarding city ordinances, Paine said she hopes the council can enforce some a little better, although they have difficulty enforcing some regarding clean up, which is something they are actively working on. Kellenberger agreed, emphasizing the need to update longstanding ordinances, while Brown listed derelict vehicles and animals running at large.

"We do have a great team of city council members. When we go in there and we make decisions, we don't go in there and fight and bicker among ourselves," said Paine. "We do try to work together to make decisions, and even when we disagree, at the end of the day when we leave, we still get along fine."

Independent Carol Burke, who is running unopposed for city clerk, shared that her office staff focuses on good customer service as they are the face of the city. She thoroughly enjoys working with and meeting citizens, as well as the financial aspect of the role.

In the race for mayor are Dwayne Gerl and incumbent Steve Dougherty, both running on the Independent ticket.

In answer to a question about whether they think downtown is healthy and successful, Dougherty said he was a driving force behind revitalization downtown. He

said he took advantage of a city program to help businesses downtown to grow. Additionally, he said many buildings have been restored and that a new elementary school being built downtown will help attract more business, something he is looking forward to.

Gerl said there are many empty buildings in downtown Litchfield. He emphasized the importance of the Litchfield Pickers Market and the need to grow the event, as well as recruiting more businesses to that area.

Gerl's response was followed by a rebuttal by Dougherty, who stated that the city has been very aggressive in trying to keep businesses downtown and maintain empty buildings that are being neglected. In addition, under his leadership, the city has reluctantly demolished four downtown buildings.

When asked what they thought was most important to the city right now, Gerl said recruiting businesses to provide more jobs in town and fill buildings, while Dougherty mentioned that many local companies are struggling to stay fully staffed. The current mayor suggested working with schools and developing the economy so younger generations will remain in the area.

"I'm not for the use of marijuana; the state is and it's legal. I am for the taxation and revenue that it will

bring for the city that other cities in the area can't get," said Dougherty when asked what his stance was on the current dispensary.

Gerl said that while recreational marijuana may cause some issues, the city could desperately use the tax revenue due to the pandemic's impact.

"In the long run, it's going to help us. We lost a lot of money this year in tax revenue. The marijuana will bring it back in. Yes, is it going to cause trouble, but we've already got trouble here," said Gerl.

Both candidates had high praises for the police department. Gerl said young officers have been added to the department. Dougherty said the city also has a professional fire department, and while both are expensive to operate, they are essential to the local community.

In going forward, Dougherty said he hopes to work more with the school district, specifically participating in meetings, and that he is pleased with drug counseling coming to the hospital. Gerl mirrored Dougherty's remarks.

If he were elected mayor, Gerl said he would like to see the council work more together, instead of frequent split votes. Dougherty said he would continue to work with housing as there is a great need for more inventory, as well as derelict housing, infrastructure and water lines.

Witt City Council Talks About Water Agreement

by Tori O'Dell

Mayor Jim VanOstran called the meeting of Witt City Council to order on Tuesday, March 23.

Mayor VanOstran opened the floor to public comments. Visitor Lee Austin of Pana thanked the Witt-Nokomis Ambulance Service and first responders for their fast action getting him medical assistance on Saturday, March 6. "I had a very serious medical incident and they evaluated the situation and procured immediate transportation to St. John's Hospital in Springfield. Because of their quick action I am here speaking to you today, and for that I am very grateful. Thank you very much." Austin then requested that the City of Witt split the cost of moving a tree that is partially located on a property he owns at 208 East Ford Avenue. Austin informed the board that he had the property surveyed and the tree is located down the center of two properties, one owned by the city. He contacted a local tree removal service and was quoted a price of \$875 to remove the tree. He would like the city to half the bill at a cost of \$437.50. Since the item was not on the agenda the request was tabled until next month's meeting.

Emmerich then presented the water report to the aldermen. He informed the board that they had not received the five horse-power (hp) replacement pump for the lift station yet, but that EJ Water Cooperative has received the 30 hp pump and is planning to install it late next week, pending scheduling with Hillsboro Electric.

Emmerich moved on to request that the council vote to approve the Water Purchase Agreement with EJ Water Cooperative. Emmerich presented a contingency plan for the city to apply for a USDA-RD Project grant, to help the city fund the water project, in the event that they do not receive the DCEO grant they applied for. Emmerich estimated that they should know the status of the DCEO grant by the end of this month.

Alderman Cearlock clarified that EJ Water Cooperative was asking the board to approve the water purchase agreement so that they could move forward with the grant application process and that once the grant application was approved the council would have to vote to accept or reject the grant. He asked about the validity of any vote taken, regarding the agreement, as the council may change with the upcoming election cycle.

City Attorney Sherer stated (in answer to Cearlock's inquiry) that if the sitting council voted to approve the agreement there was nothing stopping the upcoming council from negating it - one council cannot necessarily bind the next council to an agreement.

Cearlock stated that he felt apprehensive about signing the contract now because things might look differently once the grant is (potentially) approved in August. Mayor VanOstran brought up that the pressing issue was not whether a future council will agree with the Water Purchase Agreement or not but that the city's water plant is in serious disrepair and will likely not last much longer. Emmerich reminded the board that even with the DCEO grant the city would need funding from the USDA and that approving the agreement was moving the process of acquiring the grant money they need for the water project forward.

Alderman Lowe made a motion to authorize Mayor VanOstran to sign the Water Purchase Agreement with EJ Water Cooperative, pending the approval of the city attorney, and commit to getting a grant or a loan for the \$750,000 needed. Alderman Martin seconded. The motion passed with aldermen Martin, Lowe, Vallelonga and Bauerle voting in favor and aldermen Cearlock and Taylor voting no.

Emmerich then moved on to a previously discussed request from a resident, Dan Tester, to purchase a bulk water meter (at his own expense)

and connect it to an approved city fire hydrant to acquire bulk water to supply water to his farm. Tester previously explained that he cannot use the city's Water Salesman because his system does not allow him to fill his truck from the top and the current system does not enable filling from the bottom. Emmerich explained that if the request is approved, Mr. Tester will take a picture of the meter dial (to show the reading every month) and email it to City Clerk Hughes, who will bill him for water used. Emmerich also requested that the board make a motion to increase the bulk meter water rate from \$5.50 per one thousand units to \$8.50 per one thousand units, as previously discussed.

The council discussed the risk factor (potential water main breaks) of allowing individual residents to open and close the city's fire hydrants. Both Fire Chief Keiser and Mayor VanOstran separately stated that they were against using hydrants for anything other than fighting fires. Mayor VanOstran also expressed concern that allowing Mr. Tester to utilize a hydrant for bulk water would open up the door to requests from others to use hydrants instead of the city's water salesman. Cearlock responded that allowing Mr. Tester to attach a bulk meter to a specified hydrant would generate revenue that the city could use to make needed upgrades to the Water Salesman and attract more users.

Alderman Taylor made a motion to increase the bulk meter water rate to \$8.50 per one thousand units. Cearlock seconded and all voted in favor of the increase. Taylor made a second motion to allow temporary use of an approved (to-be-determined) hydrant to purchase bulk water with an individual authorized by the city to be present any time the hydrant is opened and closed until the city's water salesman is upgraded. All voted in favor.

Clerk Hughes gave the report submitted by Chief of Police Scott Wood. He reported that he is unsure where the city stands on the vehicle grant. The USDA states that they still have not received the information they requested from the city's auditor, KEB.

Keiser presented the fire report to the council. He reported eight fire calls and 13 EMS calls. The fire department hosted the 4-H Star Shooters Club at the station for a tour and presentation on equipment. They held a training burn on Saturday, March 13, and had around 55 participants from several departments. He then asked about the city's plans to replace a broken hydrant on the corner of E. Ford Ave. and N. Stewart St. The request will be included on the April agenda.

Mayor VanOstran reported that he found a newer model of the city's current lawn mower, a Kubota ZD1211. The board approved purchasing the replacement mower at a cost of \$12,985, with 75 percent of the cost to be taken from the Municipal Utility Tax Fund and 25 percent from the General Fund. The aldermen then decided to retain Eric Lentz to mow the city's cemetery again this year. A motion was passed to partially vacate Dorris Street to Randy Lowe, who has a section of his garage roof extending onto the city property, with Lowe abstaining from the vote.

Lowe sent in photos of flooding at the intersection of Dorris and Monroe Streets due to a collapsed culvert. The council voted in favor of replacing the culvert. Witt Bar was granted a sewer adjustment in the amount of \$43.16.

Cearlock made a motion to close Mitchell Street, between Main and Third streets, for the Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 3. The council opted to stay with KEB (auditors) for the 2020-2021 audit. They also voted in favor of placing Authorized Vehicle Only signs in the alley located between Talmage and Monroe (Dixon and Allen).

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Hillsboro School Board

Continued from page 1A

Connor said Hurst-Rosche was founded in Hillsboro in 1937 and has been serving educational clients since 1990.

"We consider ourselves 'meat and potato' architects," Downen said. "We do a lot of work with rural districts where budget is always a priority."

He presented slides on work that Hurst-Rosche had done, including a 720-seat school auditorium, an administrative addition in the Coulterville School District, a new connecting link between buildings in the Ramsey School District, and new high schools in the Waterloo School District, Marion School District and Jerseyville School District, and new elementary schools in Grafton and Adams. Ritter has also worked on additions and renovations in Heyworth and Athens. Hurst-Rosche is currently working on school projects in East St. Louis and Johnson City.

Costs for Hurst-Rosche services would begin with the Capitol Development Board fee structure, with adjustments for scope and complexity.

Connor said the firm will search for available grants, such as for hazard mitigation, storm shelters, and energy conservation through power providers.

Board President Barbara Adams recognized audience member Terri Mackey, who

asked how the project began. Adams said it began in response to the ongoing need for high school facilities.

"I think last time, people wanted local engineers," board member Dan Wilson said.

The motion to engage Hurst-Rosche passed 5-2 with board members Earl Meier, Dan Wilson, Nathan Kirby, Matt Lentz and Barbara Adams voting in favor and Bryce Rupert and Dan Tester voting against.

Rupert voiced hesitation about hiring an architectural firm on the eve of a school board election which may result in a new direction for the board, and Tester said he would prefer to interview more than one architectural firm before making a decision. Both were the lone votes in favor of tabling the motion to engage Hurst-Rosche, which failed 2-5.

The board took no action on a request by Principal Patti Heyen to use Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to hire a social worker/counselor at the high school.

The estimated cost of the project is "one certified staff member," Superintendent Powell said, adding that he supported the plan, but a decision did not need to be made at the special meeting. The board currently has a guidance counselor position open, and the second will take on more social worker duties.

"The reason for these funds

is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19," the principal said, noting that those criteria include providing for the mental health of students. "We have students with socioeconomic needs, that if not caused by COVID, have been exacerbated by it."

Teachers Amber Connor and Mark Garmon, Assistant Principal Andy Stritzel, and psychologist Amanda Cunningham presented supporting arguments for the request.

"Kids are coming to school with more and more baggage and issues, and we are having a more and more difficult time getting them mentally ready for school," Stritzel said. "We're treating symptoms and not the issues."

Cunningham said she has moved her office to take on responsibilities at the high school outside of her job description, and Connor said that while teachers happily take on students' out-of-classroom needs, "we are not trained counselors."

"We have the data to show there is a need, but we do not have the resources," Cunningham said.

Garmon said his students have reported needing "more personalized attention" and "additional individual support" regarding college prep.

Summer school for high school students will be from 8 a.m. to 12 noon Monday through Friday June 7 through July 2, the board learned. Transportation, breakfast and lunch, and

performance incentives will be provided.

Classes will be offered by the Illinois Virtual School, and staff members will be present to provide instructional and technical assistance, and to help students stay focused.

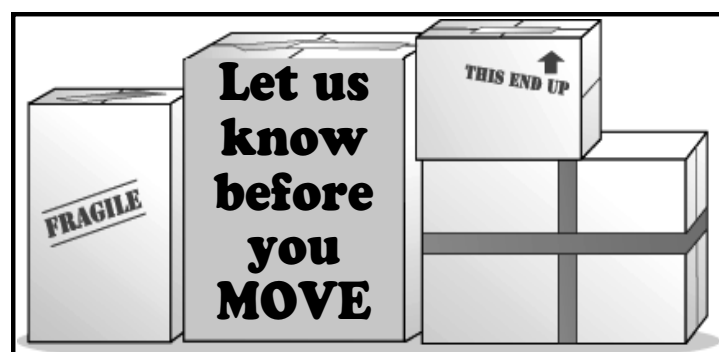
In-person attendance is required every day for a wide range of course content available. Students will select their own subjects and number of courses, and will be able to earn half credit for each course completed. Students may also choose to enroll in independent study to be completed after July 2. The principal hopes that as many as 25 students will choose to participate.

Graduation this year will be a drive-in theater style like last year, the board decided by consensus after a request from the high school principal, who said she has been fielding daily requests about the ceremony.

Currently 127 seniors are on track to graduate, and socially-distanced capacity at Sawyer Field is 700.

"Even if the state allows 1,000 people, that will not cover the tickets we give to our kids," Heyen said.

After a closed session, the board hired Ashley Rose as high school physical education teacher, and approved the resignation of Kelly Kenny as high school cheerleading coach.



