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Hillsboro, IL 62049

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Monday, March 20, 2023

State Supreme Court Hears Arguments In SAFE-T Act Suit

<u>by Jerry Nowicki</u> <u>Capitol News Illinois</u>

The state's highest court heard arguments Tuesday in a case that could drastically alter the legal landscape for criminal defendants who are incarcerated as they await trial

It's the latest development in the ongoing legal challenge to the pretrial detention provisions of the SAFE-T Act criminal justice reform – short for Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today
– which the high court put on hold
in December just hours before it
was scheduled to take effect.

The case pits Illinois' attorney general, legislative leaders and governor, who wish to uphold the pretrial detention overhaul, against state's attorneys and sheriffs representing 64 counties who say the legislature should have put a constitutional amendment to voters if they wanted to make such a change.

ey wanted to make such a change. If the Supreme Court allows the pretrial detention changes to take effect, judges would no longer be able to incarcerate a defendant who is awaiting trial solely because they cannot afford to post bail. The system replacing cash bail would allow a judge to order pretrial detention based on an accused person's level of risk of reoffending or fleeing

But the law would also create a list of lower-level nonviolent offenses for which a defendant cannot be held pretrial if they are not al-

prosecution.

ready out on pretrial release when committing the alleged offense or proven to be a "willful flight" risk.

The case was appealed to the Supreme Court by the state after a Kankakee County circuit court judge ruled in December that parts of the law were unconstitutional. The court must decide whether the state's constitution gives the judiciary a "right" to assess cash bail and whether lawmakers overstepped their bounds by passing a law that infringes on such a "right."

The law's opponents based their claims of unconstitutionality on two references to "bail" in the state's constitution. Section 9 states that "all persons" accused of crimes "shall be bailable by sufficient sureties" except in certain specified circumstances. And Section 8.1, the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights, notes a crime victim's right to safety must be considered "in denying or fixing the amount of bail."

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Top On Down The Bunny Trail



It was a great way to celebrate her very first Easter as Chevy Young snuggled with Mrs. Cottontail at a special Spring Fling event at The Briar Rose in downtown Litchfield on Saturday, March 18. In addition to visits with Mrs. Cottontail, those attending enjoyed a variety of vendors and specials throughout the store. Up next, The Briar Rose is planning a girls night out event on Wednesday, March 22, as well as an Easter event on Saturday, April 1.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelman

Bremer Sanctuary Plans Spring, Summer Hikes

Stewards at Bremer Sanctuary in Hillsboro have planned two upcoming Spring and Summer Bird Hikes for the community to enjoy.

The Spring Hike will be held Saturday, April 8, beginning at 7 a.m. This event will focus on resident birds along with the early arrival of several species of migratory birds.

Red-headed woodpeckers, blue jays, tufted titmouse, northern cardinals and eastern bluebirds will be present. Nest box checks will be explained and demonstrated.

The Summer Hike will be held Saturday, June 3, beginning at 7 a.m. This event will focus on the migrating species, including warblers, vireos, tanagers and sparrows, along with all the resident birds. Good chances for viewing of indigo bunting, eastern towhee, summer tanager and common yellowthroat are possible.

The guided, easy-level hiking events will take roughly 90 minutes to com-

plete. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather by wearing sturdy shoes or boots, hat and apply bug repellent. They may also bring binoculars and a bottle of water. Light breakfast items will be available after the hike.

Donations will be accepted. The hikes will be cancelled in the event of rain.

Bremer Sanctuary, an Illinois Audubon Society property, is located one-half mile north of the Montgomery County courthouse, 194 Bremer Lane, Hillsboro. Follow the signs to the parking area at the barn.

Bremer's chapter, Hickory Hills, is an all-volunteer organization maintained by a small group of dedicated stewards. The grounds are open to the public from dawn to dusk for non-vehicular traffic on the marked trails.

To stay updated, follow the sanctuary's Facebook page, Bremer Sanctuary, Hickory Hills Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society or check out the webpage at www.bremersanctuary.com.

Litchfield City Council Adds Firefighters Kershaw, Dilks

by Kyle Herschelman

The two newest members of the Litchfield Fire Department were sworn in by City Clerk Carol Burke on Thursday, March 16, during the Litchfield City Council meeting.

Fire Chief Adam Pennock introduced Coffeen native Justin Kershaw and East Alton native Alex Dilks to the council, saying that the two young firefighters would fill out paper work on Friday and work their first shifts on Monday and Tuesday.

The department has been

The department has been shorthanded, in part due to the absence of Captain Scott Haenel, who was injured in an accident in 2020 and has been unable to be on active duty since then. Haenel was on hand to express his displeasure in how the city handled his status within the fire department.

"On Aug. 19 of 2020 I was involved in a traumatic accident while on city property doing normal city assigned tasks at the fireman's club-

grounds and taking down dying nuisance trees. The accident left me with 11 broken bones, a split pelvis, four broken ribs, a punctured lung, a broken wrist, a shattered humerus and what has ended up being permanent nerve damage in my right arm and hand after I fell 20 feet when the tree I was trimming broke at the base,' Haenel said of the accident in a message to *The Journal*-News. "I was flown from the scene to St. John's Hospital in Springfield for emergency surgery. For the next 15 months while I healed, rehabilitated, learned to walk again, and underwent two further surgeries, I tried to come up with ideas that could allow me to continue my employment in the fire department so I could get to my upcoming retirement date.

Haenel went on to say that in the executive session of the Litchfield City Council meeting on Nov. 4, 2021, the council decided to take

house taking care of the grounds and taking down dying nuisance trees. The accident left me with 11 no action to attempt to seek out a way to retain him as a member of the Litchfield Fire Department.

*Once my paid time off ran out the city put me on unpaid, inactive status, but did not terminate me," said Haenel, whose paid leave ran out approximately a month after the Nov. 4 meeting. "Nobody even knew what that meant. The only explanation I received was I was no longer rendering service, no longer collecting pay or benefits, and no longer

earning service time, but my name was still on the books." At the meeting, Haenel

At the meeting, Haenel said he understood that the council would be unable to answer his questions since it wasn't on the agenda, but asked why the city decided to

end his career after 26 years of service and why other options were not looked into to find a reasonable, effective and affordable agreement with the city and the firefighters

n. Continued on page 3A



Hillsboro High School grad and Coffeen native Justin Kershaw (left) and East Alton-Wood River grad Alex Dilks (right) were sworn in as the newest members of the Litchfield Fire Department on Thursday, March 16, by Litchfield City Clerk Carol Burke and Fire Chief Adam Pennock.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelman



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Weather Forecast				
Mon 20	54° /35°	sunny sunny	√ 1%	
Tue 21	49° /40°	PM Rain	/ 86%	
Wed 22	63° /59°	AM Light Rain	/ 64%	
Thu 23	63° /41°	Thunderstorms	√ 74%	

Public Meetings

Hillsboro Planning Commission

The Hillsboro Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, March 21, beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Hillsboro City Hall. Agenda items include Imagine Hillsboro, Housing Grant, Natural Resources, Eagle Zinc and downtown building/ vacant property updates; zoning, including solar panels location, Air BnB and manufactured home location; and an update on the city from Sarah McConnell.

Litchfield School Board

Members of the Litchfield School Board will have their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, March 21, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will begin at the South Central Illinois Training and Innovation Center site, located at 2001 Eilerman Avenue for a tour of the construction progress.

Following the tour, the board will reconvene at the district office, located at 1100 N. Old Route 66 in Litchfield. Under new business, the board will discuss this year's Fogleman Scholarship amount, the IASB executive superintendent search agreement, hear updates on Litchfield Elementary School, the kindergarten and first grade renovation project at Colt School and the SCI Center, renewal of IHSA membership, amended district calendar and the board of education meeting calendar.

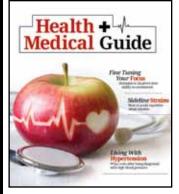
Hillsboro City Council

Hillsboro City Council will hold a public hearing at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, at the city hall building, to discuss the proposed lead service line construction. The regular city council meeting will follow at 7 p.m. Agenda items up for discussion include water rates, equipment requests and hiring a part-time employee.

Nokomis School Board

The members of Nokomis School Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21. In addition to administrative reports, agenda items include field trip requests, the IBSE Consolidated District Plan and school repairs.





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Pictured above, in front, from the left, are Montgomery County Sheriff Rick Robbins; Montgomery County Circuit Clerk Danny Robbins; Shawn Bizaillion, precinct committeman; Montgomery County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser; Roberta Meyer, secretary of the Montgomery County Republican Central Committee; Montgomery County Board member Bill Bergen; Aaron Del Mar, 2022 candidate for lieutenant governor; Montgomery County Board member Connie Beck; Wayne Rosenthal, state representative for the 108th District; Patty Whitworth, Montgomery County Board member and precinct committeewoman; Kendra Wright, Hillsboro commissioner; and John Wright, precinct committeeman.

In the back row are committeeman Daryl Hodges and Rob Corso; Montgomery County State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Hillsboro Police Chief Randy Leetham; Montgomery County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson; Montgomery County Board members Ethan Murzynski and Andy Ritchie; Josh Manning, precinct commiteeman; Tyson Holshouser, precinct committeeman; Brad Halbrook, state representative of the 102nd District; Mark Hughes, Montgomery County Board member and chairman of the Republican Central Committee; Jeremy Jones, vice-chairman of the Republican Central Committee; Judge Douglas Gruenke, candidate for appellate court judge in the 4th Judicial Circuit; Tommy Justison, treasurer for the Republican Central Committee; Jason Plummer, state senator for the 55th District; and Steve McClure, state senator for the 54th Journal-News/Bethany Martin

Republicans Rally At Annual Lincoln Day Dinner

Montgomery County Republicans rallied at the 51st annual Lincoln Day Dinner, held Saturday evening, March 18, at the Litchfield Community Center.

Montgomery County Sheriff Rick Robbins served as the master of ceremonies and welcomed Mark Hughes, Montgomery County Board member and chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Central committee, who thanked the crowd for being there. He said the Republican party is energized and excited.

Michelle Amyx sang the National Anthem and Montgomery County Circuit Clerk Danny Robbins led the Pledge of Allegiance. Before dinner, U.S. Congresswoman for District 15, Mary Miller, offered her remarks.

"It's such an honor to represent you all," said Congresswoman Miller. "I want to thank you all for your support.

Congresswoman Miller shared that she and her husband are heavily invested in the future of the country, as well as the children, and challenged everyone to do a part of the Agriculture Committee and is the vice chairman of the Education Committee. She touched on the "woke" agenda and the green new deal, and said that her staff will be offering upcoming mobile office hours to assist their local constituents with taxes, visas and veterans issues.

Following Miller's remarks, Hillsboro School Board candidate Brian Patton offered the invocation, and a prime rib dinner provided by Milanos Catering in Hillsboro was served.

Sheriff Robbins gave special thanks to Milanos Catering for the delicious meal, recognized those who helped with the meal, and introduced Montgomery County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser.

Leitheiser thanked everyone, as well as her husband, for their support, and reminded the crowd of the 2023 consolidated election on Tuesday, April 4. She also acknowledged election judges, workers and the county board members.

Aaron Del Mar, candidate for lieutenant governor in

came to speak in the absence of Attorney Thomas Devore. A Palentine native, he said Illinois is worth fighting for and when conservative principles are applied in government, state residents

Judge Douglas Gruenke, candidate for appellate court judge in the 4th Judicial Circuit, who has often served the residents in Montgomery County the past two years, was the next speaker of the evening.

He was the first judge in the state of Illinois that certified a class action lawsuit against a school district for mask mandates, right here in Montgomery County. Judge Gruenke explained the responsibilities of a judge and encouraged voters to ask sheriffs in the circuit on where he stands regarding crime and sentencing, as he was limited to what he could speak on.

State Representative for the 108th District, Wayne Rosenthal, gave a contrast of how politics have changed over the last eight years he has been out of office. He addressed the ongoing pipeline their part and be involved. 2022 and Republican State issue and explained how bills ton offered the benediction. She announced she is now Central committeeman, are passed and amended.

State Senator for the 55th District. Jason Plummer. said the party is not just here to fight, they are here to win. In the future, he hopes Republicans will work hard, put together good organizations and recruit good candidates who are disciplined and who, when elected, will earn the trust and respect to get reelected.

The final speaker of the evening was State Senator of the 54th District, Steve Mc-Clure, who is the youngest floor leader in the history of the Senate Republicans, said he and Senator Plummer are committed to turning the state around. He spoke about some of the bills he has killed, such as the sex education bill, and his work with the prisoner review board.