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Hillsboro Council Discusses Use Of Public Property During Pandemic

by Ron Deabenderfer

Six Hillsboro area citizens spoke during the Public Comment segment of the city council meeting held on Tuesday, March 23; one, Dr. Patty Whitworth, was present with council members Don Downs and Daniel Robbins in council chambers; the others, Zach Wygal, Dave Strowmatt, Becky (Moler) Billo, John Gibb, and Kayla Crawford, joined the meeting by using Zoom. Acting Mayor Katie Duncan and council member Mike Murphy also used the Zoom platform.

The topics ranged from the advisability of holding gatherings on city property in the future to lake erosion. Dr. Whitworth was the first to speak as she asked the council to reconsider their decision of March 9 to not block the streets immediately south of the courthouse for the upcoming Montgomery County Bicentennial Celebration to be held on Saturday, April 10.

Because she was denied a place on the agenda, she chose to speak in the Public Comment slot (the council couldn't legally take action on her request because she wasn't on the agenda). The council had denied the committee's request because of perceived liability concerns about holding an event on city property during the pandemic; Dr. Whitworth stated the request's purpose was to provide space for participants to properly distance themselves to limit potential for the spread of the virus.

She asserted the event will be held as scheduled on the historic courthouse lawn, which is county property, not subject to city regulations. Councilman Murphy and City Attorney Kit Hantla took the lead in defending the council's action; Murphy said that as Public Safety Commissioner, it is his responsibility to protect taxpayers' interests. His feeling is if the street is closed, it means the city has given consent for the gathering; that in turn means anyone who becomes ill because of attending the event could sue the city. "Attorneys would line up at the doors to prosecute," he said. He also said neither he nor the other council members want to be a wet blanket on activities, but he and they feel the city needs to follow the guidelines set down by medical experts and scientists.

Hantla commented that although Hillsboro would love to host the celebration, the city can't give permission for that type of activity under the current circumstances. He also said the circumstances are fluid, that if the experts say herd immunity is reached, other events can be scheduled after that time.

Next to speak was Wygal, the organizer of the Summer

Concert Series which couldn't happen last year and is not a certainty for this summer. Wygal told the council he only needed a week's advance notice to pull a concert together. He said he'd talked to Hugh Satterlee, executive officer of the county's Health Department, who said he wouldn't advise downtown concerts because the buildings tend to channel winds. "Though I recognize we're in a holding pattern, please notify me when options open; we need music," he closed.

Strowmatt, head of the Veterans' Area Commission, expressed concerns about the erosion occurring on Lake Glenn Shoals, especially around the mouth of the creek at Irving Cove. Strowmatt kayaks on the lake and noticed the bank erosion growing worse this spring. Robbins, the Commissioner of Parks and Public Properties, and Downs, who has concerns about the lakes as the city's water source, said rip-rap can be obtained by homeowners; Downs said he and Tim Ferguson had visited Otter Lake in Macoupin County to see how they handled erosion. He said a person there had a barge he would rent to move rip-rap. Ferguson said he would help in any way he could to maintain water quality in the lakes.

Next to call was Becky Billo, who said one cause of the erosion was "...from tubers doing figure eights near the shore line." During Commissioner Reports, Downs mentioned continued problems with the lift station pump on City Lake Road (reported later in this article); Billo said one of the properties feeding that pump is hers, but her household isn't flushing the materials causing the problem.

She suspects the wipes are coming from the housing. Sewage backup into their house was a problem as far back as 1972, but it stopped when the trailer park became empty. Now that housing has built structures there, the problem is back. The city in '72 had an agreement with her father to fix the sewers in exchange for road construction he did, but the city never followed up and now the problem is back.

Her insurance company says the damages are the city's responsibility; Hantla said claims had been submitted to the city's insurance company, but he has yet to hear from them. He hopes the two companies may be working it out between themselves, but the city can't respond until word comes from their company.

John Gibb, a neighbor of Eric Bradley on Summer Street when they approached the council in 2020 about sewer lines in their properties without easements, zoomed in to ask what progress if any had been made to solve their dilemma. Bradley has since moved, but the problem seems

to be escalating as Gibb had ground next to a pillar supporting his sun porch sink when he stepped on it last weekend. He assumes one of the lines has broken, allowing the sinkage, but he hadn't had a chance to notify town hall till Tuesday evening.

Downs said Gibb's appearance on Zoom was the first time he'd heard of the new development; he said he and members of the Sewer Department would have a camera there to check the situation as soon as possible. Gibb said he will miss work to be there too.

Crawford was to speak about a request to use the pickleball courts for a late July tournament, but she delayed presentation because she had a spot on the agenda.

The council began the action items (needing motion, second, and vote) part of the meeting by okaying an ordinance vacating a 20-foot sewer easement behind the Allen Spelbring residence in Westwood. At an earlier meeting the council had agreed to vacate the easement, so the acceptance of the ordinance was a formality. The required Public Hearing was held prior to this council meeting; Spelbring was the only member of the public to attend.

Next the council voted unanimously to approve spending MFT funds in the following manner: \$19,000 to Hurst-Rosche for bid preparation; \$50,000 on sidewalks from East Wood to Oak Street; \$55,000 on Tremont sidewalks; and \$30,000 on Mechanic Street sidewalks. Streets Commissioner Robbins assured the council that adequate MFT funds remained for the usual oil and chipping work.

Perhaps in honor of those who requested or were about to request use of city facilities for gatherings, acting Mayor Duncan made a motion to reopen city assets, including city hall, on June 8, the date of the first city council meeting in June, up in the agenda order. Commissioner Murphy made an impassioned plea for restraint, citing a CNN television report presenting opinions of Dr. Rochelle Walensky, who spoke of concerns she has of another surge of COVID-19 if "...mitigation measures such as mask-wearing, physical distancing, and avoiding crowds and travel are not followed." Her concerns are largely based on the unpredictability of variants of the disease. Murphy said he has a personal stake in protecting citizens (his grandmother just passed), and he said twice, "It is immoral to take risks."

Downs, while acknowledging that Litchfield is opening their city hall on April 1, doesn't want to risk normal activities in Hillsboro; Duncan suggested the council not set a time frame, but instead wait to see what develops.

Robbins suggested approving upcoming events with the understanding that the approval could be withdrawn if the pandemic spikes locally.

Hantla said, "We can approve now and pull the rug from under events later, or we can say no now; those are the council's choices." The council chose the first option by a 4-0 vote, and that seemed to govern the next votes.

Holly Leetham was present to ask for approval for two events. The first is to be a kayak race on Glenn Shoals Lake scheduled for May 8 at the North Marina; it's to showcase the kayak launch installed there. The second was approval for an Aqua Run to be held July 24 on Glenn Shoals. The vote for each was four yes, if....

Crawford's request was considered next; she presented it by phone on behalf of the Montgomery County Pickleball Club, who want to host a tournament from July 23 through July 25 using the courts at Central Park and the sports complex. She said it would be a chance to show off our best-in-the-area facilities and to draw participants to town. Her request too was granted 4-0, but the yes votes came with If clauses.

In business matters, the council approved an agreement with Locis that will allow consumers to pay bills online. A reference to paying to use a cloud for storage was separated from the motion by amendment (it can be considered later if the online portion works well) before the motion was passed 4-0. City Clerk Cory Davidson said eliminating the charges caused by consumer credit card payments was a key consideration. A one-time fee of \$500 plus a membership fee of \$8 per month (to be paid by the city) is required.

The city's manlift has dry rot on all four tires; replacing them will cost \$1,248 if purchased from and installed by Route 66 Repair in Schram City. The money will come from Business District funds. Also, the city's line of credit with Bank of Hillsboro was renewed on a 4-0 vote. The line of credit has not been used for several years.

In action directly affecting citizens, the council set city clean-up dates for both Spring (May 4 through May 8) and

Fall (November 2 through November 6). More information will be in *The Journal-News* as those dates approach. An ad will soon be published seeking young people to do work this summer in the Parks, Streets, and Police Departments.

Rather than hiring campground hosts for this summer when the pandemic makes revenue less certain, the council agreed to Robbins' motion to sign a worker/camper agreement with Mark and Cindy Sams. In return for their help, the Sams will receive a free campsite with full hookup, 30 or 50 amp electrical service, and use of a golf cart. The campground season begins April 1.

The city hopes to sell real property near Turkey Lane on Glenn Shoals Lake. Access to the lot is by water only; ads will be published soon. In other real estate news, the council approved allowing the firm Work Force Housing's (WFH) request to survey two or three lots (at their expense) at the former Girl Scout's Camp for possible home construction. The WFH homes would be 1,255 square feet, with two baths and three bedrooms and a selling price between \$175,000 to \$200,000.

The council also approved a flex policy allowing exempt (from the Fair Labor Standards Act) employees to recover time spent on the city's behalf after regular working hours by taking that time off during regular working hours.

A motion to approve repairs on an East Wood Street sidewalk was amended to allow surveying that area in case the sidewalk and two unused alleys are vacated. The area is between 317 and 411 East Wood.

The council, upon administrator's motion, agreed to release closed session notes pertaining to West Summer Street sewers issues from an executive session on Nov. 24, 2020. (See separate article)

During the Commissioner and Mayor's reports which began the meeting, Robbins referenced the campground site selection process held on March 20. A handful of sites remain available. Water was turned on, with one leak needing repair. The city's patrol boat was taken to Bob's Marine for motor work; and barrels, a runaway dock, and decoys were retrieved from

the dam overflow area after the three-inch rain.

The Street Department cleaned storm drains, culverts, and ditches; cut limbs on Wedgewood Drive; black-topped; repaired a water main leak on Grant Street; and repaired fire hydrants.

Murphy said Patrolman Adam Fath and the city's new canine officer will complete their all-purpose training this Friday, March 26. He also reported that a traveler complimented Hillsboro for being the cleanest town in the county, and he asks the citizens to keep up the good work. He also said Code Enforcer Mike Lee is "...doing a bang-up job."

As Finance Commissioner, Duncan asked the commissioners to prioritize what each wants to accomplish in the next fiscal year.

Utility Commissioner Downs said the heavy rain caused unforeseen problems. Crews installed a manhole on Jefferson Street, but sewage still backed up, causing problems in the basements of five houses. Ground water infiltrated the lift station on Oak Street. When a camera was used to find the issues, it pictured tree roots, probably from sweet gum trees, which have to be cut from the main.

Another problem is the size of the main buried there; the 10 or 12 inch pipe isn't big enough for the volume the rain brought, so a crew is coming to help replace it.

Yet another lift station pump was clogged with wipes and burned up on Lake City Road. Crews found it clogged with baby wipes and rags; the pumps cost \$2,000 each. He said he and Ferguson went door to door asking residents to not flush wipes, but it still happens. (A later call, the one from Becky Billo mentioned earlier in this article, suggested sources).

City Planner Jonathan Weyer's written report said the Future Land Use Committee met last week to develop a plan to attack their work. The Tourism Committee (Weyer with Chamber of Commerce input) plans to improve the city's social media presence, and the Economic Development Plan is progressing.

The council next meets in hybrid form on Tuesday, April 6.

Raymond Discusses Drain Issues

As discussion continues regarding a drain and private tile on Wild Rose Lane, members of the Raymond Village Board expressed interest in how much the new homeowners are willing to contribute during their board meeting on Monday evening, March 15, at the village hall.

Local residents are also inquiring about the cost and what the village of Raymond will pledge to the project. If the village opted to run a one-ft. wide trench to the fire hydrant, it would cost \$2,500. Trustee Bruce Poggenpohl advised that he would like to assist in a solution, and suggested the board give him ideas on cost. The matter was tabled as more discussion is needed.

In other news, Mayor Denny Held brought the Cahoy pump bill to the board's attention, stating that he discussed the bill with the company, who advised him to withhold two hours of overtime they had

listed. The saving cost to the village is \$945.

As part of the Shoal Creek Golf Course update, Superintendent Nick Hornbuckle reported that he will be picking up the John Deere reels, which will cost \$625. There has been an issue with people walking on the greens while they still have frost on them, which has been addressed.

Hornbuckle also requested a pay raise as he has been employed with the village for seven months. He presented a number to the board and advised that he would also like to apply for a membership to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), which will provide benefits such as health insurance, webinars and other helpful resources.

In economic development, the board reported that a home on North McGown

Street has trash in the back of their property. In addition, the village owns land in town, and the board discussed publishing an ad to accept sealed bids on the property.

A motion was made by Poggenpohl and seconded by Trustee Bill Krager to enter into executive session.

Following executive session, Poggenpohl made another motion, which was seconded by Krager, to approve a cost-of-living raise for Hornbuckle, as well as other village employees. The golf superintendent was also granted permission for a GCSAA membership.

Those in attendance were Mayor Held, and trustees Dan Hough, Greg Bernhardt, Poggenpohl and Krager. Trustee Robert Pennock was absent from the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

NO news is BAD news
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South Litchfield Township Clerk
All Votes Appreciated!

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- 1/2 lb or 1 lb Cookies in a decorative Bag 4.95-9.95
- Undecorated Cookies—8.25-15/dozen; Buttercream—4.50/pint; Sprinkles—3.50/pt

EASTER CAKES, PETIT FOURS, CUPCAKES, CAKE POPS, & CHEESECAKE

- Decorated Large Carrot Cake Cupcake/Cream Cheese Icing 2.25 ea or 4 pack—8.59
- Easter Cupcakes- picks/rings 7.49/6 pack - Push Up Easter Cake Pops 2.00
- Small Cake Eggs 1.95 ea 4 pk/7.59 - Large Filled Decorated Cake Egg 13.49
- Easter Petit Fours 9.95/dz - Easter Cheesecake Slice 2.95 ea

STOLLENS, EASTER BRUNCH GOODIES, PIES, & MORE

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- Ham/4 Cheese Breakfast Casserole—13.95 (serves 8-12)
- Hungarian Nut Roll 8.75 - Poppyseed Stollen 8.75
- Puff Pastry Decorated Bunny "HORSESHOE" 9.95
- Continental Breakfast Tray ____ (10 pieces) 19.95 (Danish Rolls, Cinnamon Rolls w/ Cr. Cheese Icing, Muffins, Bagels, Cream Cheese)
- 8" & 10" Strawberry-Rhubarb or Peach-Raspberry Pie—8.25 & 12.25 ea
- Knot, Egg Banquet, & Pull A Part Dinner Rolls, Mini Butter Croissants

EASTER DINNERS & CATERING

- Orange Honey Glazed Ham 7.95/lb
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- Strawberry Spinach Salad (4) - 9.95 (10) -29.95
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6:00 a.m.—7 p.m. Daily

Meet The Candidates

8A - Thursday, March 25, 2021

Kassie Greenwood

My name is Kassie (Yeske) Greenwood, formerly of Witt, and a 2000 graduate from Hillsboro High School.

My husband Cody Greenwood and I, along with our three children Caleb, Karsyn and Kinley, currently reside in rural Irving.

I have been employed by Hurst-Rosche, Inc., for more than 20 years in the accounting department. Currently, I am serving as Hillsboro Sports Association Treasurer and Assistant Basketball Director.

I also helped organize and implement the Christmas Clothing Drive that was held this past year providing clothes for several students in our district.

My family and I are avid sports lovers. We spend a lot of our time on the basketball court and baseball field, whether it is watching our children play or others, we love to support the kids.

Question 1: What is your greatest concern about our district, and how would you address it?

My greatest concern, in our current situation, is to keep the kids in school and active in extracurricular activities.

While I understand the decision for remote learning this past year, kids need the academic and social aspects that come with in-person learning. Allowing the children to get back to extracurricular activities was another major hurdle

we overcame this year.

I saw firsthand how those activities can change a child's attitude towards school. I also feel it is not just my own concerns I should be focused on.

As a mother of three in the Hillsboro School District, I am familiar with most of the teachers and staff. I feel that is an important element for any school board member. I would be willing to listen to all their concerns, not just my own. I would take their concerns and address them to the best of my ability.

Question 2: What do you think makes our district great?

I feel what makes our district so great is our dedicated teachers and staff. This was proven to many this past year when the school district dealt with issues resulting from the pandemic.

They spent countless hours thinking outside of the box to develop new ways for the children to learn remotely. The staff also worked together with community leaders during the summer to make in-person learning possible in the fall.

Even with all the restrictions students and staff had to follow, I was very pleased with the plan that was developed by our district leaders. Not all districts in our area followed the same plan, but our students were some of the lucky ones that had the opportunity to get back in the



classroom.

Question 3: With the statewide teacher shortage, how would you help recruit and retain teachers in our district?

As with any profession, there is always a risk of losing good staff. I feel retaining teachers must be worked on at many levels.

We continue to rely on our administration to hire the best teachers that apply for positions. I believe school board members and staff can assist in making positions very attractive, but we need teachers to move to our district and raise families here.

We need help at the local and county levels to aid in our community growth. They are doing great things supporting each other and that needs to continue to make the "small town feel" more attractive to others. If we can get more teachers to make the move to our district, they would be more likely to stay here.

Nathan Kirby

My name is Nathan Kirby. I am fortunate to be a Hillsboro native and product of Hillsboro Community School District No. 3.

I am part owner and practicing optometrist at Family Eye Care Association in Hillsboro. I am married to Kendra (Moroney) Kirby and we have one daughter, Brooklyn, who is in the seventh grade at Hillsboro Junior High School.

I was appointed to the Hillsboro School Board in the fall. When not spending time with family or working, I enjoy coaching, playing golf and cheering on the St. Louis Cardinals and Blues.

Question 1: What is your greatest concern about our district, and how would you address it?

I have a few concerns, some of which are already being addressed by our existing dedicated board members and superintendent.

I am concerned about the statewide teacher and teacher's aide shortage. As we all know, good teachers and aides are essential to educating our students. However, they are more than just educators; they are sometimes parental figures, sometimes counselors, and always role models. The second part of the question will be discussed later.

I am concerned that our students may not have enough exposure to the trades. The foundation already exists through current vocational programs and co-ops with other school districts. However, I feel that it could be

made even better by expanding the program and encouraging students to participate, keeping in mind the financial limitations.

My final concern in regards to the main building of the high school. Most of us agree something must be done sooner rather than later. Together, with the community, we must find a practical solution. We just have to find one without too much of a financial and/or tax burden.

Question 2: What do you think makes our district great?

Our district is great because of the people within it that care so much about our students. Caring for people is a quality that is difficult to learn as an adult. Our current and past district administrators have collectively created an unbelievably caring staff.

If you want proof, take a look at this past year. The teaching staff has put in countless hours preparing material for both in-person instruction and e-learning, while the cooks and bus drivers prepared and delivered meals to kids in need when not in school.

They understand their importance in our children's lives. They've put their own lives on hold to create an environment to help all students succeed, no matter if in-person or while learning at home. I couldn't be more proud of this school district.

Question 3: With the statewide teacher shortage, how would you help



recruit and retain teachers in our district?

As mentioned in my response to question one, the teacher and teacher's aide shortage is a real problem.

As an employer myself, I know both current and prospective employees want to be a part of a positive work environment.

To create a positive work environment, employees need to know they have a voice. They also need to know that they have a support system should they need it. This is where the role of the administration and school board is vital.

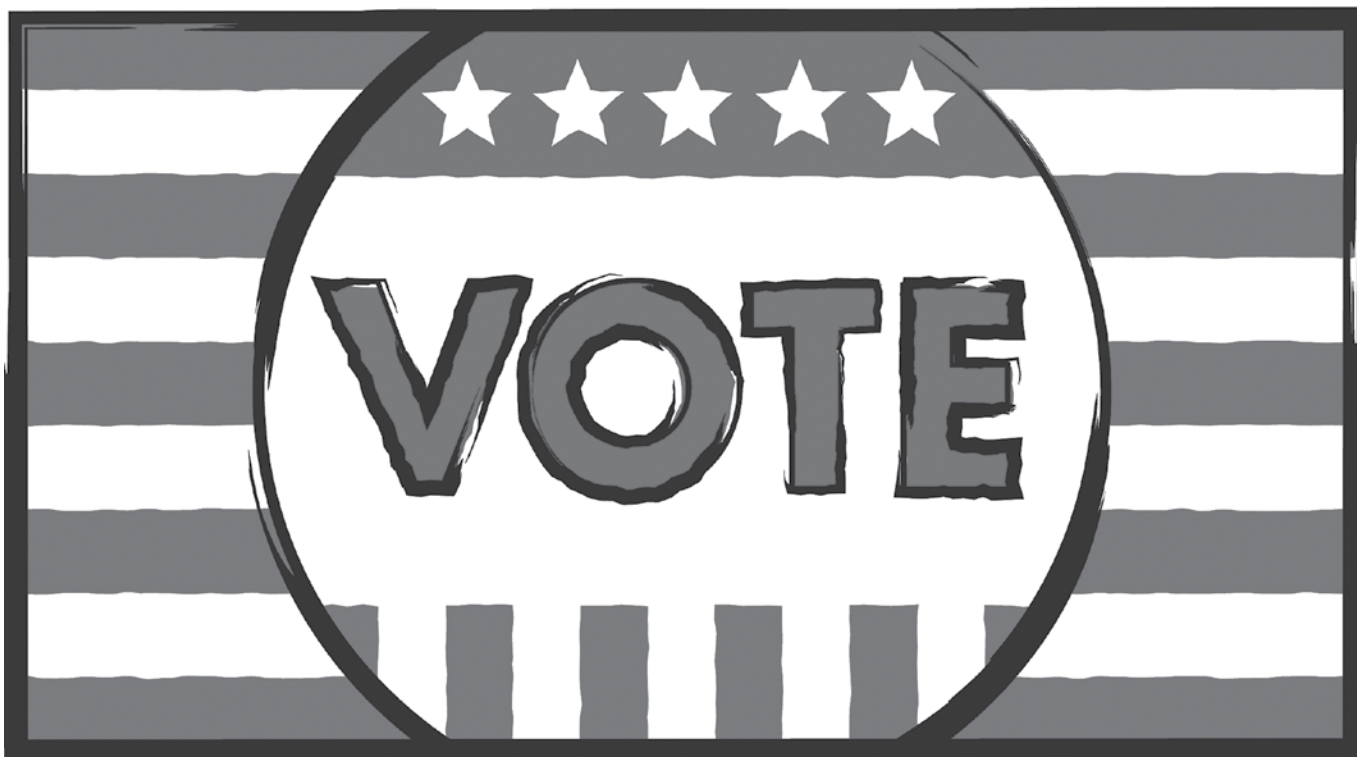
It is easy to try and push a personal agenda in these positions. However, we need to remember our main job is to set aside personal vendettas and promote a great education.

A great education comes from great teachers. Great teachers come to districts that care and support their employees.



Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Polls Open 6 A.M. to 7 P.M.



John Lentz

My name is John Lentz. I am a lifelong Hillsboro native. I have been married to my wife, Chrissie, for 28 years and we have three grown children and three grandchildren.

I have been employed at Ameren and a member of IBEW Local 309 for 32 years, shop steward for 20 years and a youth sports coach for 18 years. Through my work experience, I have negotiated union contracts, served on the union examining board and have taught multiple apprenticeship classes.

Through my years coaching, I have dealt with many kids and parents from all walks of life and have learned that what is best for one may not be best for all.

Question 1: What is your greatest concern about our district, and how would you address it?

My greatest concern about our district is are we serving our communities and the people that depend on the district to educate our next generation.

I am running to represent the communities in this district because I believe that the school district is the life blood of our community. Our district is a critical tool in securing the future of young people, and as a school district we must be aware of community needs such as employment, mental health, addiction, property values, etc.

Our district must be used

to serve the community by preparing our students with the skills and personal character needed to be successful.

If that happens our students will build families and businesses locally and our district will fulfill its mission in serving all of the people.

Question 2: What do you think makes our district great?

What makes a district great is the people the district serves. We have some great people, but the people of our community are going through a difficult time with the closing of the power plant and the statewide shutdown.

Our community faces big challenges and our district is vital in helping the great people meet our current issues.

In order to have a great district, we have to be great at educating and training our next generation. We exist to serve, so let's be great at serving our future generations.

Question 3: With the statewide teacher shortage, how would you help recruit and retain teachers in our district?

If you grow your own, your own will stay home. Every employer faces the challenge of training and keeping good employees. I have experienced this in my line of work and know this issue very well. I believe there are three important steps we can take to recruit and retain teachers.



The first step is to start here at home by taking an interest in our own students who would like to enter into the teaching field by pairing them with our experienced staff and offering dual credit classes to juniors and seniors that intend on obtaining a degree in education.

A great second step, in the hopes of drawing in applicants to fill our vacant positions, would be to offer incentives such as a sign-on bonus and etc.

The third step is to allow our teachers a chance to voice their concerns and to feel heard when an issue arises. We have to take care of our staff in order for them to have what they need to take care of our future generation. For all of this to be able to happen, we have to insure that we have a balanced budget so we have the ability to offer these things.

Kyle Putnam

Kyle (Hamilton) Putnam of Hillsboro is a 1992 graduate of Hillsboro High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in accountancy from the University of Illinois in Springfield.

She and her husband, Michael, have two children, Gage, who is a junior at Hillsboro High School and Kamdyn, who is a sixth grader at Hillsboro Junior High School.

She has been employed as a certified public accountant for 23 years at Patton and Company, P.C. in Hillsboro.

Putnam is also a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church where she has served as both financial secretary and treasurer. In addition, she has been active in the Hillsboro Rotary Club for more than 20 years and the Hillsboro Sports Association where she is currently the secretary and was the former treasurer.

Question 1: What is your greatest concern about our district, and how would you address it?

My greatest concern about our district is our financial future.

It is no surprise that we are living in a time of financial uncertainty and our school district will certainly be impacted. It is imperative that we use our resources to their fullest potential.

We have a responsibility to work for the taxpayers and the families in the district. I believe that my career as a CPA has given me the knowledge needed to address these challenges. Being familiar with governmental funding

allows me to know what funds can be spent where and for what purpose.

I also have a great deal of experience assisting in budget preparation and monitoring. These invaluable skills are something that can make the difference between a bright financial future and one that will suffer.

Question 2: What do you think makes our district great?

I believe our community is what makes our district great. The community has the children, parents, teachers and staff who contribute daily to the district's success.

A strong community makes a strong school. While having been faced with closures over the years, the communities have persevered, and the district continues to diligently provide a quality education.

This strong community is a reason why many Hillsboro graduates have chosen to come back to help the district which helped them.