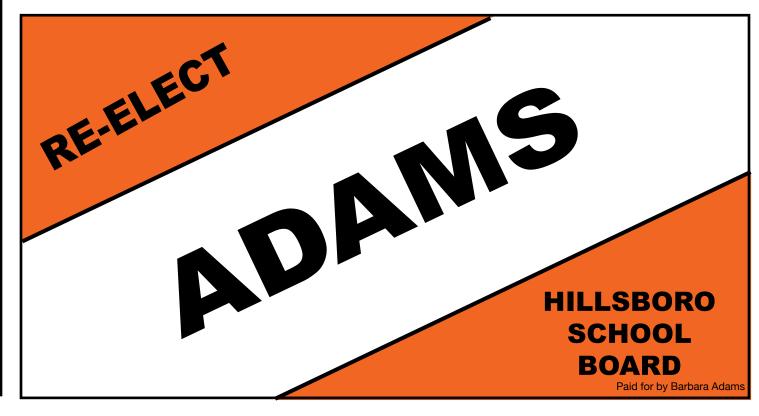
Following the remarks, lucky winners were drawn for the 50/50 raffie, Julie and Jeremy Jones of Farmersville, as well as door prizes. In closing, Sheriff Robbins encouraged the crowd to vote, Montgomery County Republican Central Commiteeman Daryl Hodges thanked everyone for their attendance, and Brian Pat-





First Graders Join Club At Madison Park School

Two first graders at Madison Park Elementary School in Litchfield are working on reading accomplishments this spring. At left, Connor Budd, pictured with his teacher Lindsey Knes, has joined the 200 Point Club in the Accelerated Reading program by reading a minimum of 400 books and answering reading comprehension questions correctly. At right, Eli Fusselman, pictured with his teacher Trish Fenton, joined the 100 Point Club in the Accelerated Reading program by reading a minimum of 200 books and answering reading comprehension questions. To celebrate, they earned lunch at Litchfield McDonald's with Principal Adam Favre.



Obituaries

Patricia 'Patty' Paden, 82 _____ Worked At Hillsboro Library



Patricia Ann "Patty" Paden, 82, of Hill-sboro, died on Sunday, March 19, 2023, at 1:20 a.m. at her residence.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, March 22, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Bass Patton Dean Funeral Home in Hillsboro. Funeral Mass will be held Thursday, March 23, beginning at 10 a.m. at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Hillsboro with Father Daniel Willenborg, pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church, officiating. Burial will follow at St. Agnes Cemetery in Hillsboro.

Mrs. Paden was born Nov. 2, 1940, in Hillsboro, to C.H. "Pat" and Olive Caroline (DePaoli) Chaudoin. She married John M. Paden on June 16, 1962, at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Hillsboro, and he preceded her in death on Aug. 1, 2021.

She graduated from Hillsboro High School with the class of 1958 and attended one year of college. She became a farm wife who raised chickens. She had also worked at Mobley's Drug Store and the Hillsboro Public Library for 35 years.

Mrs. Paden was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church, where she was a part of the Council of Catholic Women. She was also a member of the Hillsboro Public Library Board, Daughters of the American Revolution, Meals on Wheels, Moose Club #1377, Farm Bureau and several card clubs.

She loved to read and watch birds. She especially loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and attending all of their activities.

Mrs. Paden is survived by her children, Tracy (husband Lonnie) Bruce and Scott (wife Stephanie) Paden, both of Hillsboro; six grandchildren, Chelsey (husband Ross) Lamm, Becca Bruce, Gianna (husband David) Wevers, Drew (wife Mariah) Paden, Nick Bruce and Drake (fiancee Makenzie Bellaver) Paden; two great-grandchildren, Kellen Lamm and Wyatt Lamm; and sister, Edith Stahlberger.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; and siblings, Mary Martha Chaudoin and George S. Chaudoin.

Memorials may be directed to St. Agnes Catholic Church in Hillsboro. Online condolences to the family may be left at www.basspattondeanfh.com.

Norma J. Wedekind, 91 ____ **Farmwife**



Norma Joan Wedekind, 91, of Raymond, died on Friday, March 10, 2023, at 9:51 a.m. at Hillsboro Rehabilitation and Health

Visitation will be held Saturday, March 25, from 10 to 11 a.m. at A Community of Faith Church in Raymond. Funeral services will follow, beginning at 11 a.m. at the church. Burial will be held at Asbury Cemetery in Raymond. Hough Funeral Home in Raymond is assisting the family.

Mrs. Wedekind was born April 27, 1931, in Clinton, to Claude and Louise (Carter) Thorp. She married Gerald Lawrence Wedekind on Sept. 9, 1951, in Clinton, and he preceded her in death on Sept. 19, 2017.

She was a homemaker and farmwife, and with her family,

raised grain and livestock.

Mrs. Wedekind belonged to A Community of Faith Church in Raymond, was a member of the Raymond-Harvel Kiwanis, and enjoyed square dancing with the Calico Twirlers.

She is survived by her children, Rodney (Gay Davidson) Wedekind of The Villages, FL, Wayne (Rebecca) Wedekind of Butler, Jerry (Kassie Elliot) Wedekind and Jon Wedekind, both of Hotchkiss, CO, Wesley Wedekind of West Frankfort, Karen (Jeff Higbie) Wedekind of St. Peters, MO, and Larry Wedekind of Raymond; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a sister, Ruth Lutz of Dewey.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Wedekind was preceded in death by her parents; grandson, Andrew Wedekind; daughter-in-law, Wanda Wedekind; brother, Ernest Thorp; and sisters, Andrea Miller and Sarah Jackson.

Memorials may be directed to Cross Over Ministries in Montgomery County, Alzheimer's Association, A Community of Faith Church in Raymond or the Red Cross Flood Relief. Online condolences to the family may be left at www. houghfuneralhome.com.

Faye Graves, 87 Witt Resident



Faye Graves, 87, of Witt, died on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Hillsboro Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

Visitation will be held Monday, March 20, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at Stiehl-Dawson Funeral Home in Nokomis. Funeral services will follow, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be held at Nokomis Cemetery.

Mrs. Graves was born July 20, 1935, in Hayleyville, AL, to Newton and Pairlee (Peppers) Woodall. She married Buddy

Graves, and he preceded her in death. She is survived by her daughters, Linda Cearlock of

Harvel and Kathy (Russ) Abrams of Witt; grandsons, David (Samantha) Cearlock and Joe (Sarah) Cearlock; and greatgrandsons, Jonathan Cearlock and Andrew Cearlock.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Graves was preceded in death by her parents; and siblings, Charles, Cecil, Jim and Billy Woodall and Betty Schemp.

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

Dean Huff, 76

Services In Greenville



Dean Huff, 76, of Greenville, died on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at his home. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the time of service, at noon, on Monday, March 20, at the Donnell-Wiegand Funeral Home in Greenville. Interment will follow at Mt. Auburn Cemetery. The Donnell-Wiegand Funeral Home in Greenville is assisting the family with arrangements.

Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, helping veterans, online at https://support.woundedwarriorpro-

ject.org or make check to Donnell-Wiegand Funeral Home, memo line HUFF WWP. Condolences may be left online at www.donnellwiegand.com.

Hillsboro Committee Hears Report About Lakes

by Ron Deabenderfer

Chairman Kyle Hacke, Secretary Dave Strowmatt, Bret Reeves, and newlyappointed member Thomas Reynolds made a quorum for Hillsboro's Natural Resources Committee when it convened Wednesday evening, March 15, in city hall. Also in attendance were Public Properties and Parks Department Commissioner Fred Butler and the Superintendent of that department, Jim May.

May and Strowmatt reported about a boat tour of both lakes they took with Jeff Beckler, the chief administrator of Northwater; their intent was to identify

rap and to observe what has happened at locations where water enters the lake from tributaries. Conclusions? Erosion is everywhere, and it's possible a berm of soil fortified by rocks at sites where water enters the lake may be more effective than current rip-rap programs.

May said because the Army Corps of Engineers helped with lake construction, any effort to add riprap must be permitted by the Corps. The city hadn't jumped through that hoop before because no one knew about it until Beckler reminded them; in good news, Beckler said the permits are free and approval is usually

quick, so it isn't an obstacle. The three will do a "wind-

shield" cruise (by land vehicle) soon to check out the land surrounding the lakes, looking for the likely sources of erosion; they need a lay-of-the-land appraisal to draw effective plans of prevention.

Butler said the parts are in to repair the drawdown system in the older lake; the plan is to drop the water level five feet in that 105 year old body of water. Butler said repairing the spillway as mandated by the IEPA is the most immediate priority, but much other work must be done while the water level is low. Once the drawdown is complete,

low until other tasks are finished; it won't be a quick fix. "Work in either or both lakes now will save money in the future," Butler said.

In other announcements, the committee learned that the campground will open on April 1 and that volunteers are needed to help with Glenn Shoals Lake cleanup on Saturday, May 20. Dumpsters will be located at the South Marina, and there will be targeted areas and lots that are more in need of clean-up. It is to be an organized effort in order to produce effective results.

The committee next meets on Wednesday, April 19, at 6 p.m. in city hall.

SAFE-T Act Arguments

Continued from front page

In oral arguments before the high court Tuesday, Deputy Solicitor General Alex Hemmer with the attorney general's office argued that if the circuit court's ruling is allowed to stand it would severely limit the future authority of the General Assembly.

The high court, Hemmer argued, has consistently allowed the General Assembly to regulate pretrial practices, including by setting sentencing requirements, prohibiting the use of unsecured commercial bail bonds and prohibiting detention in certain circumstances.

"We're talking about six decades of legislative regulation of pretrial practices that are all called into question by plaintiffs' expansive reading of judicial power and their narrow reading of legislative power in this area," Hemmer

The constitution's mention of bail and "sufficient sureties" don't imply a monetary nature, he argued. He said that language was derived from the state's 1818 constitution which passed at a time when the modern monetary bail system was "all but unknown."

"Bailable just meant eligible for release on those conditions imposed by a court," he said.

Judges maintain the authority to impose conditions of release under the new law, he added.

But opponents argued the constitution's mentions of "bail" essentially serve as a requirement that the state maintains a system of monetary bail.

In particular, the prosecutors argued that the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights was brought to voters as a constitutional amendment in 2014, which was the proper avenue for such a change.

Kankakee County State's Attorney James Rowe argued that lawmakers put amendments to the voters in the 1980s when looking to expand the list of nonbailable offenses in the constitution. He contrasted that effort with the January 2021 passage of the SAFE-TAct which moved quickly through the legislature and came for a vote in the middle of the night.

Hemmer countered that the constitution has multiple references to institutions that no longer exist.

"The bail clause itself refers to capital offenses, but there are no more capital offenses in Illinois," he said. "No one would argue. I think. that the bail clause requires the state to maintain capital offenses simply by referring to it and the same is true

Each side faced questioning from the court which has a 5-2 majority of justices who ran as Democrats.

Rowe was just one sentence into his opening remarks, stating his "oath in the interest of public safety" compelled him to challenge the law, when Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis interjected.

"So I'm gonna stop you right there," Theis said before questioning whether the state's attorneys had legal standing to bring the challenge

"This court has said a party has standing to challenge the constitutionality of a statute only insofar as it adversely impacts his or her own rights... How does this statute adversely impact the rights of elected state's attorneys and sheriffs?" she asked.

 $Rowe\, responded\, the\, group$ had standing because they swore a duty to uphold the constitution. Their responded that judges and lawyers also swear such an oath.

"Are you saying that every lawyer in the state of Illinois has standing to challenge a statute they don't like?" she asked.

Rowe responded that he was not, but state's attorneys 'stand in a very unique position" because they "are the only ones that can go into a courtroom and file a petition ... to deny bail to someone."

He added that prosecutors "have an inherent interest in ensuring that we can move cases through the court system, that we can secure a defendant's appearance at trial."

Why don't you continue to have that right?" Theis interjected. "If you say it's a right-a constitutional right, I'm not sure – but you say you have a right to ensure that defendants appear ... doesn't that continue under this Act?" she asked.
"Well, the act abolishes

the opportunity for a state's attorney to even request a monetary bail as a sufficient surety," Rowe said. "And for the sheriff, the sheriff has to ensure effectively the safety of every law enforcement officer under his charge."

Rowe argued that requiring sheriffs to serve a notice to appear and a warrant on two occasions doubles their risk of harm. And he later added prosecutors should be able to assert rights on behalf of a victim.

"So plaintiffs squarely believe that prosecutors and sheriffs have standing to pursue these matters. And we further believe that the act is unconstitutional," he said.

The court put the case on an expedited schedule and a decision is expected later this year, although the court did not set a specific timeline.

Litchfield City Council

Haenel also questioned why his calls to Alderman Woodrow Street, the alderman for Haenel's ward and the fire department, were not returned and why the city would open itself up to legislation due to violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Equal **Employment Opportunity** Commission.

Haenel asked why they would let go a veteran firefighter who had 400 duty days until retirement when they were spending thousands of dollars in overtime due to personnel shortages. He ended by saying that he was looking forward to speaking to the council more on the matter in the near future.

In other business, Luke Sparks of Kemper CPA Group presented the city's audit, thanking Burke for her assistance in completing the required work. Sparks said that the city does not implement three Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards so the audit could not be completely clean. He added that the funds could be divided into three categories (government wide, proprietary and fiduciary) and that there were no significant variances or disagreements and that the city did have a clean audit of the government and fiduciary funds.

Mayor Steve Dougherty

ing the city with a clear and concise audit, saying that the city made a dozen phone calls attempting to find a firm to do the audit and Kemper CPA Group was the only one able to do it.