The district is also lucky to have families who care about their children's education and experience and are willing to help and volunteer with school activities. Taking an active role in their children's learning helps the schools to succeed.

Community pride is not something that is taught, rather gained over time. Hopefully, the current students gain this resource as well and can become an asset to their community in the future.



Question 3: With the statewide teacher shortage, how would you help recruit and retain teachers in our district?

Teachers, undoubtedly, are one of the most crucial pieces to our district. As a proud Hillsboro graduate myself, I know I would not be where I am today if it were not for some of the teachers I had.

Currently as a parent to two children in the district, I thankfully see those teachers still exist. I truly believe it should be a top priority to keep them here.

I feel an open communication policy between the board, administrators and the teachers is an absolute must. For those teachers who have devoted most of their career to the district, we should seek their input to see what has worked and what has not. The same applies to those who have chosen to leave and seek employment elsewhere.

Finally, we also must be able to offer the teachers a comparable pay to other schools in hopes that they choose our district.



Easter Bunny Makes Stop In Fillmore

Instead of an Easter egg hunt this year, the Easter Bunny will be making a special stop in Fillmore this Saturday, March 27, from 9 to 11 a.m.

The Easter Bunny will be passing out eggs to local residents on Main Street at that time. Eggs will also be put up around the park and town as a scavenger hunt for families to drive around and look for eggs.

Butler Resident Finds Mushroom In March

Bill Merriman of Butler earned some braggin' rights this spring as he brought in the first morel mushroom of the season into the newspaper office. Merriman kept secret the location where he found his treasure, but discovered it the morning of Tuesday, March 23. Spring is definitely in the air, and it won't be long until local residents throughout Montgomery County enjoy mushroom hunting.

St. John Paul II To Hold Dinner This Saturday

St. John Paul II Altar and Rosary Society will sell their famous homemade cabbage rolls in a drive-through only event on Saturday, March 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the St. John Paul II Parish Hall parking lot, at 705 E. Main Street in Mt. Olive.

The cost of the rolls is \$5 each. Those who buy 12 will get one free.

To pre-order, call 217-652-9290.

Irving Will Host Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 3

The Village of Irving and Irving United Methodist Church will host an Easter Egg Hunt for area children at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 3.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Irving United Methodist Church, where donuts and drinks will be served. The event and the refreshments will be free of charge.

e-mail your ad to advertisejn@consolidated.net



Litchfield Marina Gets 12 Boat Slips

Twelve new boat slips were installed on Wednesday, March 24, at Marina 1 at Lake Lou Yaeger in Litchfield. The Litchfield city administration applied for and was awarded a grant from the W.D. Kilton Foundation, providing a new amenity to the city with no additional cost to taxpayers.

Litchfield To Reopen City Facilities Thursday, April 1

The City of Litchfield will reopen all city facilities for daily business on Thursday, April 1, with state regulations and CDC guidelines in place.

All visitors who arrive to any city facility are to enter through the main entrance. Maximum capacity will be kept to no more than the maximum allowed with six-foot distance with signage for direction. Visitors are required to wear appropriate face masks/coverings

and use the available hand sanitizer when entering any city facility.

All customers are encouraged to continue to make payments online or utilize the drop box outside of City Hall. All restrooms and water fountains will remain closed to the public. City facilities will be closed on Friday, April 2, for the holiday.

Questions may be directed to City Hall at 217-324-8151.

City Of Litchfield Plans Spring Clean-Up April 26

The city of Litchfield will offer Spring clean-up the week of Monday, April 26.

Further details will be available at a later date. The city asks the public to with-

hold from placing items on the boulevard until further information is released. Residents who do so could be subject to a code violation and citation.

Celebrate the Victory of Love during Holy Week and Easter

- + Palm Sunday, March 28: YouTube live worship at 10:15am.
- + Maundy Thursday, April 1: 7:00pm on YouTube live.
- + Good Friday, April 2: 7:00pm on YouTube live.
- + Easter Sunday, April 4: Drive-in service in cars at 10:15am with Communion at the Event Center parking lot (weather permitting, and also recorded).

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Shoal Creek Supplemental Watershed Plan & Environmental Assessment for Lake Lou Yaeger Dam

Online Public Meeting Available Now

www.BetterLakeLouYaeger.com

Join us!

The City of Litchfield, in coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), is holding an online public meeting for the *Shoal Creek Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment for Lake Lou Yaeger Dam*. The meeting is open to the public now through April 30, 2021 at www.BetterLakeLouYaeger.com. Anyone with an interest in the project is encouraged to visit the website and share their comments. Feedback can also be given at City Hall.

Background

Following the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, USDA-NRCS, the City, and consultant team will blend site analyses with community feedback to develop a preferred dam rehabilitation alternative for Lake Lou Yaeger and describe it in a plan-environmental assessment for the project. Opportunities for public input will be provided along the way. The current online public meeting is the initial meeting to start the project. Tell us what Lake Lou Yaeger means to you and share your thoughts on potential project impacts and benefits.

For More Information or Comments:

Online Public Meeting
www.BetterLakeLouYaeger.com

Rationale for the Project
 Eric Lamb, City of Litchfield, Lake Superintendent
 City Hall, 120 E. Ryder Street, Litchfield, IL 62056
elamb@cityoflitchfieldil.com and 217-324-5832

Watershed Planning Process and Details
 Matt Harper, Ad Astra, Water Resources Engineer
mharper@wrs-rc.com and 314-458-7852

Funding for Watershed Planning
 Aaron Engstrom, USDA-NRCS, District Conservationist
aaron.engstrom@usda.gov and 217-532-3610 ext. 3

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

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B9702 \$35,390



21 Silverado 1500 LT
 MSRP \$54,005
 Rebate \$4,250
B9616 \$49,755



Above, from the left, are Sophia Dailey, Jackie Rakers, Mackenzie Mehochko, Elaine Reinhart, Fallon Knodle and Cheryl Bennett.

Students Compete In SLS Competition

St. Louis School hosted their annual speech contest on Friday, March 19. This year's topic was, "What is one of the biggest problems in our environment today and what can we do to help?" Fifth through eighth grade students researched topics, wrote speeches and presented their speeches to the classroom. The top ten scores from sixth through eighth grades went on to participate in the school's speech contest.

Elaine Reinhart, Jackie Rakers and Cheryl Bennett volunteered to judge the contest. A rubric was developed to help them determine the top three speeches. First place was awarded to Sophia Dailey. Second place went to Mackenzie Mehochko and third place went to Fallon Knodle. The students that advanced to the top ten final round to present their speeches but did not place were Remi Tester, Griffin En-

gelman, Garrett Engelman, Abby O'Malley, Ali Thornton, Ian Keller and Nathaniel DeBrun. The three winners received a plaque and their names will be put on a trophy that is hung in the hallway of the school. They will also present their winning speeches at the next Catholic Council of Women at St. Louis Church in Nokomis, where they will be rewarded by the organization.

Income Tax Deadline Extended To May

Gov. JB Pritzker announced that his administration is extending the individual income tax filing and payment deadline from Thursday, April 15, to Monday, May 17.

The Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) will continue to process tax refunds for those filing ahead of the deadline. The filing extension does not apply to estimated tax payments that are due on Thursday, April 15. These payments are still due and can be based on either 100 percent of estimated or 90 percent of actual liability for 2021, or 100 percent of actual liabilities for 2019 or 2020.

According to IDOR, 2.4 mil-

lion taxpayers have already filed their individual income tax returns to date. Over 79 percent of the taxpayers that have already filed are expecting a refund this year. Last year, over 6.4 million income tax returns were filed and 87 percent of people filed electronically.

"The fastest, most secure way to receive a refund is to file tax returns electronically and request a direct deposit into a checking or savings account," said David Harris, Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue. "The filing extension for individual income tax takes effect automatically, so no further action

is required by taxpayers to take advantage."

Free filing of Form IL-1040 is available through MyTax Illinois online at <https://mytax.illinois.gov>. Individuals may also utilize MyTax Illinois to make payments, respond to department inquiries and check the status of their Illinois Individual Income Tax refunds using the website's "Where's My Refund?" link. Taxpayers may also look up IL-PINs, amounts of any estimated tax payments made, and amounts reported on Form 1099-G through MyTax Illinois.



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The Journal-News Section B

Hillsboro, IL 62049

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Hillsboro Picks Up Second Win

The Hillsboro volleyball team squared off against Greenville on Tuesday, March 23, for their fourth straight date against a South Central Conference foe in as many games.

Playing on the Comets' home floor, the Toppers dispatched the home team 25-20 in game one, then sealed the deal with a 25-17 victory to improve to 2-2 on the season.

Kaci Papin had eight kills to lead the Hillsboro attack, matching her season-best from Hillsboro's other win, which came against Vandalia. Haley Major and Layne Rupert added in four kills each, with Reagan DeVaiser and Alayna McCario also getting in on the act with one kill apiece.

DeVaisher led the team in assists with eight, coupling with Jordan Jacobs, who had six assists, for setting duties. McCario and Major also had an assist each in the win.

Defensively, Emma Miller put down two blocks against the Comets, while Ally Devore and Jacobs led the back line with nine digs each. Major (seven digs), Rupert (five digs)

and DeVaisher (two digs) also contributed to the strong defensive effort by Coach Emily Zimmerman's club.

On the serving line, Rupert led the way with eight points, followed by DeVaisher with six and Devore, Major and McCario with four apiece. Jacobs also got in on the act, serving up two points for the 2-2 Toppers.

The conference trend continues for the Hiltoppers on Thursday, March 25, as they hit the road to take on Gillespie at 6 p.m.

March 23 at Greenville

Hillsboro 25 25
Greenville 20 17

Hillsboro Statistics

Service Points: Layne Rupert 8, Reagan DeVaiser 6, Ally Devore 4, Haley Major 4, Alayna McCario 4, Jordan Jacobs 2. **Kills:** Kaci Papin 8, Haley Major 4, Layne Rupert 4, Reagan DeVaiser 1, Alayna McCario 1, Emma Miller 1. **Assists:** Reagan DeVaiser 8, Jordan Jacobs 6, Haley Major 1, Alayna McCario 1. **Digs:** Ally Devore 9, Jordan Jacobs 9, Haley Major 7, Layne Rupert 5, Reagan DeVaiser 2. **Blocks:** Emma Miller 2.

Record: Hillsboro (2-2, 2-2).



With Lutheran's Paige Bergschneider blocking her view, Lincolnwood's Desi Pitchford elevates for a hit during the Lancers' home game against the Crusaders on Tuesday, March 23.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

Skins Win Battle With Bunker Hill

The Nokomis volleyball team picked up their second win of the season on Tuesday, March 23, with a two-game victory over the Minutemaids of Bunker Hill.

The Redskins rolled the visitors 25-12 in game one, then sewed up the victory with a 25-19 performance in game two.

Junior Presley Lamb performed like a lion for Nokomis, leading the team in points (seven), aces (four) and assists (seven). Skylar Stewart also had a big game serving for the Redskins, posting six points and four aces, while Kristen Stauder (six), Delaney Keiser (five) and Alex Pavolka (four) also contributed points.

On the attack, Olivia Taylor led a balanced group of hitters with four kills, while Stauder, Stewart and Audrey Sabol had three kills each. Mia Fesser added two kills and had five assists in the game.

Defensively, Fesser and Stewart combined for five blocks, while Keiser and Stauder patrolled the back line and posted 14 and 11 digs respectively.

Nokomis, who played March 24, in Palmyra against Greenfield-Northwestern, will take on Father McGivney at home on Thursday, March 25, at 6 p.m.

March 23 at Nokomis

Bunker Hill 12 19
Nokomis 25 25

Nokomis Statistics

Service Points: Presley Lamb 7, Skylar Stewart 6, Kristen Stauder 6, Delaney Keiser 5, Alex Pavolka 4. **Aces:** Presley Lamb 4, Skylar Stewart 4. **Kills:** Olivia Taylor 4, Kristen Stauder 3, Audrey Sabol 3, Skylar Stewart 3, Mia Fesser 2. **Assists:** Presley Lamb 7, Mia Fesser 5. **Digs:** Delaney Keiser 14, Kristen Stauder 11. **Blocks:** Mia Fesser 3, Skylar Stewart 2.

Records: Nokomis (2-2); Bunker Hill (0-4).



Nokomis senior Mia Fesser had five assists in the Redskins' win over Bunker Hill on March 23. James Ryan/NokoPhoto

Crusaders Knock Off Lancers

by Kyle Herschelmann

The Lincolnwood volleyball program has had plenty of memorable matches against conference rival Springfield Lutheran in years past. Tuesday night's home game against the Crusaders is a contest the Lancers would probably rather forget.

Lutheran is tall, athletic, well coached and hits hard

enough to spin the stitches off the ball. As of March 23, they are also 4-0 thanks to a 25-17, 25-12 victory over Lincolnwood, who had one of those games where few things seemed to go right.

One of the bright spots for the Lancers was the serving of Maggie McClelland, who led the team with four points and three aces. Two of the aces came late in game one as the

Lancers tried to claw their way out of a 20-11 hole.

The senior hitter would help get her team back within six, but Lutheran closed out the game two rotations later. Looking to rally, Lincolnwood tried to comeback in game two and pulled within two points, 7-5, after Emme Weller served up her third point of the match.

Continued on 8B

Gillespie Sneaks Past Purple Panthers

Monday was senior night for eight members of the Litchfield Lady Panther volleyball team and the atmosphere in Simmons Gymnasium seemed more like the traditional pre-COVID celebration as the gym was adorned with purple and white crepe paper, balloons, congratulatory signs and most importantly, a lot more fans.

Just last week it was announced the number of

spectators for indoor sporting events would increase and although the gymnasium was far from capacity, there was an excitement that can only be created by students and family members who came to cheer the Lady Panthers to victory.

Unfortunately the Gillespie Miners had other ambitions and the two teams battled for three sets before the orange and black would

prevail 25-7, 19-25 and 25-21. The Miners made a clean sweep as they defeated the junior Panthers 26-24, 25-17.

Prior to the varsity match all eight seniors and their parents were introduced. The graduating seniors are Aly Fenton, Madison Fowler, Brianna Jeffers, Kate Komor, Dakota Mix, Izzy Ott, Becky Painter and Cara Pence.

Continued on 8B



In honor of National Doctors' Day on March 30, all of us at HSHS St. Francis Hospital thank our team of providers for the passion and commitment put forth every day for the health of the communities we serve.

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County Players Earn SCC All-Conference



Nikya Harston



Claire Tester



Layne Rupert



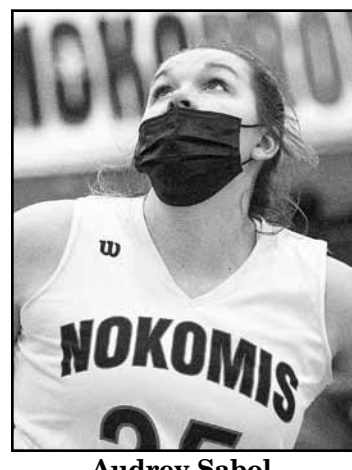
Cara Pence



Cassie Krager



Kristen Stauder



Audrey Sabol

With the 2021 basketball season in the record books, coaches across Illinois have gathered either in person or virtually to bestow honors among the best of the best with this year's all-conference teams. Seven players from Montgomery County are among that group after being selected as all-conference picks for the South Central Conference.

Hillsboro and Litchfield would combine for four players on the 15-person South Central Conference girls team, including one first teamer.

Senior Nikya Harston earned that first team designation by leading the Hillsboro girls in scoring and rebounding (12.7 points and 8.1 rebounds per game) as the Toppers finished tied for second in the SCC with a 7-2 mark.

Harston, who was also a first team pick last year, was joined on the first team by Southwestern seniors Korrie Hopkins and Rylee Smith, Greenville senior Natalie Iberg and Pana junior Jillian Hamilton. Smith and Hamilton were also repeat first team selections, while Hopkins and Iberg were second teamers last year.

Hillsboro's Layne Rupert was a second team pick, one of two sophomores on the team, along with Pana's Anna

Beyers. Rupert averaged 11.6 points per game and led Hillsboro in threes (27) and steals (47). Other members of the second team were Carlinville senior Gracie Reels, Greenville senior Gwyn Mitchell and Gillespie senior Keaton Link.

Hillsboro senior Claire Tester would make the all-conference third team, after being a second team selection last year. Tester was third in scoring (9.9 per game) and second in rebounds, just three behind Harston with 127.

Litchfield senior Cara Pence joined Tester on the third team. Pence averaged a double-double this year with 10.5 points and 11.9 rebounds per game and was first in steals and second in assists for the Lady Panthers, who finished 2-7 in conference play to tie for eighth after starting the season in quarantine.

In addition to the county seniors, Carlinville junior Jill Stayton, Roxana senior Olivia Mouser and Vandalia sophomore Anna Forbes also made the third team.

SCC Boys

On the boys' side of the South Central Conference, three players from the undefeated conference champion Hillsboro Hiltoppers earned all-conference honors, one on the first team and two on the second team.

Topper sniper Drake Vogel was the lone junior on a first team loaded with senior talent in the form of Pana's Andrew Ambrose, Roxana's Gavin Huffman, Vandalia's Mitchell Casey and Greenville's Fletcher Manhart.

Vogel led Hillsboro in scoring with 16.1 points per game, shooting 54 percent from inside the arc, 39 percent behind it and 71 percent from the free-throw line. Vogel also led the team in steals (40) and blocks (23), while also finishing third on the team in rebounds with 72.

Vogel was joined by teammates Jace Tuetken and Gavin Matoush, who were second team selections along with Southwestern senior Addis Moore, Pana junior Colin Schmitz and Gillespie senior Brock Fredericks.

Tuetken, Hillsboro's lone senior, averaged 12.5 points per game, shooting 48.5 percent from two, 52.8 percent from three and 59.5 percent from the free-throw line. The Topper point guard also led the team in assists with 68 and was second in steals with 26.

Matoush was lights out from inside the arc for the Toppers, shooting 61 percent from the field. The junior forward also averaged 14.2 points per game and led the team in rebounds with 8.8 per contest.

This year's third team was made up of three seniors, Roxana's Parris White, Carlinville's Ethan Trimm and Staunton's Frank Goss, along with two juniors, Vandalia's Carson Ruot and Pana's Brenden Schoonover.

South Central Conference 2020-21 All-Conference Girls Basketball

First Team: Jillian Hamilton, Jr. - Pana; Korrie Hopkins, Sr. - Southwestern; Rylee Smith, Sr. - Southwestern; Natalie Iberg, Sr. - Greenville; Nikya Harston, Sr. - Hillsboro.

Second Team: Gracie Reels, Sr. - Carlinville; Anna Beyers, So. - Pana; Gwyn Mitchell, Sr. - Greenville; Layne Rupert, So. - Hillsboro; Keaton Link, Sr. - Gillespie.

Third Team: Jill Stayton, Jr. - Carlinville; Cara Pence, Sr. - Litchfield; Anna Forbes, So. - Vandalia; Olivia Mouser, Sr. - Roxana; Claire Tester, Sr. - Hillsboro.

South Central Conference 2020-21 All-Conference Boys Basketball

First Team: Drake Vogel, Jr. - Hillsboro; Andrew Ambrose, Sr. - Pana; Gavin Huffman, Sr. - Roxana; Fletcher Manhart, Sr. - Greenville; Mitchell Casey, Sr. - Vandalia.

Second Team: Jace Tuetken, Sr. - Hillsboro; Gavin Matoush, Jr. - Hillsboro; Addis Moore, Sr. - Southwestern; Colin Schmitz, Jr. - Pana; Brock Fredericks, Sr. - Gillespie.

Third Team: Parris White, Sr. - Roxana; Ethan Trimm, Sr. - Carlinville; Carson Ruot, Jr. - Vandalia; Brenden Schoonover, Jr. - Pana; Frank Goss, Sr. - Staunton.



Drake Vogel



Jace Tuetken



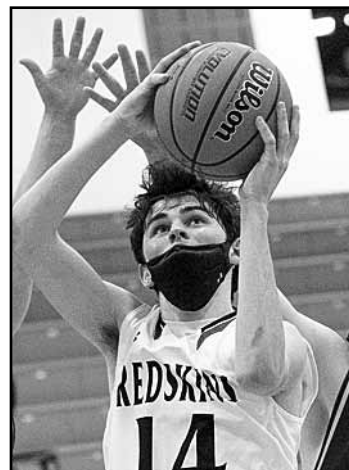
Gavin Matoush



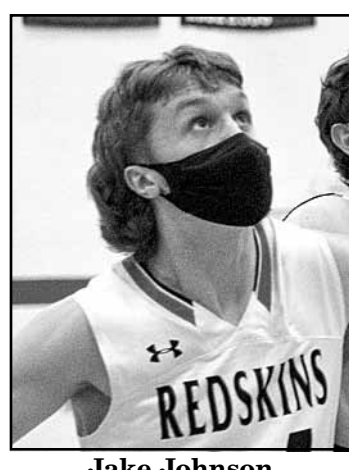
Cole Sidwell



Will Jenkins



Seth Johnson



Jake Johnson

Redskins, Lancers Land On All-MSM Squads

Three Montgomery County players were named to the 11-player MSM Conference girls basketball all-conference team, with two of the three coming from the conference champion Nokomis Redskins.

Both Kristen Stauder and Audrey Sabol were first team selections for the 6-0 MSM champion Redskins, while Lincolnwood's Cassie Krager was a second team pick.

Sabol just missed averaging a double-double on the season as she put in 11.3 points and 9.3 rebounds per contest for Nokomis. The sophomore also led her team in blocks with 26 and was second in steals with 22.

Stauder had a stellar senior year, averaging 7.5 points and 5.3 boards per game after missing almost all of last year due to injury. In addition to being second in scoring and rebounding for Nokomis, Stauder also led the team in steals with 26.

Krager was the catalyst for an improved Lincolnwood program in their second year back from a 34-year hiatus. Krager averaged a team-best 8.8 points and 7.6 rebounds, while also leading the team in assists (29) and blocks (five).

Joining the first team were Lutheran sophomore Makena Cox, Tri-City sophomore Jordan Closs and South County sophomore Maddie Mutch. On the second team were senior Delaney Scheidenhelm of Lutheran, freshman Sarah Finley of Tri-City, junior Callie Hughes of South County and junior Rylie Burney of South Fork. Pawnee junior Sarah Olson was also honored as an honorable mention.

MSM Boys

On the boys' side, Nokomis is not yet a member, but two Lincolnwood players were recognized with second team spots.

Cole Sidwell, the Lancers' top defender and senior cap-

tain from Morrisonville, was one of the two after leading the team in steals with 22 and rebounds with 55. Sidwell also averaged 6.1 points in his final year in orange and black.

The other pick was junior guard Will Jenkins, who led the team in scoring with 12.7 points per game. Jenkins shot better than 50 percent from inside the arc (52.2 percent) and made a team-best 23 threes on the year.

Joining the two Lancers on the second team were Calvary senior Brennan Crowder, Tri-City junior Joseph Nibbe and South County senior Grant Marshall.

On the first team were seniors Connor Henneman of Pawnee, Nikko Boston of Lutheran, Matt Martin of Tri-City and Lucas Schumacher of South County, along with junior Trent Markezich of Mt. Olive. Two seniors were also honorable mentions, Zach Fisher of Pawnee and Seger

Brown of South County.

MSM Conference 2020-21 All-Conference Girls Basketball

First Team: Makena Cox, So. - Lutheran; Jordan Closs, So. - Tri-City; Maddie Mutch, So. - South County; Audrey Sabol, So. - Nokomis; Kristen Stauder, Sr. - Nokomis.

Second Team: Cassie Krager, Sr. - Lincolnwood; Delaney Scheidenhelm, Sr. - Lutheran; Sarah Finley, Fr. - Tri-City; Callie Hughes, Jr. - South County; Rylie Burney, Jr. - South Fork.

Honorable Mention: Sarah Olson, Jr. - Pawnee.

MSM Conference 2020-21 All-Conference Boys Basketball

First Team: Connor Henneman, Sr. - Pawnee; Trent Markezich, Jr. - Mt. Olive; Nikko Boston, Sr. - Lutheran; Matt Martin, Sr. - Tri-City; Lucas Schumacher, Sr. - South County.

Second Team: Cole Sidwell, Sr. - Lincolnwood; Will Jenkins, Jr. - Lincolnwood; Brennan Crowder, Sr. - Calvary; Joseph Nibbe, Jr. - Tri-City; Grant Marshall, Sr. - South County.

Honorable Mention: Zach Fisher, Sr. - Pawnee; Seger Brown, Sr. - South County.

Seven 'Skins Honored By Prairie State Conference

Seven Nokomis High School basketball players were among those honored with all-conference recognition by the basketball coaches of the Prairie State Conference.

Five of the honorees came from the Nokomis girls basketball team, including Audrey Sabol and Kristen Stauder as first team picks.

Sabol just missed averaging a double-double on the season as she put in 11.3 points and 9.3 rebounds per contest for Nokomis. The sophomore also led her team in blocks with 26 and was second in steals with 22.

Stauder had a stellar senior year, averaging 7.5 points

and 5.3 boards per game after missing almost all of last year due to injury. In addition to being second in scoring and rebounding for Nokomis, Stauder also led the team in steals with 26.

Sophomores Addison Dangbar and Hailey Engelman and senior Mia Fesser were honorable mention selections for the 13-player list. Engelman led the team in assists with 35 and was third on the team in scoring with 5.5 points per game, while Dangbar was fourth with 5.4. Fesser was second in assists with 32 and averaged 4.8 points per contest.

For the boys, senior Seth Johnson and junior Jake

Johnson were honorable mentions for the 11-player all-conference squad.

Seth Johnson was second on the team in scoring with 9.1 points per game and first in assists (54) and steals (35). Jake Johnson was just behind Seth in points at 8.8 points per game and led Nokomis in rebounds with 5.9 per contest.

Prairie State Conference 2020-21 All-Conference Girls Basketball

First Team: Hannah Allen, Sr. - East Alton-Wood River; Emily Johnson, Fr. - East Alton-Wood River; Charlize Luehmann, Sr. - Father McGivney; Rachel Maller, Sr. - Father McGivney; Anna McKee, Sr. - Father McGivney; Emma Daniel, Sr. - Metro-East Lutheran; Audrey Sabol, So. - Nokomis; Kristen Stauder, Sr. - Nokomis.