The city's budget officer, Jereme Zook of Kerber, Eck and Braeckel, was also on hand to present the proposed budget for 2023-24 and 2024-25. Zook said the city has done a good job in building funds back up after they dipped during the pandemic, going from having a surplus of 17.5 percent of operating expenses to a projected 29.3 percent of operating expenses in two years. The city has an ordinance requiring they have 25 percent of operating expenses, with requirements to build up the fund if it hits 15 percent or find projects to spend funds on if it reaches 30 percent.

Žook said that the general revenue fund was up and spending as a whole was down, but revenue from the water and sewer fund was down from projections. The city has budgeted a 12 percent increase in sewer rates this year and an eight percent increase in the year after. Zook said that projects and repairs totalling three million dollars are planned for the sewer department over the next three years.

No water rate increase is planned for this coming year, with a one percent increase

Continued from front page thanked Sparks for provid- planned for the year after. Water department repairs and replacement are projected to be at \$1.66 million over the next three years.

Other items highlighted by Zook included that other funding will be used by the $city \, in \, \widetilde{street} \, repairs \, in \, order \,$ to build up the Motor Fuel Tax fund, legal fees have increased in part due to the negotiation of three city labor contracts and a new street building on the east side of the city is budgeted, with the \$800,000 project scheduled to be paid off over 20 years.

Zook said the city continues to make good use of grants for such projects as repairs to Ferdon Street and the sports complex coming to the westside of the city. He added that the city has also returned to contributing to the equipment replacement fund, which will be used to purchase patrol cars for the police department, equipment for the street department, a patrol boat for the lake department and a mini pumper for the fire depart-

MayorDoughertysummed up the presentation once Zook was done by saying that the city had "survived and thrived."

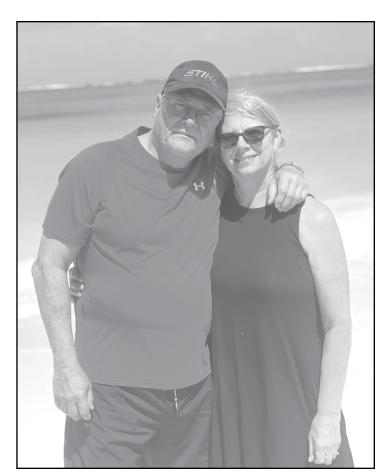
After the budget presentation, the council approved motions to approve the purchase of software and services from Civic Systems for \$14,350 for the city clerk and finance department, to approve the purchase of aquatic play equipment from Commercial Recreation Specialists for \$28,810, to approve the extension of the city's operating agreement with Grand Rental for boat rental services at Lake Lou Yaeger, to approve repairs to Ladder Truck 803 by Mac's Fire and Safety for an amount not to exceed \$5,586.74 and to approve an ordinance declaring the properties at 908 North Chestnut and 303 South Grant as surplus.

Before adjourning at 7:49 p.m., Mayor Dougherty informed the council that there was no update on the city's contract with the Fraternal Order of Police.





Family



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Elam today

Frank And Carol Elam **Celebrate Five Decades**

Frank and Carol Elam celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, March 10, 2023.

The couple was joined in marriage on March 10, 1973, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Irving.

Mrs. Elam is a retired nurse from HSHS Medical Center in Hillsboro. Mr. Elam is retired from the State of

The couple is blessed with three daughters; and four grandchildren.



The Elams in 1973

Nokomis Prepares For City Wide Garage Sale

Let the spring cleaning begin. The Nokomis city-wide garage sale will be held on Friday, April 21, and Saturday, April 22.

Nokomis Chamber of Commerce will print maps for the two-day event, and to *imarquess*77@hotmail. including participant information free of charge. information contact JoAnn Information, including a lo- Marquess at 217-563-7626.

Information can be emailed com. For questions or further

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traditional,

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has the wedding

invitations you need.

See our

Carlson Craft

selections.

We will help make

your wedding special with our

Carlson Craft

Invitations and more.

cation and details regarding the individual garage sale must be submitted to the chamber by Friday, April 14, to allow time for the maps to be printed.

Hillsboro Senior Club Will Meet On March 28

Hillsboro Community Senior Club will meet at on Tuesday, March 28, at the Senior Center in Hillsboro.

The club will eat at noon. There has been a change in the meat that will be served,

the main course will be ham this month. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish.

Those interested in attending should call Lynn at 217-532-3662 to make a reservation by Friday, March 24.

Local To Global Workshop Centers On Selling Online

Logan Altenberger, owner of the downtown Hillsboro-based business Alpha Candles, is hosting a free workshop on Friday, March 24, at the Hiltop Coop. A networking event will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the workshop

to start at 7 p.m.
__Titled "Local to Global: How Amazon can make your small town business go big,' the informational event will focus on why small business owners should sell online. Altenberger will also highlight the basics of selling on the virtual shopping platform.

A Hillsboro High School graduate, Altenberger began his career as a student in the Montgomery County CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) program during the 2018-2019 school

After taking a brief hiatus to pursue other opportunities, Altenberger reopened his student business, Alpha Candles, at 106 Wood Street in Hillsboro on Saturday, Oct. 15. Since that time he has collaborated with several of his fellow small business owners to create customized candles, including the Gold Pan Records, The Orpheum, The Opera House Brewing Company and Black Rabbit. In addition to manufacturing and selling his candles locally, Altenberger offers many of them on his virtual store on Amazon.

In addition to Altenberger, Josh McGill, a warehouse manager, and Cisco, an entrepreneur, will speak during the workshop. Altenberger hopes the workshop will help other business owners step into the realm of offering their wares online to reach a broader customer base.

Pinning Ceremony Will Honor Vietnam Veterans

In recognition of National Vietnam War Veterans Day, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, in partnership with the American Legion Post #73 and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, will host a pinning ceremony to honor the service of Vietnam veterans and their families at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29, at the American Legion, located at 110 West Franklin in Taylorville.

"We join people across the nation to recognize Vietnam War Veterans and their families who served their country during a tumultuous time in our history as part of the United States of

America Vietnam War Commemoration," said Director Terry Prince. "This is our small gesture to welcome our heroes home and recognize their service and sacrifice."

On Vietnam War VeteransDay, thousands of organizations from across the nation join to honor and thank over six million Vietnam War veterans and nine million family members for their service and sacrifice.

They do this through various ceremonies and vigils where every Vietnam Veteran, surviving spouse or family member is properly welcomed home and receives a lapel pin as a small token of the Nation's gratitude.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Panhandle Educational Foundation's annual CRAMY EIGHT'S

Dessert Wheel



Saturday, March 25
Waggoner Centennial Building

Doors open at 6 p.m. ~ Trivia begins at 6:30 p.m. No pre-registration is required. Simply arrive at the Centennial Building. -\$88 per team -Up to 10-person team

Bring Your Own Drinks & Snacks

Funds raised are used to provide grants for Panhandle teachers & Panhandle student scholarships

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The Journal-News

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SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 Serving from 12 Noon-6 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church & School 1301 N. State Street, Litchfield

Proceeds benefit Zion Lutheran Church & School Building Project!

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-•— NEW ITEM THIS YEAR —•— **COOKED LINK SAUSAGE • 1 DOZEN \$15**

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Annual Hillsboro United Methodist Church PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST **To Benefit SIMEON HUBER & FAMILY** and **KINSLEY TRADER & FAMILY** Saturday, March 25 7 a.m.-12 Noon **Hillsboro United Methodist Church 537 Rountree Street**

– All You Can Eat —

Donations Greatly Appreciated!



or Society raised more than Tuetken and Tycen Thacker. \$5,000 during a multi-event benefit for Simeon "Simmy"

Feb. 25. Among the many activities that took place throughout the school's campus was a Cornhole Tournament, led

Huber, held on Saturday,

by Kristi Andrews and the National Honor Society. The first winners were Jackson

Tycen Thacker

Simmy, the son of Seth and Jessie (Harling) Huber of Hillsboro, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in August 2022. All proceeds went directly to the family to help cover expenses.



Above, Litchfield FFA member Amanda Niemann (right) is congratulated by Section 15 President Riley Kessler (left) for being recognized as the IAVAT District #3 FFA Proficiency

Amanda Niemann Named IAVAT Proficiency Winner

Litchfield High School FFA (Future Farmers of America) member Amanda Niemann was recognized as the IAVAT District #3 FFA Proficiency winner in vegetable production.

 $Eac\bar{h}\,year, the\,Illinois\,FFA$ recognizes students in fortyeight different areas based on their work-based learning, also known as Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through record keeping, leadership and scholastic achievement may be considered for this award.

SAEs allow students to learn by doing by either owning and operating an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at an agriculture-based business or conducting an agriculturebased scientific experiment and reporting results.

Niemann was selected as the District #3 winner by a committee of agriculture industry representatives and teachers knowledgeable in this work-based area. She is the daughter of Jay and Connie Niemann from Litchfield.

Receiving this honor now makes Niemann eligible to compete in the State FFA Awards Selection process in Decatur, on Saturday, March 25. She was previously chosen as the chapter and section awardee is this area, as well as the Litchfield and Section 15 Star Farmer. Niemann will receive plagues for her accomplishments. These plaques are made possible by gifts by individuals, businesses, corporations and organizations through the Illinois Foundation FFA.



217-324-6044 Must be 21 to purchase. Price does not include sales tax.

Sale dates are March 20, 2023 through April 2, 2023.

HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS CLASSROOM **SUPPLIES BENEFIT**

CNB parking lot in Hillsboro Saturday, March 25th 11 a.m.-SOLD OUT Homemade Ham & Beans, Cornbread, Coookie & Water

All proceeds go to Hillsboro Teachers **Classroom Supplies Fund**

Hosted by Montgomery County Democrat Central Committee



REDSKIN REVIEW • by Hailey Engelman at Nokomis

NHS Gives To Nokomis Christian Missions



skins fans! I want to tell you all happy first day of spring, but it does not quite feel like spring weath-

First, I would like to remind everyone that the NHS will be releasing students for a noon dismissal on Friday, March 24.

The Kaskaskia Region of the Illinois Principal Association held their annual Student Recognition Breakfast last week. Mrs. McDowell was accompanied by a senior, Emily Cress, to be recognized for her academic excellence.

Last week, a school-wide assembly was held to recognize Nokomis' Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) achievements. Classroom representatives for this month met with Shawna Beckerman, a CKH leadership development strategist. She has supported the NHS through their many activities this school year!

Each character education/ advocacy class has put together a basket auction and bake sale to raise money for Nokomis Christian Missions/ Food Pantry throughout the year. We presented a check for an impressive \$2,300 to the organization at the assembly. As young students, we should be so proud of our hard work to give back

Hello, Red- to such an amazing organi- had three NHS students zation!

> The Nokomis Music Department was visited by Blackburn College last week! They came to the NHS to perform for our students. What a great opportunity!

> Mark your calendars for the Montgomery CEO Marketplace on Friday, May 5, from 4 to 7 p.m. Don't miss out on checking out these students' personal businesses!

> Last week was full of meetings for many of the clubs at Nokomis. The German club had a meeting to discuss their future field trip to the Hofbrauhaus in Belleville on Thursday, April 13. The Science Club held an officer meeting this week to discuss club activities, so those will be put into action soon. Abass fishing team meeting was held last week as well, and all of those who are interested can get more information from Mr. Reedy. There will be an FFA meeting tonight, March 20, at 7 p.m. to vote for next year's officers.

> Speaking of the FFA, I'm sure no one will be surprised to learn that they have won more awards in the past week! The Nokomis FFA poultry team has won first place for two years in a row! Most impressively with a team of all freshmen and sophomores, including Kinley Stolte, Andrew Suslee, Walker Stewart, Nic Huston, Rebecca Hill, Elizabeth Hill and Bond Knodle. We also

placing in the top six. Congratulations!

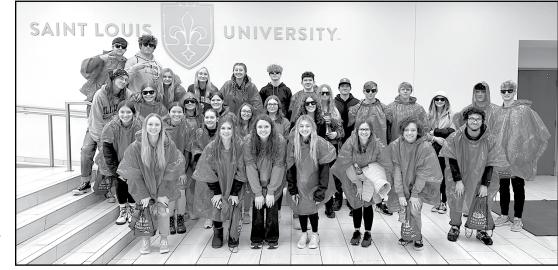
I would like to remind students that cheerleading sign-ups have opened and are in the high school office for anyone interested.

In sports, baseball and softball each faced some disappointments with the spring weather conflicting. Softball only played one of its three scheduled games, which they lost in a tough battle to Staunton. Their Greenville and Warrensburg games may be rescheduled later in the season. They plan for a full week next week, with games every day other than Friday. They will play North Mac, Altamont, Gillespie, Carlinville and Eisenhower.

Baseball had similar issues with weather, but were able to pick up a game with Altamont in which they lost to a tough team. The junior varsity team lost to Shelbyville, but we've now shaken off the first game jitters and are ready to bounce back this week! The boys will play North Mac, Mt. Pulaski, Mulberry Grove, Carlinville and Pawnee.

Track will travel to North Mac for two different meets, as well as Litchfield to finish their week off. Let's hope for good weather to get some games in! Good luck to all teams!

I'll see you all next week for more Redskin Review!