Honorable Mention: Emma Martinez, So. - Father McGivney; Caitlyn Reynolds, Sr. - Metro-East Lutheran; Addison Dangbar, So. - Nokomis; Hailey Engelman, So. - Nokomis; Mia Fesser, Sr. - Nokomis.

Prairie State Conference 2020-21 All-Conference Boys Basketball

First Team: A.J. Smith, Sr. - Metro-East Lutheran; Demarcus Bean, Jr. - Metro-East Lutheran; Zion Tucker, So. - Metro-East Lutheran; Trent Markezich, Jr. - Mt. Olive; Jackson Rodgers, So. - Father McGivney; Evan Merritt, Sr. - East Alton-Wood River; Antonio Hardin, Jr. - East Alton-Wood River; Grant Burch, So. - Bunker Hill; Devon Ralston, Sr. - Bunker Hill.

Honorable Mention: Seth Johnson, Sr. - Nokomis; Jake Johnson, Jr. - Nokomis.

Keep Watching
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Year-End Section
Featuring Team
Photos, Statistics
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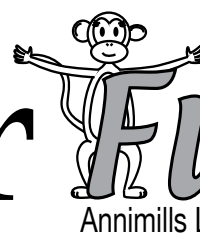
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We like to play harmless pranks...



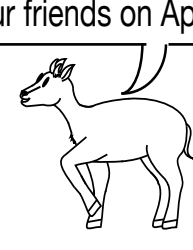
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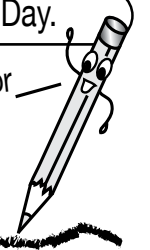


Animills LLC © 2021 V17-12

...on our friends on April Fool's Day.



Kids: color stuff in!



April Fool's Day Surprises

The first day of April is April Fool's Day. It is a time for lots of fun. People like to play harmless jokes and pranks. One favorite trick is to point out something that's not really there!

April Fool's Day used to be called All Fool's Day. It is thought to have started in France. A long time ago, March 21st was the date of the New Year. A little over a week of parties and fun followed. On the last day of the festivities, April 1st, formal visits were paid and gifts exchanged.

In the 16th century, the Gregorian calendar was introduced. March 21st was no longer New Year's Day and April 1st was no longer the right day to visit and give gifts. News traveled slowly in those early times, so many people continued to celebrate April 1st as the last big day of the holiday season. Many others did not like the change of date and refused to change their ways. People who clung to the old ways were called "April fools."

Today, on April 1st, you might hear someone call out, "Poisson d'Avril!" They have fooled someone and are calling them an "April fish." The person took the "bait" and was easily "caught." April Fool's Day is a day for tricks that hurt no one. It is a time for laughter.



disguises



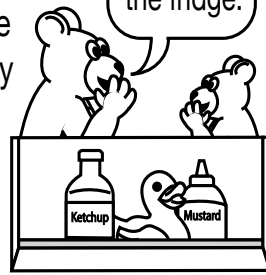
costumes

I put "eyes" on all of the fruit to freak out my brother.

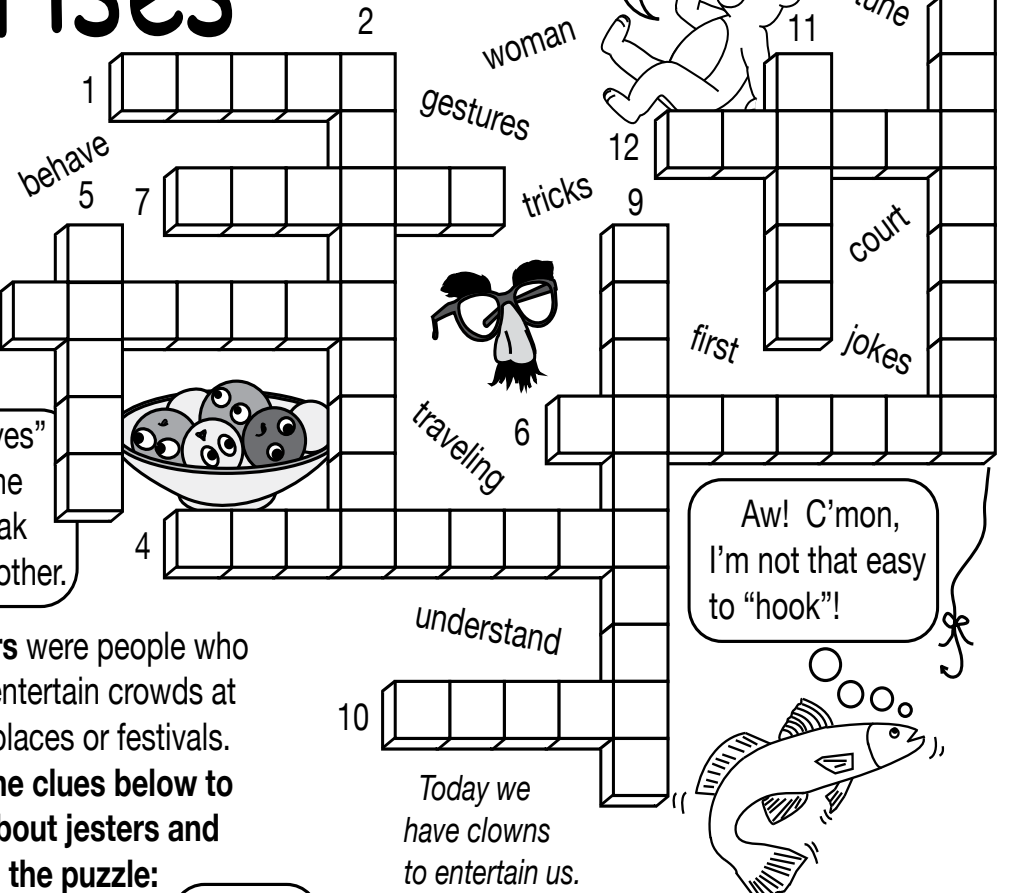
Jesters were people who would entertain crowds at marketplaces or festivals. **Read the clues below to learn about jesters and to fill in the puzzle:**

- _____ jesters entertained the king
- _____ jesters entertained crowds of people in marketplaces or at festivals
- some people thought jesters were "unlucky" and others thought they would bring good _____
- jesters might wear _____ to surprise people
- they told stories and _____

We put a rubber ducky in the fridge.



I love to make people laugh!

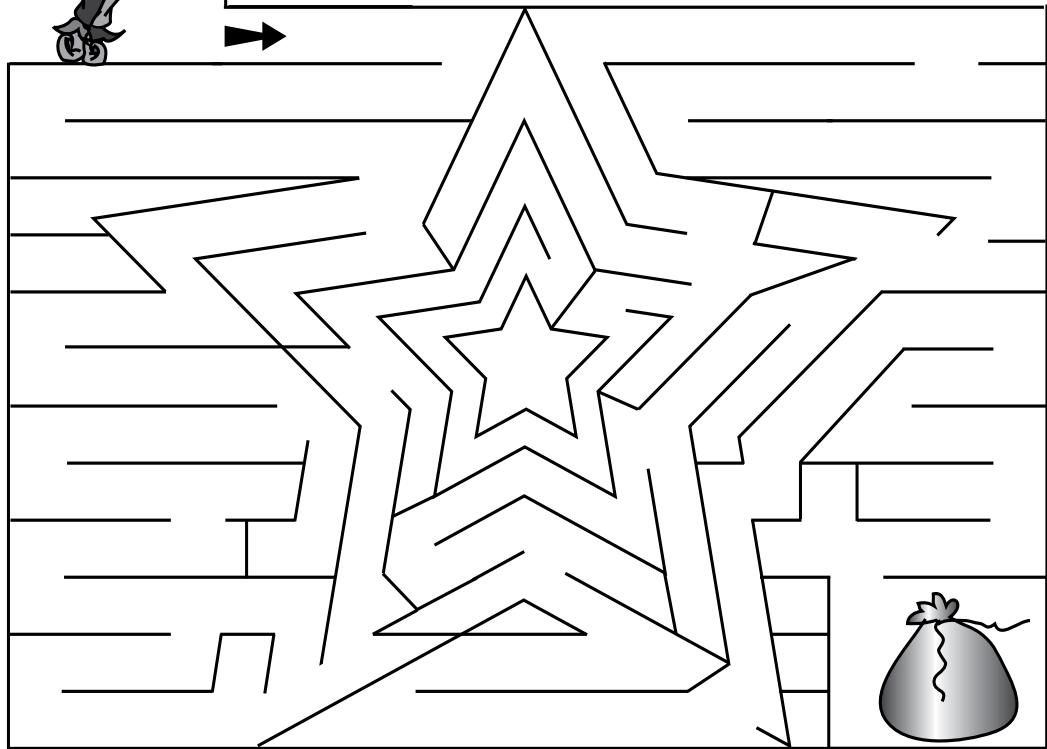


- some jesters used _____ or props
- sometimes they were allowed to _____ in ways that were not allowed for other people
- dressed in many kinds of _____
- sometimes they helped people or a king to _____ what was going on by telling stories
- a man or a _____ could be a jester
- the _____ day of April is April Fool's Day
- it is a day to play fun, harmless _____



Jester's Bag of Tricks

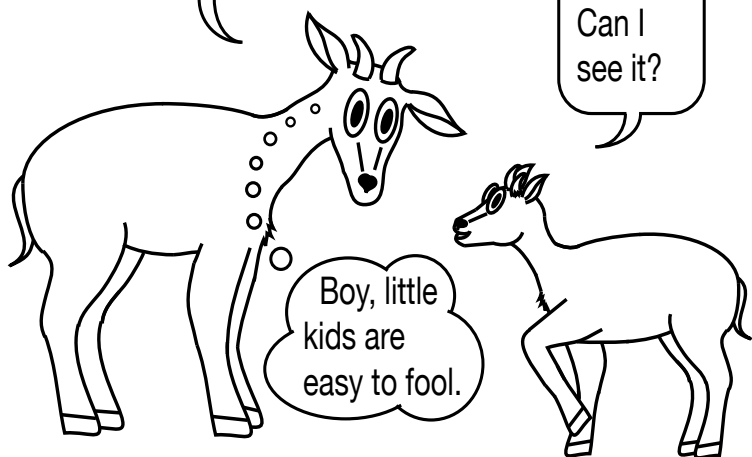
Help me find my bag of pranks. Then find and circle the words in the puzzle that describe jesters and some of the talents or skills they display.



- trickster
- clown
- magician
- jester
- fool
- joker
- prankster
- buffoon
- entertainer
- actor
- acrobat
- puppeteer
- juggler
- storyteller
- fire-eater
- contortionist
- tightrope walker
- animal trainer



Hey! A spaceship is landing on the school parking lot!



Really? Can I see it?

Boy, little kids are easy to fool.

All in Good Fun!

April Fool's Day is a lighthearted celebration. Many countries around the world have special days of fun, with people playing good-natured jokes on one another. These surprise-filled days almost always occur when the season of spring is coming. Do you think that the sunnier, warmer weather puts people in a lighter mood? Below are some things we like to use to fool or kid our friends. **Can you match each item to its description?**

- joke
- riddle
- hoax
- wisecrack
- pun

- a puzzling question or problem posed: the answer is hard to figure out
- a "fresh" or "smart" remark
- a false story told in such a way as to make people think it is real
- something done for fun; a jest
- clever use of a word to have more than one meaning

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Journalisms

News About People and Events
of Interest Throughout The County

With the April 6 consolidated election just a couple of weeks away, *The Journal-News* is giving you a chance to meet the four candidates running for three seats on the Hillsboro School Board.

We provided the same three questions for each candidate, pulled from submitted questions from a local resident and the Hillsboro Unit Education Association (HUEA). Answers to the questions are provided to you as they were submitted by the candidates along with some biographical information.

Please see page 8A for your chance to meet the candidates running for Hillsboro School Board. When you go to the polls, there will actually be five names on the list, but Dr. Barbara Mulch has withdrawn her name from the race.

Spring is in the air, and that means it's time for a little spring cleaning.

The Montgomery County Farm Bureau, in partnership with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, is hosting a hazardous waste collection this Saturday, March 27, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Butler.

Acceptable items include oil-based paint and paint thinner, aerosol paint and cleaning products, insecticides, herbicides and pesticides, mercury, gasoline, antifreeze and used motor oil, fluorescent light bulbs, old and expired medications and household batteries.

They will not accept latex paint (because it is not a hazardous material and may be dried and discarded safely with trash), explosives, fireworks and ammunitions, fire extinguishers, needles, farm oil and agricultural chemicals, propane tanks, smoke detectors, lead batteries and controlled substances.

For more information, contact the farm bureau at 217-532-6171.

Dan Rogers, assistant chief for the Witt Fire Department, recently had another article published in the March 2021 issue of *Fire Engineering Magazine*.

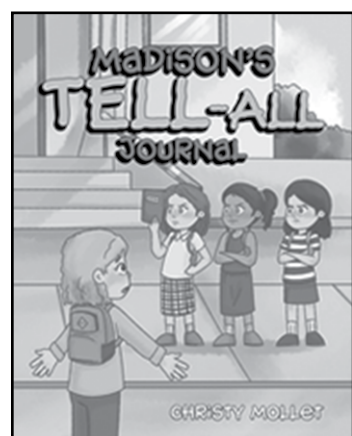
His article, "Putting Out Recruitment Fires with Big Change," was published in the volunteer corner section. The article goes into detail about the issues facing volunteer fire departments and ways to recruit and retain members from within the community. Those are the same techniques that Rogers and Witt Fire Chief Don Keiser use to maintain a quality volunteer membership to serve the citizens of Witt and Irving.