Hillsboro Students Attend Class At SLU

Amber Connor and the students in her Biology 1240/1245 classes at Hillsboro High School recently took a field trip to St. Louis University. In addition to touring the campus, the local high schoolers spoke to a panel of biology majors and attended a Biology 1260 lecture. Afterwards, they were treated to lunch in the Grand Dining Hall. Each of the students returned home with a SLU swag bag and a poncho.

PANTHER PRESS • by Morgan Lemon at Litchfield

Spring Sports In Full Swing At LHS



Monday, Panthers! Welcome back to a full week of school.

Sullivan's is looking for a delivery driv-

er for after school. If that is of interest to you, please request more information at Sullivan's on Union Ave.

If you are interested in bass fishing, please sign up in Student Services.

The Make-It program

is looking for students for the after-school program. If interested please email kwalker@litchfieldpanthers. org.
The Sky-View Drive-In

is holding open interviews tonight from 4 to 6 p.m. They will have applications on hand. It is that time of year

again! Be sure to stop by the

office and drop some coins in

a jar to vote for a teacher to

kiss a goat. The teacher with the most money in their jar will kiss a goat on Monday, March 27. All the money raised will be donated to the Litchfield Food Pantry.

Upcoming events: March 30-April 1, Šeussical; April 5 - April 10, spring break; May 6, Prom; May 15, scholarship awards night; May 16-18, final exams; May 18, last full

day for students. Litchfield High School does daily shout-outs that highlight specific staff members or students. Last week's highlights were: "Three LHS freshmen won in the Illinois

Environmental Protection Agency's High School Poetry Contest: Environmental Justice: a Healthy Community for All! - Uplifting Community Voices! Melody Ellinger took third place for her poem "Environmental Justice = HappyEarth," Brooke Braasch took second place for her poem "Environmental

Injustice" and Maya Estell

took first place for her poem

"Ackowledge, Act, Purpose." Sports

Monday, March 20: Soccer at home against Civic Memorial at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21: Baseball at Taylorville at 4:30 p.m.; varsity at Taylorville High School; junior varsity at Manners Park: Softball at Taylorville at 4:30 p.m.; high school track at North Mac at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 23: Varsity baseball at home against New Berlin at 4:30 p.m.; junior varsity baseball at Southeast at 4:30 p.m.; Softball at Marquette at 4:30 p.m.; Soccer at home against Athens at 5 p.m.

Friday, March 24: High school track at home (Litchfield Relays) at 4 p.m.; softball at home against Pawnee at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 25: Junior varsity baseball at Lincolnwood at 11 a.m.

Have a great week, Panthers, and keep filling out scholarships, seniors!



Third Graders Enjoy Junior Blues Game

The third grade students in Mrs. Keri Roesch's class at Beckemeyer Elementary School enjoyed being "classroom of the night" at the Springfield Junior Blues game on Saturday, March 4. The classmates had a great time watching the hockey game together.



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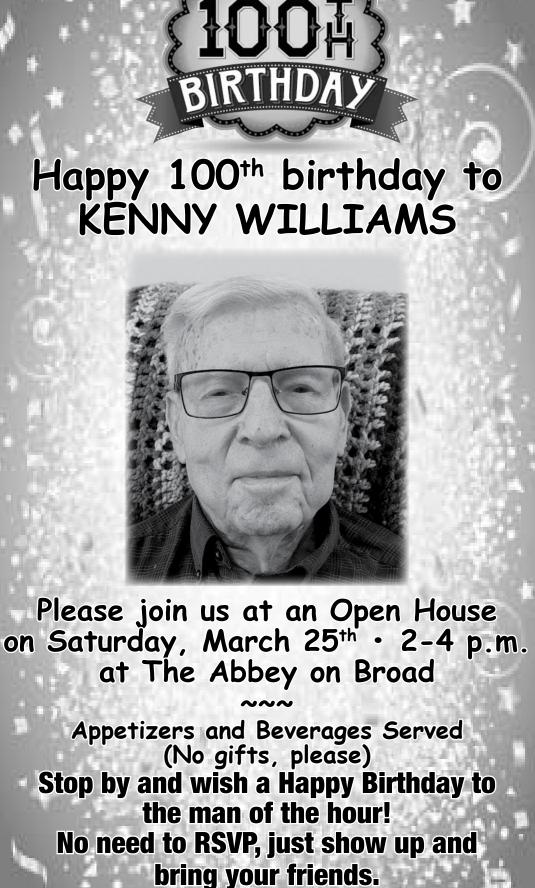
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Hosted by Mark and Barb Williams



Volunteer Nancy Redman made a special presentation about birds to students in the Hillsboro Community Child Development Center in February.

Nancy Redman Teaches Program On Local Birds

Nancy Redman, educational coordinator for Bremer Sanctuary, presented a program to the students enrolled at the Hillsboro Community Child Development Center, on local birds.

There were 39 students, ages three to five years old, who had been studying a bird unit for two weeks. Redman was invited to help enhance their knowledge.

Participants were introduced to 12 local species by a visual flash card, auditory call and fun facts about each species. Plush toy birds helped to enhance the experience.

Feathers were available for a "see and feel" segment so that students could match up the species with the birds they were being introduced

A fun time was had by all. Redman was awed by the knowledge the students had already had from their teacher, Mrs. Shelby Martincic

Local Gardening Program Wins State Award

A popular Extension gardening program was honored by University of Illinois Extension during the Extension Annual Conference in November, for its dedication to constant evaluation and adaptation of educational programming.

The Four Seasons Gardening series addresses home and community garden issues that encourage residents to protect the environment, grow food safely, and save money by reducing unnecessary inputs.

In 2021, the monthly online webinars reached nearly 2,500 people live; recorded videos received more than 6,800 views. Ninety-three percent of respondents say they took action based on information they received during a Four Seasons webinar.

Since 2019, in addition to the customized session evaluations after each webinar, the team implemented an end-of-the-year survey to track impact and change of behavior from participants. The evaluation process represents a gold-standard approach to program development and delivery.

"The team has used the evaluation information to help inform and drive improvements, ask questions about the program, and continue the engagement beyond the webinar," says Chris Enroth, Illinois Extension horticulture



A team of horticulture educators and evaluation specialist was recognized by University of Illinois Extension for excellence in program evaluation. Pictured above, from the left, are Nancy Kreith, Andrew Holsinger, Gemini Bhalsod, Karen Winter-Nelson and award presenter, Extension Director Shelly Nickols-Richardson.

educator.
The award-winning team includes horticulture educators Gemini Bhalsod, Nancy Kreith, and Andrew Holsinger and Extension evaluation specialist Karen Winter-Nelson. Andrew Holsinger, serves Christian, Jersey, Macoupin, and Montgomery counties as the horticulture educator.

The gardening series increased participant knowledge and expanded practices that support healthy environments and sustainable landscapes, such as feeding pollinators and increased use of native plants.

"The team's evaluation process was effective at documenting and achieving program short-term and medium-term goals, increasing participant knowledge, expanding practices that support plant health, therapeutic uses of plants and gardens, and sustainable landscapes," says

county director. "The Four Seasons evaluation tools could serve as a model for other statewide webinar programs in need of demonstrating impact."

Information about upcoming webinars is available at go.illinois.edu/FourSeasonsGardening.

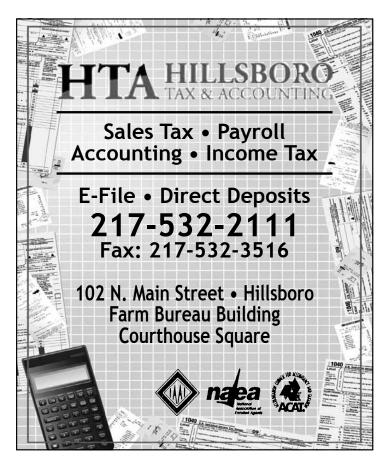
edge, expanding practices that support plant health, therapeutic uses of plants and gardens, and sustainable landscapes," says Willene Buffet, Extension "The Four Seasons webinar series remains a reliable and trusted source of information for Illinois residents and those beyond our state borders," Enroth says.

ROE Program Students Dismiss Early March 24

Students enrolled in the Regional Office of Education #3 (ROE) alternative education programs in Litchfield, Vandalia and Effingham will dismiss early on Friday, March 24, at 11:30 a.m. for school improvement.

School will resume on Monday, March 27.

Questions may be directed to Laura Benhoff at 618-283-9311, Kristin Charlesworth at 217-408-2185 or Amber Kidd at 217-342-2865.



Nokomis Chamber Elects Board Members For New Year

As part of their annual business meeting, members of the Nokomis Chamber of Commerce elected six new board members of the 2023-24 year on Monday night, March 13, at Demi's Diner.

Those vying for the board positions were Judy Rupert, Judy Beaman, Dr. Scott Doerr, Jo Ann Keele and Roger Blankenship, all of which were seeking re-election to the board. Ed Chausse and Jake Leonard were seeking the sixth and final board seat, due to the retirement of Treasurer Loren Compton. Chausse was elected for the vacancy.

Votes were collected and counted by Chris Compton and Lola Spears.

Members enjoyed a spaghetti dinner and special guest speaker Rep. Brad Holbrook, who offered an interesting and enlightening presentation on the current matters of interest at the state government level topics, including the gun ban bill, wind and solar energy (including the need for base energy operation), the Safety Act and more.

Rep. Holbrook also discussed the CO2 pipeline, stating that he is the servant of his constituents and spends much of his time on specific needs of those who contact him. He may be reached at



The Nokomis Chamber of Commerce elected six board members for the 2023-24 year during their meeting on Monday, March 13. Pictured in front, from the left, are Director Jo Ann Keele, Director Judy Beaman and Vice President Judy Rupert. In the back row are Secretary Roger Blankenship, President Dr. Scott Doerr and Treasurer Ed Chausse.

Photo courtesy of Jake Leonard/Heartland Newsfeed

217-774-1306.

During the regular business meeting, members approved minutes of the January meeting, as well as the treasurer's report, which shows available funds of \$3,046.42, the bicentennial C.D. at \$2,712.40 and mine property C.D. at \$46,242.03.

An advertising budget for the rummage sale on April 21-22 was set for \$200 and approved.

The meeting time for regular meetings was changed to 12 p.m.

Those present for the meeting included Judy Rupert, Jim and Jo Ann Keele, Harold

and Judy Beaman, Loren and Chris Compton, Dr. Scott Doerr, Ed Chausse, Tom and Lola Spears, Steven Jansen, Chad Ruppert, Jake Leonard and Roger and Janet Blankenship.

The next meeting will be held May 11, at Demi's Diner in Nokomis.

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LA-Z-BOY



March 21, 2023

is National Ag Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture.

As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber and renewable resources produced in the United

The National Ag Day program believes that every American should:

- 1 understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are
- 2 value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong
- **3** appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant
- acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis, and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather together to promote American agriculture. This effort helps educate millions of consumers.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in helping spread the word. A few generations ago, most Americans were directly involved in—or had relatives or friends involved in—agricultural-related endeavors. Today, that is no longer the case. That is why it is so important that we join together at the community level...our voices, in concert, become a shout that carries our message a great deal further than any one of us can do alone! We are pleased that you have joined this effort to promote American agriculture.

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Litchfield Library Adds Wall Hanging To Decor

The Litchfield Public Library will soon be adding new décor to the computer lab. This quilt will be used as a wall hanging in the lab. It features T-shirts from all of the summer reading and special events from the library. The oldest is from 2007, and the newest is from the 2022 summer reading programs. Shirts were available to patrons for purchase each year or were "staff exclusive" shirts for events. The quilt was made by Project RePat. Shown displaying the quilt are Melissa Hopkins, library assistant and Library Director Sara Zumwalt.



Roger Blankenship officially retired from the First National Above, are Steve Johnson and Roger Blankenship.

First National Bank Says Goodbye To Blankenship

Roger Blankenship retired from the First National Bank of Nokomis Board of Directors, during their meeting on Thursday, March 8.

Blankenship has been on the board longer than anyone in the bank's history, having served as a director since 1980. A past chairman of the board and president of the bank, Blankenship started with First National Bank in the early 1960s and has seen many business cycles and innovations throughout the bank and community.

"We will miss Roger's wit and insight on the board, as he has provided his perspective by drawing more than six decades of banking experience," said Steve Johnson, speaking on behalf of the board of directors. "Enjoy the free time, Roger."

Litchfield Chamber Welcomes Back Chapps

Litchfield Chamber of Commerce welcomed back one of the city's favorite hangouts, Chapps, with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday afternoon, March 17.

"Congratulations Jess and Donna," Chamber President Mike Strubhart said, opening the ribbon cutting ceremony. "It know it has been a rough past year but we want to celebrate everything you went through to get to this point. Chapps looks amazing. Enjoy your new adventure as you move forward."

Long a fixture at 119 W. Edwards Street, the Chapps Tavern was opened by the late Jerry Bradburn on Dec. 31, 1992. Friday's grand reopening comes four months after the bar was damaged during a fire in an adjacent property on November, 11, 2022. Chapps underwent an extensive remodel, that included a new epoxy floor, new bar, new windows and a new bathroom.