To read the full article, visit www.fireengineering.com.

And speaking of published authors, Christy Mollet of Hillsboro was featured in an online article about the publication of her first children's book, *Madison's Tell-All Journal*.

The article says the book is a delightful narrative about the test of three friends and how one turned her faith in God to bring everything back into place. Mollet is a copy editor at *The Journal-News*, and loves to use her own experiences to write stories in hopes of drawing readers closer to God.

Her first book is available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



Another former resident is putting her skills to work as a graphic designer and collaborating on a project with Universal Studios.

Litchfield High School alumna Erica Virgin, daughter of Dr. Brad and Karen Virgin, (who all reside in Orlando, FL now), created Quidditch t-shirts and hats for all four of the houses in the Harry Potter series. Her work is currently on the shelves at Universal Studios theme parks.

With sunshine and spring temperatures, Bremer Sanctuary in Hillsboro is keeping busy with visitors lately.

Sanctuary volunteers are asking for help from trail blazers to pick up tree limbs, large rocks and sticks and toss them into the timber. Mowing season will begin soon, and this would be a big help to the volunteers.



For those who encounter a limb too large to move, contact the sanctuary through their website or Facebook page.

Spring also means that Easter is just around the corner! Two local communities will be hosting Easter egg hunts this weekend. The village of Farmersville will host an egg hunt in Farmersville Park on Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m. to noon. Youth ages zero to ten are invited to hunt eggs in several age groups with prizes awarded. There will also be a petting zoo.

The Litchfield Park District will be hosting an egg hunt on Saturday, March 27, at the Litchfield Community Center, beginning at 1 p.m. Due to the ongoing pandemic they will be staggering start times for four age groups, and children ages zero to ten may participate. The Easter Bunny will also be on hand to meet with youngsters.

And don't miss a chance to meet the Easter Bunny at Mac's Diner in Witt on Saturday, March 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Volunteers in Nokomis hosted a special scavenger hunt and pop-up craft fair on Saturday, March 20 throughout Nokomis, with more than a dozen stops along the way. Participants who made all the stops were entered in a special drawing.

Debra McGown of Irving was the grand prize winner, taking home the Easter decor pictured.



Save the cooking for someone else! The Hillsboro Knights of Columbus will have a fish fry this Friday, March 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the parking lot of CNB Bank and Trust in downtown Hillsboro.

The weather is beginning to warm up and it just may be the perfect time to dip a toe into the pool... Okay, maybe not, but it is a great opportunity to jump right into the Nokomis Memorial Pool's fundraising efforts as another matching donation has been announced.

An anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$5,000 by April 15, with the possibility of more donations on the way if this challenge is successful.

The fundraising committee is hoping to show how fast they can raise the \$5,000, which will help fund the park district's share of a matching grant to completely renovate the pool.

Donations can be mailed to the Nokomis Memorial Park at P.O. Box 153, Nokomis, IL, 62075 or dropped off at the First National Bank in Nokomis to the attention of park treasurer Jean McCall.

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From the left, Ken Suslee, Dave Pastrovich and Dennis Hand, directors for the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District, help out with the spring fish sale on March 17.

Conservation District Hosts Fish Sale

The Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District staff and partners recently held their 2021 spring fish sale on Wednesday, March 17.

The sale offers landowners a chance to stock their ponds with live fish including catfish, bluegill, bass, redear, crappie, grass carp and minnows. The sale was especially exciting this year, after both of the 2020 sales were cancelled due to COVID-19.

It was also larger than normal because some neighboring counties opted out of doing their spring sales again this year.

Administrative Coordinator Melissa Cauble reports that she had received 50 orders which is about one-third larger than normal. Customers came from Montgomery, Christian and Macoupin counties to purchase approximately 8,500 fingerlings and young fish for pond stocking.

The Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District used a new fish farm this year, Andry's Fish Farms from Birdseye, IN. Lyle Andry and his crew did a fantastic job and even arrived a little early for the sale. They served three soil and water conservation districts that day, including

Shelby, Montgomery and Clinton counties.

Special thanks was extended to David Loucks and the Hillsboro Township Road Commissioner's office for the use of their big shed. It provided a way to stay dry on that rainy day, as well as a chance to fill orders, via drive-through, while maintaining COVID safety protocols.

The Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold a fall fish sale, likely during early September.

For more information on their fish sales and other services at (217) 532-3361, ext. 3.

Title Transfers

January 29

Allen D. Ellsworth, Marsha A. Ellsworth to Blaze Hardt, WD, Lot 10, Blk. 8, Lot 11, Blk. 8, Hood and Millers Addn.

Timothy A. Hancock, Donna Hancock to Isaac J. Pizzo, Misty N. Pizzo, WD, Lots 6-7, Blk. 85, Lot 6 and N/2 Lot 7, Huggins PC Addn.

Lawrence J. Marty, Shirley K. Marty to Marty Living Trust, QCD, Lot 38, Westwood Subdn. (Lots 1-81 Replated); Sec. 11, situated in the city of Hillsboro.

Julie A. Garrett to Gail A. Moran, WD, Lots 8-10, Blk. 5, Hillcrest Addn.

Gail A. Moran to Dannie L. Abrams, WD, Lots 8-10, Blk. 5, Hillcrest Addn.

Steven L. Snow Exec., Patricia A. Snow Estate to Steven L. Snow, Exec. Deed, Sec. 2, Pt. N/2 SW/NW, Sec. 2, N/2 SE/NW, N/2 S/2 SE/NW, East Fork Twp.; Lot 0, Blk. 5, Coffee Original Twp.

Pamela J. Ernest to Kathy Lopez, QCD, Lots 13-14, W/2 Lots 13 and 14, Canadays SD Addn.

February 1

Doris M. Yeske to Shannon R. Durbin, QCD, Lots 7-8, Blk. 14, Hammons 1st Addn.

Montgomery County Sheriff, Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company Tr., Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust, Angelina Elaine Blume

to Cascade Funding Mortgage Trust HB4, Sheriff Deed, Lot 22, Blk. 4, Hood & Tullys Addn.

Kenneth Pezold Tr. to Sandra J. Pezold, QCD, Sec. 35, Walshville Twp.

Kenneth Pezold Tr. to Sandra J. Pezold, QCD, Sec. 7, Pt. NW/NW w/easement, Grisham Twp.

Meisner Farms to Lawrence L. Meisner, Dianne R. Meisner, Meis 7, Matthew J. Meisner, Corp. Warr. Deed, Sec. 31, Harvel Twp.

Kenneth J. Brooks, Barbara A. Brooks POA, Barbara A. Brooks to Rodger A. Moore, Darla K. Moore, QCD, Sec. 26, 2 Pts. SE/NE, Audubon Twp.

February 2

Jeffrey B. Harris, Erin R.

Harris to Cody G. Dorsey, Hanna N. Dowd, WD, Lot 26, Kettelkamps Addn.; Lots 27-28, Kettelkamps Addn.

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, to Peter Byrd, Sara Byrd, Spl. War. Deed, Lots 1-3, Blk. 1, Wenonah Subdn. and Resubdn.

Free online Search of Montgomery County, IL Land Records at www.montgomeryco.com/courtyclerk/recording/recordsearch. Search, View and Print Montgomery County, IL Land Records online at www.landrecords.net at \$6.95 per search. Sign up for Property Fraud Alerts at www.properlyfraudalert.com.

2021 FARMERS MARKET AUCTIONS ARE CANCELLED. Farmers Market auction, Spring auction calendar, auctionzip.com ID#4366. Cancelled due to Covid-19 and the CDC. We will try to resume our regular fourth Saturday schedule January through May, 2022.

THURS., MAR. 25 - 7 p.m. Soft close for Gene Bertels auction. 2000 Honda 4 wheeler, 1993 GMC pickup, Ford Golden Jubilee tractor, tools, lawn & garden, Simplicity garden tractor, more. Ahrens Auction, Dennis Ahrens-auctioneer, www.ahrensauuction.com.

THURS., MAR. 25 - 7 p.m. Closing for online only primitives, collectibles & antiques auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Pickup: Friday, March 26 from 4-7 p.m. at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Mollett Auction Services LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., MAR. 25 - 6 p.m. Closing for online only lawn mower consignment auction at Langham Outdoors, 822 Powder Ave., Donnellson. Zero turns, riders, walk behinds, finish mowers, compact/utility tractors, tillers, blades, ATVs, side-by-sides, more. See langhamauctioneers.hibid.com for pictures, details & bidding. Langham Auctioneers, Inc., Greenville, Ty at 618-267-8400.

SAT, MAR. 27 - 10 a.m. at 1357 Irongate Tr., Greenville for the Ron & Linda Grissom Trust. From 140 take N. Idler Ln., go 1.6 mi. & turn right onto Irongate Tr., go .5 mi. & turn left to stay on Irongate, driveway will be on left, watch for signs. 2BR/2BA home with room for add'l BR in bsmt. Sits on 8.5 ac w/trees, grassland & pond. Kubota tractor w/loader & 8' bucket, equipment, mowers, tools, etc., furniture & household appliances, misc. Contact Wayne or Adam for private viewing. Mollett Auction Services LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

SAT, MAR. 27 - 10 a.m. at The Event Center of Montgomery County, IL Rt. 185, Hillsboro. 899 +/- acres offered in 20 tracts. Montgomery & St. Clair Counties. Inspection: Wed., Mar. 26, 2-4 p.m. Meet a Schrader rep at The Event Center. Call or go online for more info incl. the full brochure. Online bidding available. New River Royalty LLC, seller. Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., 800-451-2709, www.schraderauction.com.

SAT, MAR. 27 - 9 a.m. Annual spring consignment auction at Ohlman, N. of Rt. 16 on N. Walnut. Accepting consignments of vehicles, tractors, lawn mowers, farm related items, lawn & garden, misc. No buyer's fee. No online bidding. Live bidders. Dennis Amann, 217-825-6384, 217-563-2143, www.dennisamann.com, [#19610](http://www.auctionzip.com).

SAT, MAY 15 - 1 p.m. Deadline for online only land auction. For bidding, photos & add'l info, go to LEGACYSELLS4U.HIBID.COM. 6 +/- wooded acres on W. Oxford Rd., Staunton. Beautiful wooded acreage offering homestead w/sewer, water & utilities at the street. Easy access to downtown Staunton & I-55. Sev. mature trees & no building restrictions. Have your financing pre-arranged. Contact Gary at 618-781-3814 for a private showing. Legacy Realty & Auction.

WED., MAR. 24 - 9 a.m. Auction of new and used equipment, tools, lawn & garden, misc. Call or text Gary at 618-781-3814 or email gary@legacysells4u.com.

MON., MAR. 29 - 6 p.m. Soft close for online only large spring machinery auction. **Bid Mon., Mar 8 thru Mon., Mar 29.** All items must be delivered to Miceheimer Auction lot, 4.5 miles south of Taylorville by Saturday, Mar. 6. Miceheimer & Meyer Auction Services, James Miceheimer 217-820-9324 & Cory Meyer 217-710-5642, auctioneers, miceheimerandmeyer.hibid.com.

WED., MAR. 31 - 6 p.m. Bidding closes for online only Farm & Construction Consignment Auction. **Preview: Sun., Mar. 28, 2-4 p.m. at 8863 Dustman Rd., Worden.** To view and bid online please visit: www.wiesemanauctions.com. Consignments wanted. Wieseman Auction Service, Gene Wieseman (618) 540-5165, Joe Wieseman (618) 779-2741.

THURS., APR. 8 - 7 p.m. Soft close for online only spring consignment auction. Wanted: tractors, antique tractors, const. equip., combines, planters, discs, disc/chisels, tillage equip., field cult, blades, mowers, tools, lawn mowers, vehicles accepted, shop equip., complete lines, trucking available. Call Dennis at 618-779-1883 or 618-779-1897 to consign, accepted on lot S. of Sievers Equip., Hamel. Call ASAP for pics & advertisement. Ahrens Auction, Dennis W. Ahrens, auctioneer, www.ahrensauuction.com.

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6B - Thursday, March 25, 2021

Announcements

Notices

5 GALLONS filtered water \$1. 611 N. Monroe, Litchfield. Twice the Ice machine.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3: 59th Ramsey Lions Club Community Sale and Vendor Fair starts 9 a.m. Four city blocks, consigned farm implements & misc., cars, boats, lawn/ garden. No household misc. to be auctioned!

TREASURES AND Collectibles to be found at the Ramsey Community Sale - Vendor & Flea Market, Saturday, April 3. Household misc. will not be auctioned this year, but 100's of lawn/ garden, titled vehicles, farm machinery and equipment will be.

Employment

Clerical, Office

REGIONAL OFFICE of Education #3 job posting: Administrative Assistant position. ROE 3 is seeking to fill the position of full-time administrative assistant. This position will be located at our Montgomery County office in Hillsboro, IL. Applicants must have their HS diploma or equivalency, outstanding communication skills, excellent computer skills, and exceptional customer relations abilities. Interested parties should send their cover letter and resume to ROE #3, 1500 W. Jefferson St., Vandalia, IL 62471. For questions or an application, call our Vandalia office at 618-283-5011. Applicants may also contact us via email at juliewollerman@roe3.org

Drivers, Trucking

TRUCK DRIVER wanted: Driver local A flatbed, home every night. Apply Hixson Lumber Sales, Hillsboro, IL. Call 217-259-8478 for details.

DRIVERS NEEDED at Mid Illinois Concrete, Hillsboro location. Call for more information. 217-532-2422

e-mail your ad to advertisejn@consolidated.net

Employment

General Help

LICENSED HEALTH aide wanted for private residence in Hillsboro. Call 217-532-5174. Leave name, number and brief message.

For Rent

Apartments

FOR RENT: A one bedroom apartment in Hillsboro and a two bedroom house in Raymond. Some appliances included. No pets. Please call 217-229-3188

Houses

DUPLEX FOR rent: Raymond. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, appliances, 2 car garage. 12 mo. lease at \$675 per month. 217-556-0471 or 217-229-3792

Garage Sales

LOTS OF Misc., 216 E. Hargrave Ave., Taylor Springs. Friday and Sat. 8 to 2.

Merchandise

Building Materials & Tools

BUILDING TOOLS for sale, shelving etc. On going sale. Call before coming. 217-835-2161, 217-851-1411

Merchandise

Feed & Seed

ORCHARD GRASS hay \$3.50, very good orchard grass alfalfa mix hay \$5.50 bale. 217-825-3631

HAY for sale. 217-563-7000

Furniture

MATTRESS SALE: Twin mattresses starting \$119; full mattresses at \$159; queen mattresses at \$189; by order only king mattresses \$269. Mattress Direct, across from Walmart. 217-324-3636

Livestock, Poultry

FOR SALE: Angus cross steer, fully vaccinated, approximately 600 lbs. Hillsboro. 618-409-6676

Miscellaneous

FREE WOODEN PALLETS. The Journal-News, 217-532-3933

POSTERBOARD at The Journal-News, 75 cents each.

Want To Buy

DIABETIC TEST strips wanted. Unexpired, any type, any brand. Will pay up to \$10 a box. Call Ron 217-556-3398. Please leave callback number. "Helping Diabetics since 2009".

Services

General Services

WANTED: YARDS TO mow in the Litchfield, Hillsboro, Coffeen areas. Fully insured. 217-851-4364

WANTED: YARDS to mow in Hillsboro area. Call Josh 217-710-2687

CLEANING YOUR shed or garage? Have old riders, mowers, appliances or scrap metal? Call Mike at 217-556-4084 or 217-710-3098 to have it hauled away free of charge.

SEWING MACHINE Repair: John Compton, 217-563-2443, 217-377-5307.

Tree Services

JAGOSH TREE Service: Insured, free estimates. 217-710-4555

Fire Calls

Tree Fire

Monday, March 29, at 9:30 p.m., six firefighters from the Shoal Creek Fire Protection District were paged to Donnellson for a tree fire. The department extinguished the fire and cleared the scene.

MNRC Hosts Easter Event

Montgomery Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Taylor Springs is hosting a special Easter Egg Drive-Through event on Friday, April 2.

From 10 to 11 a.m. the Easter Bunny will come out to greet youngsters in their vehicles and will hand out Easter treat bags to the first 100 kids. Each treat bag will have a golden egg with a surprise inside.

American Rescue Plan Increases SNAP Benefits

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a 15 percent increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through September, providing an estimated \$3.5 billion to households experiencing food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits will provide

about \$28 more per person, per month, or more than \$100 more per month for a household of four, in additional SNAP benefits.

Additional facts on nutrition assistance in the American Rescue Plan can be found at www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/arp-national-factsheet.pdf

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HOUSE FOR SALE

3 Bedroom House in Witt
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APPLICATIONS FOR LIFEGUARDS AND CONCESSION WORKERS FOR CENTRAL PARK POOL
CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT hillsboroillinois.net
UNDER THE "HOW DO I?" TAB'S "FORMS AND APPLICATIONS" PAGE.
APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO CITY HALL NO LATER THAN 4 P.M. ON APRIL 30, 2021

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The Village of Irving has an opening for a maintenance worker. The job includes mowing, maintenance to ditches, streets and buildings. There will also be work with water and sewer departments when needed. This might include a few hours on weekends. **Please send your resumé to: The Village of Irving, P. O. Box 208, Irving, IL 62051 or apply in person at the Village Hall. Applications must be in by April 1, 2021.**

FOR RENT
Village Apartments of Hillsboro, a senior & disabled community, is now accepting applications for the wait list on 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Please call **217-532-3501**.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
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BAKERY
-Part-Time-
PRODUCE
Apply in person or online at capriIGA.com

MOWING BIDS
Irving Cemetery is now accepting mowing bids for April 15 through October 15, twice per month. Send bid to 14419 White Ave., Irving, IL 62051 by Thursday, April 1.

HELP WANTED
Part-time work available in mail room
Less than 20 hours a week • Some nights
Call 532-3933 and leave a name and phone number

HELP WANTED
Taylor Tire & Auto, Inc. currently has an opening for a tire technician. Preferred previous experience in all types of tires, lawn & garden, passenger, light truck, medium truck and ag tires. Please apply in person or mail resumé to: Taylor Tire & Auto, Inc., 1301A West Eilerman Ave., Litchfield, IL 62056. No phone calls, please.

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EOE

HELP WANTED
The City of Nokomis is accepting applications for a full time Assistant City Clerk at City Hall. Hours are Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Candidates must have office experience, ability to write clearly and be proficient with computers, office equipment and adding machines. Applicant should be professional, detail-oriented, have the ability to multi-task and have a pleasing personality with strong communication skills. Applicant will be required to handle phone calls as well as assist the public in person. Basic math skills are a must, as the candidate will be required to handle cash, credit card transactions and make calculations. Experience with payroll, accounts payable and some accounting preferred. Applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Excel and Word. Other duties will include assisting the City Clerk and Council as needed with administrative and financial functions, implementing City policy and handling all water and sewer accounts. A valid driver's license is required. Must be able to pass a background check. Pay will be based on experience and education.
Interested applicants should submit a resumé with cover letter to the City Clerk at 22 S. Cedar St., Nokomis, IL 62075 or by email to rachel@cityofnokomis.com by March 26, 2021.

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Litchfield Volleyball

Continued from 1B

Gillespie took charge in the first set and it was not the conventional power game that would be the deciding factor in the set. Senior Sydney Byers, who is listed as a middle hitter on the Lady Miners' roster, used the softer side of the game to keep the Lady Panther defense off balance as she dinked, tipped and directed the ball just out of their reach.

With the score knotted at 1-1 early, the Miners would reel off eight consecutive points with Madison Niemeyer at the service line. Litchfield gained two points from a tandem block by Painter and Annika Rhodes and an attack from Cara Pence. Gillespie opened a 19-7 lead before Niemeyer again stepped to the service line and the next six points belonged to the Lady Miners as they closed out the set 25-7.

Litchfield did a better job of defending their territory in the second set and it all started with Brianna Jeffers serving and it was quickly 2-0.

Neither team would distance themselves more than four points apart and with Litchfield trailing 9-5, the Panthers gained point six on an out of bounds hit by the Miners, followed by an ace serve from Aly Fenton.

A back row kill by Cara Pence tied the score at 10 and two service points by Pence put Litchfield up 12-10. A bad hit by Gillespie added point 13 for Litchfield before Coach Celia Jubelt called a time out to settle her team and the strategy paid dividends as Gillespie captured the next three points.

The two teams went toe-to-toe with long rallies and exciting play and the score reflected their effort with ties at 14, 16, 17 and 18 before Litchfield rattled off five consecutive points and led 23-18. Gillespie gained their final point of the set from a Painter spike that sailed long, but Litchfield closed out the set 25-19 with Fenton at the service line.

Litchfield won the coin toss for the serve in the deciding set and with Emma Walch



The senior members of the Litchfield High School volleyball team were honored prior to their game against Gillespie on Tuesday, March 22, at Simmons Gym. From the left are Alyson Fenton, daughter of John and Trish Fenton; Madison Fowler, daughter of Amanda Fowler; Brianna Jeffers, daughter of Russell and Mary Jeffers; Kate Komor, daughter of Krista Komor; Dakoda Mix, daughter of Colt Mix and Melissa Mix and Chad Grammer and Holly Alender; Isabella Ott, daughter of Pamela Foster; Becky Painter, daughter of Kevin and Doreka Painter; and Cara Pence, daughter of Clyde and Kim Pence.

Photo courtesy of Denise Simpson/DT Photography

at the line, Aulona Seferi returned possession back to the Miners. The tussle for control was won by Gillespie as the Miners built a 12-6 lead that drew a time out from head

Coach Mitchell Hughes.

The two teams would trade points before Litchfield jumped back in with six consecutive points that knotted the score at 13. Painter would

play a role in the comeback with a stuff at the net and a downed spike.

Gillespie went to work and built a 16-13 lead but Litchfield again fought back and tied the score at 16. A Darci Wolber kill put the Miners up by one and a long rally won by Litchfield yielded yet another tie at 17.

An attack by Pence gave Litchfield a single point advantage that was erased by a net foul against the Lady Panthers which added a point for Gillespie and a side out. With Niemeyer at the service line, Byers again used the soft tip over the defense to put Gillespie up 19-18.

Gillespie gained point 20 on a serve return error but it was a big hit by Pence that garnered a point and side out for the Purple. Litchfield

tied the game before an out of bounds attack put the Miners up 21-20.

Litchfield gained point 21 from a Gillespie return error and with Aly Fenton at the service line, the Bires name again emerged as she blocked an attack at the net that fell on Litchfield's side and it was 22-21 Gillespie.

Coach Hughes called Litchfield's second time out to stem the tide but the Miners smelled victory and snuffed out the final three points to seal the match win.

The loss, coupled with a 25-18, 25-21 loss to Carlinville on March 19, dropped the Lady Panthers to 0-3 and the shortened schedule doesn't get any easier as they prepare to host the Pana Panthers tonight, March 25, in Simmons Gym.

Lincolnwood Volleyball

Continued from 1B

Lutheran re-upped their lead to five points after breaking Weller's serve, allowing Lincolnwood to pull within three in their next turn at the serving line, with Avery Pope picking up her second service point.

Then the wheels fell off. The Crusaders racked up point after point, while keeping the Lancers from stringing any together. Five straight trips to the service line were one and done for the orange and black as Lutheran came away with a 25-12 win to sew up the match.

The Lincolnwood defense had their hands full on the night, with the three-headed monster of Makenna Cox (nine), Erin Borntrager (eight) and Delaney Scheidenhelm (six) combining for 23 kills.

Cassie Krager and Maggie McClelland posted five digs apiece. Lexie Millburg and Avery Pope added three digs, while Sidney Glick and Desi Pitchford had two and one dig respectively against the Lutheran hitters. The Lancers did have some success at the net in blocking the Crusaders, with Katelyn Payne putting down two and Krager, Glick and Pope each blocking one.

On the Lincolnwood attack, Krager led the way with three kills, followed by Glick and Pope with two and Payne and McClelland with one each. Pope also led the team in assists, posting seven on the night.

With the loss a now distant memory, the 1-1 Lancers will move to their next challenge, a match-up with South County at the Woodshed in Raymond on Thursday, March 25. After that, Lincolnwood hits the



Lincolnwood's Cassie Krager tries to tip a shot over Lutheran's Ali Davis during the Lancers game against the Crusaders on Tuesday, March 23.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

road for the first time as they travel to Edinburg for a varsity only contest.

March 23 at Raymond
Lutheran 25 25
Lincolnwood 17 12

Lincolnwood Statistics
Service Points: Maggie McClelland 4, Emme Weller 3, Avery Pope 2, Sidney Glick 1. **Aces:** Maggie McClelland 3. **Kills:** Cassie Krager 3, Sidney Glick 2, Avery Pope 2, Katelyn Payne 1, Maggie McClelland 1. **Assists:** Avery Pope 2, Cassie Krager 1, Sidney Glick 1, Avery Pope 1. **Digs:** Cassie Krager 5, Maggie McClelland 3, Lexie Millburg 3, Avery Pope 3, Sidney Glick 2, Desi Pitchford 1. **Records:** Lincolnwood (1-1); Lutheran (4-0).



 Hatchback, 1-owner, gray, only 2k..... \$20,848	 FWD champagne silver metallic, 84k..... \$13,975	 FWD, billet silver, 7k..... \$21,165	 1-owner, summit white, only 11k..... \$63,900
 6.2L, black, 32k..... \$57,900	 FWD, 1-owner, only 5k..... \$25,900	 FWD, 1-owner, pacific blue, only 9k..... \$20,900	 Crew cab, black, 16k..... \$40,219
 AWD, locally owned, dark blue, 74k..... \$20,900	 Crew cab, 1-owner, white, only 9k..... \$34,900	 Crew cab, black, 21k..... \$45,985	 Sahara, white, 14k..... \$42,900
 FWD, silver, 6k..... \$26,918	 Crew cab, crimson red, 39k..... \$38,900	 FWD, 1-owner, black, 14k..... \$37,900	 Crew cab, 1-owner, red, 13k..... \$36,900
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