"My parents opened this bar in 1993 and it hasn't undergone a serious remodel in almost 30 years," said Jessica Vickery, who took over day-to-day operations of the business several years ago. "The remodel was definitely needed. The fire ended up



Litchfield Chamber of Commerce welcomed back Chapps with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, March 17. Above are Jessica Vickery and Donna Bradburn (center), Brittany Ronco, Lacey Pfeiffer, Chelsie Childers, Jacob Hudson, Kelly Newingham, and Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Board members, Candi Mazza, Mandy Jewell, Kassidy Paine, President Mike Strubhart and Vice-President Julie Timmermann. Journal-News/Tori O'Dell

turning into a blessing in invited to help celebrate the disguise."

Vickery hopes their customers will feel the same way when they see the newly revitalized tavern. Regulars and new patrons alike were

reopening, which luckily enough just happened to fall on St. Patrick's Day. The celebration included A&G's Kitchen food truck on site in the afternoon and local

favorite 10-55 taking the stage in the nighttime hours.

More information about Chapps upcoming events can be found online at www. facebook.com/Chapps 13.

Litchfield Arby's Gets A New Look This Spring

Flynn Restaurant Group, LLC, Arby's largest franchise, recently announced the completion of its \$11.5 million year long brand revitalization of 32 Arby's locations across the St. Louis area, including their Litchfield location.

With the goal of leaving each Arby's restaurant with a fresh, new and improved look and feel, RB American Group, which owns and operates over 360 Arby's restaurants throughout ten states, by adding over 500 jobs to these respective local economies.

'We are excited to announce the completion of our multi-million dollar Arby's renovation project across the greater St. Louis area, said Jerrod Mitchell, vice-president of marketing for Flynn Restaurant Group. "As a local partner, Flynn Restaurant Group is constantly looking for ways to positively impact and give back to the communities in which we serve. Through these remodels and resulting job opportunities,



Flynn Restaurant Group, LLC, recently unveiled a year long revitalization of 32 Arby's locations, including their Litchfield location.

we hope to demonstrate our commitment to improve the

across Illinois and Missouri." Each newly remodeled Arby's restaurant features all-new enhancements, in-

cluding the brand's upgrades "inspired" aesthetics, featur-Arby's dining experience to ing transformative exteriors, valued guests and employees new authentic textures, multi-colored wood materials, modern lighting and chalkboard graphics. Construction of each remodel

took a few weeks, with each drive-thru remaining open to guests and offering a fantastic construction deal - buy one, get one free classic roast beef sandwiches.

Flynn Restaurant Group's revitalization project began in January 2022, bringing enhancements to Arby's restaurants in communities across Illinois and Missouri. Enhancements were made without disrupting the restaurant service or food quality Arby's guests have come to know and love.

To celebrate the market wide renovation project with new and returning guests, revitalized restaurants owned and operated by Flynn Restaurant Group will offer a limited-time only four for \$10 classic roast beef sandwich bundle, encouraging guests to "meat" the new Arby's and enjoy the new look and feel of local restaurants.

More information, including details on employment opportunities, can be found online at *work4arbys.com*.

Boating Safety Course Set For This Weekend

Flotilla 34 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will host a boating safety course from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, at Lake Lou Yaeger, located at 4943 Beach House Road, in Litchfield.

This in-depth boating safety course will cover general boating terms, boating laws and regulations, boating equipment, navigation rules, operating a vessel safely, anchoring, personal watercraft and so much

Attendees will leave with the knowledge needed to obtain a boat license or safety certification. In Illinois, those born after January 1, 1998, need to have a license to pilot a boat. In Missouri, the date is January 1, 1984. Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully

completed the Boat America course.

Fees are set at \$25, which covers the cost of the Boat America books, a full-color 63 page text book with study guide, Boating Safely Certificate, Boating Safely Wallet Card and end of course examination.

A \$5 fee will be charged for each additional person, after a book has been purchased, includes the Certificate, Wallet Card and end of course examination.

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seating, those interested are instructed to register by contacting Public Education Officer Larry Miller at 618-616-9415, eljayem@ gmail.com.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary created by an Act of Congress in 1939 is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard supporting the Coast Guard in nearly all its missions. For more information on the Coast Guard Auxiliary, please visit *cgaux.org*.



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Hillsboro, IL 62049 Monday, March 20, 2023

Two Up, Two Down For Lady Panthers

Last year, the Litchfield High School softball team needed 18 games to pick up their second victory of the season. But with an influx of talent from new co-op partner Mt. Olive, the Lady Panthers have hit that number in much, much less time.

With former assistant coach Steph (Luttrell) Reynolds taking over as head coach, the Panthers are 2-0 to start the 2023 season, scoring a 4-3 win over Lebanon on March 15 and a 5-4 win over Greenfield-Northwestern on March 16.

In the win over Lebanon, the Panthers got all the run support starting pitcher Laynie Wyatt needed in the third inning as they scored four runs on a walk and four hits.

Down 2-0 to the Greyhounds, the walk came in the first at-bat of the inning as Alyssa Aubuschon took five straight pitches before moving to first. Aubuschon was Litchfield's third baserunner of the game, with Bella Roach reaching on a leadoff triple in the first only to be stuck there and Charlie Bono drawing a two-out walk in the second before Lebanon got out of the inning.

Roach singled for her second hit of the game after the walk to Aubuschon and moved to second on the throw to third trying to get the lead baserunner. Lebanon starter Brooke Goetter struck out the next batter, but Lili Readenour tied the game with one swing on a double to center field that scored both Aubuschon and Roach.

A second straight double, this one by Emma Walch, drove in Readenour before Goetter picked up out num-



Litchfield pitcher Laynie Wyatt is one of the reasons the Lady Panthers are 2-0 to start the 2023 season as she put together two strong outings in the wins over Lebanon and Greenfield-Northwestern on March 15 and 16. Wyatt struck out eight and walked one in both games, allowing five earned runs on 12 hits. Journal-News/Kyle Herschelman

ber two on another strikeout. Litchfield managed one more run before Goetter struck out her third batter of the inning, with Lauren Monke singling to right field to score Walch

and make it 4-2.

Monke's hit would be the last one the Lady Panthers would have in the game, but Wyatt was as sharp on the mound as Goetter

was. Lebanon's only other run came in the top of the seventh when Meadow Pier singled and later scored with two outs. Wyatt avoided any further damage by striking out Destiny Zeeb, her eighth strikeout of the game.

After striking out 50 and walking 48 in her first varsity season, Litchfield's sophomore hurler got off to a stellar start to the 2023 season with just one walk in addition to her eight strikeouts. Only two of Wyatt's three runs allowed were earned as she gave up four hits in seven innings of work.

Wyatt was one of three sophomores to start Wednesday's opener, joining Elise Walch and Lili Readenour, who was 1-for-3 with a double and two RBIs. The lineup also included a pair of freshmen, Charlie Bono and Alyssa Aubuschon, junior standout Bella Roach, and seniors EmmaWalch,LaurenMonke and Jenni Boden.

Both Walch and Monke had a hit and a run driven in against the Greyhounds. while Roach had two hits and a run scored. Roach batted .412 last year as a sophomore and .357 as a freshman, in addition to being one of the most defensively sound catchers in the South Central Conference (she was a second team all-conference pick behind Vandalia senior Madison Ferguson last year).

Litchfield 5, GNW 4 While Roach has been a constant for the Panthers since her first game, another junior came up big for Litchfield in their second win of the season.

Continued on 3B

Toppers Shut Down Oilers For First Win

by Ron Deabenderfer

Efficient and effective pitching by Nathan Matoush and Dylan Lessman gave Hillsboro a 6-1 victory over the East Alton Wood River Oilers on their field on Thursday, March 16; in the process the Toppers also defeated the effects of nearly continuous rain and settling darkness.

Caleb Greenwood was struck by a pitch from Dillon Gerner as the game began; he reached second on a passed ball and scored Hillsboro's first run of the season on their first hit, a line drive by Chase Mills with two out.

When Matoush shackled the Oilers for three innings, using primarily his fast ball but mixing in his change up and an occasional curve, he became the winning pitcher. The Oilers sent only 10 men to the plate. The Number Nine hitter in their batting order was the only blemish; Hayden Copeland singled but was stranded on first as Elliot Lentz made a diving catch of a foul pop to first. Matoush struck out six Oilers and threw 50 pitches; the rain was a constant threat; once the Toppers had the lead, the biggest threat was cancellation before five innings could be played.

The field, unique because a high school girl's softball contest was underway in deep center field with no fence to separate the games, held the water well; but it also has no lights so the rain clouds made it even darker as the game progressed. Had either team had a huge offensive inning, the game wouldn't have been

The lead grew to 3-0 in the third. Landon Summers began the rally with a bloop single that fell behind the first baseman, just inside the foul line. Lessman drew a walk, but a fielder's choice and a pop-up gave Lentz a two-out chance. His single kept the inning alive for Matoush, a left handed batter and pitcher, who slammed a triple into the midst of the softball game in center field. Summers and Lentz both scored.

It then became Lessman's job to keep EAWR scoreless; the hard-throwing righthander had to contend with a wet ball and a slippery mound. The offense helped by scoring three more runs off reliever Devon Barboza in the top of the fourth; with one out, Greenwood was hit by a pitch again and stole second. Summers blooped another single batting in front of Lessman, whose ground ball resulted in a force at second but an RRI. Then Mills scattered the softball outfielders again with a triple; he scored the sixth run when Lentz singled.

Lessman was up to the task on the mound. With one out in the fourth, he walked a batter after a single, but a ground ball force out and a pop-up to Mills at short ended the threat. He walked the first man he faced in the all-important (because it made the game official) fifth, but that Oiler was forced at second. In the gloom of the sixth, he hit Seth Slayden leading off.

Continued on 3B

Panthers Bounce Back With Win Over Lebanon

After falling in their Litchfield's lead to 4-3. The season opener, the Litchtwo-run inning also forced field High School baseball the Purple Panthers to reach team rebounded in their home opener with an 8-5 victory over the Lebanon Greyhounds on Wednesday, March 15. After holding an early lead, the Purple Panthers needed a heroic late inning effort to overcome a fierce Greyhound team.

Lebanon got on the board first as they scored a run in their half of the opening inning. Litchfield responded in the bottom half of the first, putting their rally caps on with two outs to spark a four-run outburst.

Jacob Budd, Carson Saathoff and Tate Dobrinich all walked as Litchfield loaded the bases with Purple Panthers. A wild pitch allowed Budd to touch home plate and tie the contest at one run apiece.

During the same at-bat, Ethan Saathoff picked up a clutch hit, scoring both Carson Saathoff and Dobrinich as Litchfield now held a 3-1 lead. After Litchfield's fourth walk of the inning, Laidyn Jones picked up his first RBI of the season when he singled and scored Ethan Saathoff from second base to make it 4-1.

Litchfield would once again load the bases when Ian Otto singled, but that was the last hit of the rally as Lebanon collected the final out.

In the top of the second inning, the Greyhounds pushed back at the Purple Panthers lead as they put two runs on the board, narrowing

into their bullpen as Litchfield starter Max Leitschuh's day came to a close after an inning and two-thirds. Even though the freshman's outing was short, he would provide some good numbers for the Purple Panthers as he would collect two strikeouts in his

Ethan Saathoff replaced Leitschuh on the bump and he also put together a solid performance. Saathoff would strike out six Greyhounds in his three and a third innings, allowing two hits and two unearned runs. The two runs were big for the Greyhounds as Lebanon would overtake the Litchfield lead in the top of the fifth inning, 5-4.

Litchfield produced some fireworks in the bottom half of the fifth inning as Carson Saathoff led off with a homerun to tie the contest at 5-5. Two batters later, Ethan Saathoff collected a double on the second pitch he saw, putting a Purple Panther in scoring position with only one out.

Putting the ball in play is always a good thing, forcing the opposition to make a play, and that is just what Titan Hires did. Hires reached first base safely on a fielding error by the Greyhounds and Saathoff came around to score, giving Litchfield a 6-5 lead.

In the top of the sixth inning, the Purple Panthers turned to Jacob Budd on the mound to help hold onto the one-run lead.

 $Continued\ on\ 3B$

Younker Going Places In World Of Wrestling

by Kyle Herschelman

Litchfield Middle School eighth grader Rilynn Younker is going places... literally.

While some kids never leave the hometown, let alone their home state, Younker spent this past weekend, March 18, in Spearfish, SD, where she and former and future teammate Vinny Moore competed in the Black Hills Nationals wrestling tournament.

The weekend before that, she was competing at Byron High School in the Illinois Ğirls Folkstyle State Championships. She and her team will hit the road again in April for the Viper Pit Nationals in Triadelphia, WV. Oh, and don't forget the 2023 United States Marine Corps Women's National Championships in Spokane, WA on April 14-16.

In the past year or so she's also been to Texas, Alabama, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin, with Florida also on tap for later this year. But if you talk to Younker, this is just the start.

"She wants to wrestle in all 50 states before she graduates," said Rilynn's dad Cody. "Hawaii's going to be a rough one. That might be beach wrestling.'

Regardless of where she has been competing at, one of the consistencies for Younker is success. Younker went 4-0in the Schoolgirls 115 class at the Black Hills Nationals, beating Harley LaBuda of Pioneer Wrestling Club 2-0 in the championship match.

She also took first at the Deep South Summer Nationals in Hoover, AL, in

July and was second at the Illinois Girls Folkstyle State sudden victory to Chanelle Ortiz of Beat the Streets Kieffer came soon after and tling powerhouse Iowa. Chicago. Add in two IESA Younker was hooked. regional titles in the last two years and an IESA State berth in 2022 and you have a pretty impressive resume, especially for someone who hadn't stepped foot on a mat until a few years ago.

Prior to her foray into wrestling, Younker was a cheerleader. But when she watched her younger brother Parish wrestle in IKWF for the Litchfield Wrestling Club, she was intrigued. An and LWC Head Coach Travis

"I went to practice and I really loved it," Younker said. "Two months later I quit cheerleading to start wrestling.'

But just being a female in wrestling isn't an a big deal any more. Wrestling is one of the fastest growing sports for girls and young women in the country, with the IHSA starting a separate state



Wrestling has taken Litchfield Middle School eighth grader Rilynn Younker all over the country over the last few years, including a trip to Hoover, AL, last July, where she picked up a national championship at the Deep South Nationals.

series for the girls in 2022 and more than 100 colleges Championships, losing 2-0 in invite from family friend having women's wrestling programs, including wres-

Even with improved con petition and more emphasis on the sport, Younker has still been able to stand out, mainly due to her work ethic and support of her family and coaches. Close to home, Litchfield Middle School wrestling coach Dan Newkirk and Litchfield High School Coach Chance Davidson have helped her on her path, along with Davidson's wife Kayla. Although just a year older than Younker, Vinny Moore has also been a big help to her development.

'He traveled with us to girls state (in Byron) just so she could warm up. He practiced with her all last week to make sure she was ready to go," Cody Younker said of Moore, who was an IHSA state qualifier as a freshman this year. "He took it upon himself to make sure that Rilynn had a good practice partner and was ready to rock and roll."

Dozens of others have helped her out at tournaments, offering bits of advice to help her sharpen her skills. Some wrestlers might be intimidated by the extra help, or simply want a few minutes of rest after three gruelling periods, but Younker soaks it up like a sponge. "I love it. I like listing to

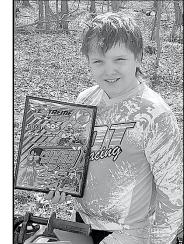
everything they say because I learn a lot of new moves from that," Younker said.

Continued on 3B



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Two Journal-News Motorsports racers brought home a pair of top three finishes from the opening round of the Extreme XC Racing Series in Bloomfield, IN on March 4-5. On the left is Butler's Briar Kuhl, who finished second in the Youth ATV Super Mini class and third overall. On the right is Panama's Gideon Cruthis, who was second in the Youth Bikes 125 4-Stroke and Under class.

Kuhl, Cruthis Finish In Top Three At Extreme XC

The Extreme XC Racing Series opened up it's season on March 4-5 in Bloomfield, IN, with the River Bend Rally.

Briar Kuhl jumped out to a good start as he finished second in the Super Mini (12-15) class in the Youth ATV division. Kuhl ran a 57:57.652 for three laps, finishing three minutes behind class winner Reece Caswell of Owensburg, IN. Caswell and Kuhl finished second and third overall, with 300/150 Hybrid winner Easton Hendrix of Marshall finishing first.

In the Youth Bikes divi-

sion, Gideon Cruthis of Panama finished second in the 125 4-Stroke and Under class, completing one lap in 47:57.494. Cruthis' time was 44th best overall in the division.

Round two of the Extreme XC Racing Series, Fowl Fiasco, will be on April 1-2, in Bloomfield, IN.

March 4-5 at Bloomfield, IN Extreme XC - Rd. 1 River Bend Rally

Youth ATV - Super Mini (12-15): 2. Briar Kuhl, Butler - 3 laps, 57:57.652 (3rd OA) Youth Bikes - 125 4-Stroke and

Under: 2. Gideon Cruthis, Panama - 1 lap, 47:57.494 (44th OA)



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ment auction incl. heavy const. equip

const. & farm related such as tractors

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Rt. 40 Frontage Rd., Greenville Mar. 8, 9

10, 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day or by appt only if you are unable to drop off during

this week. Mollett Auction Service, LLC

Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086

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MON., APR. 10 - 6:30 p.m. soft close for Monke Farm shop & household online

only auction. Farm equip., tractors, Cat

D6D, trailers, Bush Hog, rototiller, 27500

watt PTO generator, more. Shop & house

hold items incl. tools-elec. & hand, jacks

tap & die sets, sunroom furn., BR furn. dining rm. table & hutch, W/D, sofas

recliner, telescope, other furn. Preview Mar. 30, 2-6:30 p.m. & Apr. 4, 2-6 p.m.

Pickup Apr. 12, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Ahrens Auction LLC, Dennis Ahrens, auctioneer,

WED., APR. 12 - 6:30 p.m. Soft close starts

for online only consignment auction Taking consignments Mar. 18 thru Apr 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tractors, const. equip

o.m. Pick up Apr. 14 & 15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m

Register/bid at ahrensauction.hibid.com

Dennis W. Ahrens, auctioneer, 618-779-1883 or 618-779-1897.

THURS., APR. 13 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends

for online only Jorn Signs auction. Regis ter/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Pre

view April 10, 4-6 p.m. Checkout April 14 4-6 p.m. Preview & pickup at Exit 41, 939

E. State Rt. 40, Greenville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam

618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctionee

#23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett

SAT., APR. 15 - 9 a.m. In Ohlman, N. of Rt. 16 on N. Walnut. Consignment auction

of vehicles, tractors, lawn mowers, farmrelated items, lawn & garden, misc. item

Taking consignments until Apr. 10 'til 7

o.m. & Fri. night, Apr. 14. Dennis Aumanr

Auction Service, Ohlman, 217-825-6384 or

217-563-2143, www.dennisaumann.com

TUES., APR. 18 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for

online only RE auction of 328 Park St., Witt. 2BR/1BA ranch style w/2-car det

gar. & 13'x24' storage shed. On full craw

space. One-level living. Elec. baseboard eat & central AC. Open house Apr. 11

5 p.m. Bid now at aumannauction.com

THURS., APR. 20 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only RE auction of 184 N 1250

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combines, machinery, mowers, equip., vehicles accepted, complete lines rucking available. Items must be on lot 6. of Sievers Equip., Hamel by Apr. 3, 4

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TUES., MAR. 21 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only coin auction feat. Morgan & for online Cady Collection at 625 E. Allen Peace dollars, 10 oz. silver bars, Walking St., Witt. Pedals, clocks, pocket watches, Liberty & Franklin halves, large cents, 1/10 oz. American Gold Eagle, Mercury dimes, wheat pennies, 90% silver coins, more. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hi-pid.com. Preview & checkout at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Preview: Mar. 20, 4-6 p.m Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618 920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip. com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions. om, FB Mollett Auction Service.

TUES., MAR. 21 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only auction of 70 acre N. Hurricane Township Farm located at 3300 North Road, Ramsey. 35 acres tillable and 35 acres timber. Brad & Rita Damery, seller. Bid now at aumannauctions.com, 217-563-2523.

WED., MAR. 22 - 6 p.m. soft close. Online only spring firearm auction. Legacy Realty

THURS., MAR. 23 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends or online only Sports Cards auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid. com. Preview March 20, 4-6 p.m. Checkout March 24, 4-6 p.m. Preview & pickup at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Mollett Auction ervice, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer 23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett

THURS., MAR. 23 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only commercial RE located at 1822 Senator Miller Dr., Ste. #2, Hillsboro 18,090 sf, open floor plan, solar panel system on roof. Located along Rt. 127. Bid now at aumannauction.com, 217-563-2523. Open house Mar. 16, 2-5 p.m. Hilltopper nvestment Group LLC. Auction mgr.: Kurt

SAT., MAR. 25 - 10 a.m. Farm toy auction nt Sullivan, IL, Jonathan Creek Rd., 1400 N CR 1500 East (at 4-H bldg.). IH, Case IH, John Deere, Case, Case/Steiger, 1/64 p to $1/8^{th}$. Tractors, combines, equip. kid steers, backhoes, steam engines belt buckles (Case, JD, etc.), JD semis, JD cars, HO train sets, more. All toys NIB. K. Rosenberger, owner. Dennis Aumann Auction Service, Ohlman, 217-825-6384 or 217-563-2143, www.dennisaumann.com.

SUN., MAR. 26 - 2 p.m. Small Animal Consignment Sale of goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, etc. at Bond County Fairgrounds, 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Taking consignments sale day from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip. com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions. om, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., MAR. 30 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends or online only Guns and Ammo auction Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com Preview March 28, 4-6 p.m. at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Mollett Auction Service LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267 3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction

THURS., APR. 6 - 6 p.m. soft close for electric motors, VFD, Starters, Gear Boxes & More auction. Over 550 lots. Elec. moor fractional to 50hp, single phase, three phase, wash down, compressor, HVAC-AC-DC, TEFC Baldor, frequency drives, notor starters, controls, 400 amp fusible disconnect, ballasts, gear motors, angle drive boxes. Preview Mar. 31 & Apr. 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Pickup Apr. 7, 1-4 p.m. & Apr. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ahrens Auction LLC, Dennis Ahrens, auctioneer, 618-779-1883.

a private lane. 2-car det. gar. & a barn Private well & septic system. Forced-air furnace. Open house Apr. 13, 3-5 p.m Bid now at aumannauction.com. 217-563-

Oilers Put The Brakes On Topper Comeback completed the scoring run Game one was a roller

coaster for the Hillsboro High School softball team as they traveled to East Alton-Wood River High School on Thursday, March 16. The Lady Hiltoppers rallied back from a 8-2 seventh inning deficit to get the go-ahead run to the plate, before the host Oilers held on for an 8-6 win.

Anika Camp got the start for Hillsboro in the circle and only two of the eight runs she allowed were earned as the Toppers committed four errors in the game. The Oilers did pick up 10 hits on the day, including a triple by Camp's counterpart on the mound, Jordan Ealey, whose threebagger started off the second inning. Haley Pratt followed with a single and Hillsboro trailed 1-0 in the early going.

East Alton-Wood River scored twice more in the third inning, despite getting just one hit in the four at-bats that led to the two runs. Jade Kassler led off the inning by being hit by a pitch, then moving to third on a wild pitch and a passed ball. Camey Adams reached on an error and Lilly Tretter singled to plate Kassler and move Adams to third. A fielder's choice by Ealey

as Adams made it a 3-0 ballgame.

Hillsboro had stranded four runners in the first three innings and left another one on base after a leadoff single by Mackenzie Jarman in the top of the fourth. The Toppers finally hit pay dirt an inning later when Addison McLaughlin singled, Ella Greenwood doubled and Anika Camp singled to score both runners and trim the Oilers' lead to one run.

East Alton-Wood River got those runs back and then some in the bottom of the sixth as they turned two walks, two errors and three hits into five runs and an 8-2 lead. Jordan Ealey had the big blow in the inning with a triple that scored two.

The Toppers didn't go away quietly, though. Camp started things off with a oneout double, then moved to third on a single by Sophia Blankenship. Camp then scored on a passed ball, which allowed Blankenship to advance all the way to third.

Mackenzie Jarman walked and Kenadie Carlock singled as Blankenship also came in to score, making it 8-4. A second straight single, this

one by Aubrey Evans, drove in Jarman and moved Carlock to third, with the senior third baseman scoring on a ground out by Audrey Shultz to cut the Oiler lead to just two runs.

Evans moved to third on the ground out and a walk to Brooklyn Fisher put runners on the corners for the Toppers with two outs and Addison McLaughlin representing the go-ahead run at the plate. McLaughlin put the ball in play, but EAWR third baseman Chloe Driver fielded the grounder and threw to first to end Hillsboro's comeback bid.

Camp had a stellar sophomore debut at the plate, going 3-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. She also struck out three batters in six innings of work in the circle. Veterans Sophia Blankenship and Aubrey Evans added in two hits apiece, as did freshman Mackenzie Jarman.

Jarman is one of four freshmen on this year's 13-player roster for Coach Bret Tuetken, joining Brooklyn Fisher, Sadie Houchlei and Rylie Jones. Camp, Audrey Shultz, Addison McLaughlin and Ella Greenwood all return for their sophomore years, while Kylee Jarman, Sophia

Blankenship and Aubrey Evans make up the junior class. Kenadie Carlock and Marissa Davis round out the roster for the Hiltoppers, who year's 2-16 campaign.

will look to improve on last Their next opportunity for win number one comes on Tuesday, March 21, at home against Shelbyville, followed by another home game the

day after against Ramsey. March 16 at Wood River 000 020 4--6 12 4 012 005 x--8 10 2 Hillsboro EAWR

Pitching Statistics
oro IP R ER H K BB Hillsboro

Camp 6.0 8 2 10 3 4 *Camp 1 HBP IP R ER H K BB EAWR Ealey 7.0 6 6 12 6 3 **Multiple Hits:** Hillsboro - Anika

Camp 3-4, Mackenzie Jarman 2-3, Sophia Blankenship 2-4, Aubrey Evans 2-4; East Alton-Wood River - Camey Adams 2-3, Jade Kassler 2-4, Chloe Driver 2-4, Lily Tretter 2-4, Jordan Ealey 2-4. 2B: Hillsboro - Anika Camp 1, Ella Greenwood 1; East Alton-Wood River - Camey Adams 1. **3B:** East Alton-Wood River - Chloe Driver 1, Jordan Ealey 1. RBI: Hillsboro - Anika Camp 1, Aubrey Evans 1, Audrey Shultz Runs: Hilsboro - Addison McLaughlin 1, Ella Greenwood 1, Anika Camp 1, Sophia Blankenship 1, Mackenzie Jarman 1, Kenadie Carlock 1.

Record: Hillsboro (0-1).

THE COLLEGE REPORT • by Daniel Chamness

Hanner Helps Billikens Battle Braves



Kaili Hanner, a Hillsboro graduate, has started, thrown middle relief and closed the show this year.

The St. Louis University senior hurler has earned other saves in high school and college, but she probably has not posted a much better line than she did against Bradley University as ŠLU won an 8-6 decision.

"I felt pretty good against Bradley," said the Taylor Springs resident. "But, when walked to the mound, I remembered a game we had earlier in the week that was pretty rough. We were in a pretty similar situation in that game. I think because of that, I, and the rest of the team, were poised to win this one. With this being my last season, I want to live in the moment and not take any of my time on the hill for granted.'

In turning out the lights on the visiting Lady Braves, Hanner faced only three batters and needed only her right arm to retire two of them as she fanned them. Sandwiched between the pair of strikeouts $was \, an \, in field \, groundout. \, She$ did not walk a batter, allow an earned run or a hit.

"My screwball and rise ball were a good combination for me," said Hanner. "I was able to jam the hitters inside and then throw them a rise ball with movement. My curve was also moving pretty well, but it was a bit out of the zone

than normal." SLU is 6-16 overall.



Kaili Hanner

Alex Eickhoff (Hillsboro) placed 89th at the Loyola University-Maryland Intercollegiate. It was held at the Palm Valley Golf Club in Goodyear, Arizona. The Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville golfer shot 226 for 54 holes. He shot 76's in the first and second round. The former Hiltopper golfer shot a 74 in the third and final round. He helped SIU-Edwardsville take 10th with an 867. Utah Valley University took first with an 843.

Alex White (Hillsboro) and **Alex Bishop** (Litchfield), golfers for Lindenwood University and Purdue University-Northwest respectively, had an opportunity to golf against each other at the Lindenwood Invitational. The outing was held at The Missouri Bluffs in St. Charles, Missouri.

White finished 14th overall, shooting 151 for 36 holes. He shot a low round of 71 in the second and final round. Bishop took 33rd. He opened with a 79 and shot a 78 for the second 18 for a 157 total. As a team, Lindenwood was only two strokes from the team title finishing second with a 592. Purdue-Northwest

took fifth by carding a 621. Hutchinson Community College won the outing with a

Sara Yakana (Litchfield) and Vanessa Compton (Hillsboro) helped the Greenville University Lady Panthers take third in the National Christian College Athletic Association Indoor Track and Field Championships. The Lady Panthers finished with 77 points. Cedarville University, which hosted the event at the Doden Fieldhouse in Cedarville, Ohio, won the women's title with 155 points.

Yakana competed in the triple jump, taking third, and in the long jump, taking seventh. Yakana leapt 36 feet, 9 inches in the triple jump and 16-5.75 in the long jump.

Compton competed in three relays. She helped Greenville take second in the 3,200-meter relay as they ran a time of 10 minutes, 21.79 seconds. They also scored points in the distance medley relay, finishing seventh in 13:50.98. Greenville's 1,600-meter relay took ninth in 4:26.31.

Isaiah Atkins (Hillsboro), also a Greenville track athlete, helped the Panthers take fifth in the 3,200-meter relay in the men's division of the NCCAA Indoor Championships The Panther foursome ran a time of 8:15.01. Greenville took fifth as a team with

79.50 points. Campbellsville University won the title with 137 points.

Billy Beckham (Litchfield) earned mound time for Union University in two different games. Unfortunately, Union lost both games, but Beckham did not suffer either loss. In a 15-5 loss to Auburn University-Montgomery, Beckham worked 3.0 innings. He allowed one earned run on two hits. He walked two batters and fanned one. In a 10-5 loss to Trevecca Nazarene University, he worked one inning. He did not allow an earned run, a hit, walk or fan any batters. Union is 9-17 overall and 5-10 in the Gulf South Conference.

Sidney Glick (Lincolnwood) walked twice and scored twice as her junior college team, Lincoln Land Community College, defeated Marian-Ancilla College 11-3. The LLCC Lady Loggers are 6-7.

Shelby Houchlei (Hill sboro) pitched a scoreless inning of relief in Missouri State's 7-5 loss to Southern Illinois University on Wednesday, March 15. Houchlei didn't allow a hit in her inning of work, getting three ground outs, with one batter reaching on an error.

Dan Chamness is a freelance writer. He can be con $tacted\ at\ Dan 62801 @aol.com.$

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Redskins Fall To Altamont In Opener

Six errors helped Altamont score five unearned runs as the Indians defeated Nokomis 10-0 on Wednesday, March 15, in the season opener for both teams.

Matthew Ulrici got the start on the mound for Nokomis and allowed six hits and three runs in the first three innings. Ulrici also struck out four and walked two.

The Indians led off the bottom of the first with a double by Nathan Stuemke, who came around to score three batters later on an error before Nokomis got out of the inning. They'd plate two more in the third inning when Keegan Schultz walked, Kaidyn Miller reached after being hit by a pitch and both players scored after a sacrifice bunt and a single by Wyatt Phillips.

Cade Johnson came on in relief of Ulrici in the bottom of the fourth and allowed six runs (three earned) on four hits and a pair of walks. Two of those runs came in the fourth when Mason Robinson singled, Jared Hammer walked and both scored two batters later on an error.

Errors haunted the Redskins in the fifth inning too, as a miscue started the inning and allowed Nathan Shepard to reach base. A single by Nathan Stuemke and a double by Mason Robinson made it 7-0, with two more runs coming on a walk and a pair of ground outs.

Hunter Broers came in to pitch the final inning and the Indians put the leadoff batter on when Carter Siebert reached on an error. Siebert took second on a ground out and scored on Robinson's third hit of the game to make it 10-0 and end the game an inning early.

Offensively, Nokomis was held to two hits, a double by Hunter Broers to start the second and a double by Matthew Ulrici with two outs in the sixth. Ulrici's double was part of the Redskins' best scoring opportunity as a walk by Ryan Eisenbarth before the hit and a walk by Broers after the hit loaded the bases. The rally stopped there, though, as freshman Kade Milleville came on in relief and got a grounder to

first to end the inning. Ethan Robbins started on the mound for Altamont

and allowed no runs, one hit two walks and struck out seven. Dillan Elam pitched the other inning and a third, allowing one hit and three walks with three strikeouts.

An opportunity for Nokomis to bounce back on Friday was washed out. Weather permitting, the Redskins will be at home on Monday, March 20, against North Mac, followed by two more home games scheduled for March 21 and 22 against Mt. Pulaski and Mulberry Grove.

March 15 at Altamont Nokomis

000 000 ----0 2 6 102 241 ---10 11 0 Altamont Pitching Statistics
mis IP R ER H K BB Nokomis 3.0 3 2 6 $2.0 \ 6 \ 3 \ 4 \ 0 \ 2$ Johnson Broers 0.2 1 0 IP R ER H K BB Home Robbins $4.0 \ 0 \ 0$ 1 7 3 1.2 0 0 Elam $0.1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0$ **Batting Statistics**

Multiple Hits: Altamont - Mason Robinson 3-4. Nathan Stuemke 3-4. 2B: Nokomis - Matthew Ulrici 1, Hunter Broers 1; Altamont - Nathan Stuemke 1, Mason Robinson 1. Records: Nokomis (0-1); Altamont

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Riley Heyen drove in Charlie Bono in the bottom of the seventh inning for the game winning run in the Panthers' 5-4 victory over Greenfield-Northwestern on Thursday, March 16. The RBI single was a welcome sight for the Litchfield faithful who withstood cold temperatures and occasional rain to witness the Panthers' second win.

The hit also ended Greenfield's hopes of a comeback victory as they had scored three runs in the top half of the seventh to tie the game at four.

Litchfield took a 1-0 lead after the first inning as Bella Roach drew a leadoff walk from Tiger starting pitcher Evie White, then stole second and third to put herself in scoring position. Elise Walch drove in Roach with a ground ball to the pitcher for the RBI ground out. Lili Readenour and Emma Walch also walked in the inning, but White struck out the final two batters of the inning to get out of the jam.

White helped her own cause in the second with a twoout double, coming home on a ball hit by Addison Wright that resulted in an error by the Panthers. Litchfield kept the game tied however as they

got Wright trying to advance to second on the error.

Two more walks contributed to Litchfield's second run of the game as Laynie Wyatt and Riley Heyen drew free passes to start the bottom of the second, with Bella Lueken courtesy running for Wyatt. Lueken stole third in the next at-bat, then scored on a single by Bella Roach to make it 2-1.

It seemed as if the backand-forth would continue as Greenfield loaded the bases on a pair of singles and a walk with two outs, but Wyatt got out of the jam and recorded her fifth strikeout of the game to end the top of the third.

Litchfield threatened with two singles and two walks in the third, but came up empty. Greenfield went down in order in the top of the fourth and Litchfield added to their lead in the bottom of the inning on a double by Roach and an RBI single by Elise Walch that made it 3-1.

The Panthers made it 4-1 in the fifth when Jenni Boden singled to center, scoring Bella Lueken after Lueken came on to courtesy run for Wyatt, who doubled two batters earlier.

And for a long time, it looked as if that might be enough, but Greenfield put up a two-out rally in the seventh to tie the game at four apiece.

Cold, wet and eager to get their second win of the season, Litchfield managed to avoid extra innings as Charlie Bono led off the inning with a double

and stole third. Lauren Monke then walked and moved to second on a ground out by Wyatt. With one out, Heyen walked it off with a single to short stop that scored Bono and sent the Panther fans

home happy. Heyen's hit was one of nine from eight different Litchfield players. Bella Roach had two hits, while Elise Walch, Lili Readenour, Charlie Bono, Lauren Monke, Laynie Wyatt and Jenni Boden also had base knocks in the win.

Litchfield also had 12 steals in the game, including three from Roach and two each from Bono, Lueken, Readenour and Elise Walch.

For the second straight game Wyatt's strikeout to walk ratio was stellar as she struck out eight and issued just one base on balls. The Tigers scattered eight hits and scored three earned runs against Litchfield's sophomore hurler.

Litchfield was scheduled to play Auburn on Friday, March 17, but weather pushed that game back to March 30. The Panthers' first shot at win number three will be on Tuesday, March 21, when they play at Taylorville, with first pitch at 4:30 p.m.

March 15 at Litchfield

Date at Location Lebanon Litchfield 200 000 1--3 004 000 x--4 Pitching Statistics IP R ER H K BB Lebanon

Goetter 6.0 4 4 5 11 2 **Litchfield** IP R ER H K BB Wyatt 7.0 3 2 4 8 1 *Wyatt 1 HBP **Batting Statistics**

Multiple Hits: Litchfield - Bella

Roach 2-3; Lebanon - Brooke Goetter 2-3. 2B: Litchfield - Lili Readenour 1, Emma Walch 1; Lebanon - Brooke Goetter 1. 3B: Litchfield - Bella Roach 1. RBI: Li-Monke 1, Emma Walch 1. Runs: Litchfield - Bella Roach 1, Alyssa Aubuschon 1, Lili Readenour 1, Emma Walch 1.

Records: Litchfield (1-0); Lebanon

March 16 at Litchfield Greenfield-NW 010 0003 4

Litchfield 110 110 1--5 9 Pitching Statistics IP R ER H K BB White 6.1 5 5 9 4 9 **Litchfield** IP R ER H K BB $7.0\ 4\ 3\ 8\ 8\ 1$ Wyatt

Batting Statistics

Multiple Hits: Litchfield - Bella Roach 2-3; Greenfield-NW - Annabeth Thornton 3-5. 2B: Litchfield - Charlie Bono 1, Bella Roach 1, Laynie Wyatt 1; Greenfield-NW - Kylie Cox 1, Evie White 1. RBI: Litchfield - Elise Walch 2, Bella Roach 1, Riley Heyen 1, Jenni Boden 1. Runs: Litchfield - Bella Roach 2. Bella Lueken 2. Charlie Bono 1

Record: Litchfield (2-0), Greenfield-

Birds Hold Off Litchfield

If you like to see a lot of offense in a baseball game then Thursday's match-up in Piasa between the Southwestern $Piasa\,Birds\,and\,the\,Litchfield$ Purple Panthers was your cup of tea.

The two teams combined for 22 runs, 10 of which came in the first inning. When the dust settled and both teams finally got tired of touching the home plate, Southwestern would claim the 14-8 nonconference victory.

Litchfield, who has been productive in the first inning this season, once again put runs on the board in their half of the opening inning. The Purple Panthers have put a total of eight first inning runs on the board in the first three games this season, including the three spot they pot on the board in this contest. Litchfield's first inning production has been a total of 47% of their runs scored on the year.

Drake Gasperson and Jacob Budd started this contest off by sandwiching two singles in-between an out, putting the Purple Panthers in scoring position early. Carson Saathoff would not allow those runners to sit on the base paths for long as he singled in Gasperson and sent Budd to third base.

Southwestern claimed out number two, but it would not go by without a run being put on the board. Ethan Saathoff hit a pop fly to the outfield, which was caught, but was deep enough to score Budd from third and make it 2-0.

With a single by Tate Dobrinich following the second out, Litchfield had two runners on with two outs. Titan Hires collected a key hit, allowing Carson Saathoff to touch home plate and give Litchfield a 3-0 lead.

Southwestern would pick up the third out to end the inning with two left on base, but Litchfield had already created the damage with a big three run inning.

The home team would also produce a big inning in the bottom half of the first. The Piasa Birds quickly got a hold of Litchfield starting pitcher Drake Gasperson as they collected seven runs off of four hits, two errors and a batter hit by pitch. The strong showing by the Piasa Birds gave Southwestern the lead at 7-3 after the first inning

Even though Southwestrn would get the best of Litchfield's starter, Gasperson would walk away from the inning with three strikeouts.

Both teams gave the scoreboard a break until the third inning when Litchfield struck once again. Jacob Budd led off the inning with a four pitch double. The early success was quickly threatened, though, as Southwestern shut down the next two batters.

During those outs Budd was able to move over to third base, a positive as he would touch home when Southwestern struggled with a ground ball hit by Tate Dobrinich. The fielding miscue by the Piasa Birds narrowed Southwestern's lead to 7-4.

Southwestern looked to put some insurance runs on the board in their half of the third inning and three more runs crossed home plate to make it 10-4 going into the fourth.

During the third inning, Titan Hires took over the duties on the mound. Gasperson gave up nine of the 10 runs, six of which were unearned. He also struck out five in two and a third innings pitched.

Hires also surrender runs in the fourth and the sixth innings as Southwestern would piled on four more runs in those two innings.

After Southwestern picked up a run in the bottom of the fourth inning to make the score 11-4, Litchfield had an answer in the top of the fifth inning as they added a run of their own.

A single by Carson Saathoff and a double by Ethan Saathoff gave Litchfield that run to narrow the Southwestern lead to 11-5.

A single and a walk loaded the base paths with Purple Panthers with no outs, but the Piasa Birds retired the next three batters to close out the inning.

Litchfield were not done scoring, though, as they were able to put together another big inning in the top of the sixth inning.

After an out to lead off the inning, Jacob Budd homered on a 3-2 pitch for Litchfield's sixth run. Carson Saathoff got in on the fun as well with another home run, narrowing Southwestern's lead to 11-7.

A single and two walks once again put three Purple Panthers on the base paths, this time with only one out. After the second out was record, Ian Otto took a six pitch walk, pushing Ethan Saathoff across home plate for the third run of the inning.

Southwestern retired the next batter as Litchfield trailed 11-8 going into the bottom half of the sixth.

With Litchfield in striking distance, Southwestern pulled away from the Purple Panthers as they added three runs to their total, making it 14-7 going into the seventh.

In their last chance to overcome the Piasa Birds, Max Leitschuh led off the top of the seventh inning with a double. Leitschuh was unable to progress any further as Southwestern shut down the next three Purple Panthers and closed the door on the contest with a 14-7 victory. The loss would drop the Purple Panthers to 1-2 overall, while the Piasa Birds moved to 2-0 overall on the young season.

Jacob Budd and Carson Saathoff led Litchfield with three hits each, accounting for six of Litchfield's 13 hits. Carson Saathoff and Ethan Saathoff both drove in two Purple Panthers.

Even though Litchfield's offense would be productive, the defense had more trouble with six errors throughout the contest.

Litchfield will be back in action this week as they travel to Tayloville on Tuesday, March 21, before welcoming the Pretzels from New Berlin on Thursday, March 23.

March 16 at Piasa Litchfield 301 013 0--8 13 6 Southwestern 703 103 x-14 10 2

Pitching Statistics ield IP R ER H K BB Litchfield 2.1 9 Gasperson 3.2 5 3 5 1 2 IP R ER H K BB Hires SW3.0 4 3 6 2.1 2 2 4 Lowis 5 Darr 0.2 2 2 Brantley 1 0 0 1 0 0 **Batting Statistics**

Multiple Hits: Litchfield - Jacob Budd 3, Carson Saathoff 3, Ethan Saathoff 2, Tate Dobrinich 2; Southwestern - Payne 3, Bouillon 2, Brantley 2, Lowis 2. 2B: Litchfield - Jacob Budd 1, Ethan Saathoff 1, Max Leitschuh 1; Southwestern - Bouillon 2, Payne 1. HR: Litchfield - Jacob Budd 1, Carson Saathoff 1. RBI: Carson Saathoff 2, Ethan Saathoff 2, Jacob Budd 1, Titan Hires 1, Ian

Records: Litchfield (1-2), Southwestern (2-0).

Litchfield Baseball

Continued from 1B

Budd did his job, striking out all three Greyhounds he faced.

In the bottom half of sixth inning, the Purple Panthers collected two insurance runs. Max Leithschuh, Jacob Budd and Carson Saathoff all collected doubles to start the inning before Lebanon got the final three outs to send the game to the seventh. Budd repeated his sixth inning success in the seventh by collecting three more strikeouts to close out the game as Litchfield walked

away with an 8-5 non-conference victory. Carson and Ethan Saathoff led the Purple Panthers with two hits and two

RBIs apiece. Ethan Saathoff

claimed the victory on the

mound, while Budd got the save. The victory, the first of Head Coach Rocky Giannuzzi's career, moved Litchfield to 1-1 overall, while Lebanon fell to 0-2.

March 15 at Litchfield 120 020 0--5 5 5 Lebanon 400 022 x--8 8 2 Litchfield Pitching Statistics

IP R ER H K BB Lebanon 4.2 6 0.2 2 $\frac{4}{0}$ Burger $\frac{5}{3}$

0

Litchfield Leitschuh 1.2 3 3 E. Saathoff 3.1 2 0 2.0 0 Batting Statistics

Multiple Hits: Litchfield - Carson Saathoff 2, Ethan Saathoff 2; Lebanon - Burger 2. HR: Litchfield - Carson Saathoff 1. RBI: Carson Saathoff 2, Ethan Saathoff 2, Jacob Budd 1, Laidyn Records: Litchfield (1-1); Lebanon

Rilynn Younker

Continued from 1B

And she's had plenty of opportunities to learn. Last year, she competed in 103 matches during the offseason, crisscrossing the midwest and the country thanks to the support of her dad and mom, Tara, who is a secretary at Litchfield High School.

"Maybe like 120 this year," Younker answered with a smile when asked how many matches she'd like to get in this year. "Something over one hundred."

The smile was for dad, who shook his head and grinned at her aspirations. While Younker's work on the mat is gruelling, playing chauffeur, coach, psychologist and biggest fan is equally tough.

"Last year we left and got into Hoover, AL at like 4:30 in the morning. She had to weigh in at like seven and she slept most of the way, so I was struggling," Rilynn's

dad remembers in a way that makes you know he'd do it all over again in a second. "So she won the Deep South Nationals that weekend, then we came back and went right into (JFL) football because we had Carlinville that next weekend. We took those next nine weeks off, then the very next weekend we were in Iowa for wrestling."

That's right. It's not just wrestling for the freshman to be. While she isn't planning to play football at Litchfield High School next year, volleyball and cross country are still options in the fall of 2023. There is also track, which Younker is currently competing in at the middle school level.

Even with the other competitive ventures, wrestling is Younker's passion.

"When it all comes down to it, it's just me on the mat," Younker said on why she loves wrestling. "There's no teammates to rely on. It's just me and I really enjoy that aspect of the sport.

While she still has four years of high school wrestling to go, Younker is already hoping to compete in the sport in college, following in the footsteps of two of the wrestlers she looks up to the most: Glenwood High School graduate and IHSA state champion Maya Davis and Litchfield High School graduate and 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials runnerup Victoria Francis.

Francis went from Litchfield to Lindenwood University, where she was a two-time WCWA national champion and University Nationals champion, en route to becoming one of the best 75 kg wrestlers in the country. Davis is on track to do equally impressive things after placing third in the NAIA Championships at 123 pounds as a freshman at

Grand View University. Younker is also trying

own community, serving as a coach for the Litchfield Wrestling Club and a mentor for the other girls on the Litchfield Middle School team.

to grow the sport in her

"All the little kids just really loved her. There was one little boy, Lincoln Rogers, that she would go get him and carry him to the mat and be in there flexing with him, just to make sure he was loose. He adored Rilynn," Cody Younker said. "Kirstin Tyrrell and Kinleigh Entrikin really latched onto her at the middle school level. It was a cool experience to see her grow the sport like that."

So what would Younker tell other girls looking to get into wrestling?

"Don't be intimidated because it's a room full of boys," Younker said, before adding with a smile, "because you could probably beat them up if you put you mind to it."

Spoken like someone who knows about that first hand.

Hillsboro Baseball

Continued from 1B

Slayden would score after two wild pitches. Then Lessman fanned a batter-one out. The next batter reached and walked his way to third, but he waited too long to break off third on a wild pitch, so Summers threw to Lessman covering the plate-two outs. Lessman fanned the clean-up hitter-three outs.

The umpires, trying to provide a complete game experience, met briefly before the seventh started. The rain was constant, the lack of lights more and more obvious, but the seventh began. After a pop-up to second, pinch hitter Cody Boerckel singled sharply to left. With the count 3-0 on Greenwood, the home plate umpire threw up his arms, ending the contest before anyone was injured. I heard no objections, though Boerckel lost his first varsity hit.

The weekend Hillsboro games were postponed; now the Toppers travel to Rochester next Friday, March 24, for a 4:30 first pitch and host Alton Marquette for a double header on Sat., May 6. with Game One beginning at 11 a.m. Those games were scheduled originally for the past weekend. This week Vandalia will

be here Tuesday for a nonconference game. Hillsboro will be at Taylorville on Thursday, and, in addition to the trip to Rochester on Friday, in Nashville for a doubleheader on Saturday, March 25. March 16 at Wood River

102 300 ---6 12 0 000 001 ----1 2 0 EAWR

Pitching Statistics IP R ER H K BB Hillsboro Matoush Lessman *Lessman 1 HBP IP R ER H K BB EAWR Gerner $\frac{3}{2}$ Robinson 1 0 0 Copeland *Gerner 2, Robinson 1 **Batting Statistics**

Multiple Hits: Hillsboro - Elliot Lentz 3-3, Nathan Matoush 2-3, Ketch Mills 2-4, Landon Summers 2-4. **3B:** Hillsboro - Ketch Mills 1, Nathan Matoush 1. RBI: Hillsboro-Ketch Mills 2, Nathan Matoush 2, Dylan Lessman 1, Elliot Lentz 1. Runs: Hillsboro - Caleb Greenwood 2, Dylan Lessman 2, Landon Summers 1, Ketch Mills 1.

Records: Hillsboro (1-0); East Alton-Wood River (1-2).

Sports Calendar

Hillsboro Hiltoppers Monday, March 20 4:30 p.m.-JV Baseball hosts Bunker 4:30 p.m. - Girls Soccer at Metro-

East Lutheran Tuesday, March 21 4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Shelbyville 4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Vandalia

4:30 p.m. - Boys Tennis at Bunker Hill/Staunton 4:30 p.m. - Boys and Girls Track at North Mac w/Litchfield, Nokomis Wednesday, March 22 4:30 p.m. - Šóftball hosts Ramsey

Lincolnwood Lancers

Monday, March 20 4:30 p.m. - JV Baseball hosts Greenville

4:30 p.m. - Varsity Baseball at Staunton 4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Vandalia

Tuesday, March 21 4:30 p.m. - Varsity Baseball hosts Carlinville 4:30 p.m. - JV Baseball at Carlinville

4:30 p.m. - Softball at Athens

<u>Litchfield Purple Panthers</u> Monday, March 20 5 p.m. - Girls Soccer hosts Civic

Memorial Tuesday, March 21 4:30 p.m. - Softball at Taylorville 4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Taylorville 4:30 p.m. - Boys and Girls Track at North Mac w/Hillsboro, Nokomis

<u>Nokomis Redskins</u>

Monday, March 20 4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts North Mac 4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts North Mac Tuesday, March 21

4 p.m. - Softball at Altamont 4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Mt. Pulaski 4:30 p.m. - Boys and Girls Track at North Mac w/Litchfield, Hillsboro

Wednesday, March 22 4:30 p.m. - Boys and Girls Track at North Mac w/ South County, Pawnee, Pleasant Hill, Rushville-Industry

4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Mulberry Grove 4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Gillespie



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SMALL SNIPPETS • by Tori O'Dell

'Art, Real Art, Is A Form Of Prayer'



I was listening to a podcast several years ago, Oprah was interviewing Rainn Wilson. I can't remember what the central focus of the episode was anymore, but there was a moment where Rainn was discussing spirituality and said that "all real art (creativ-

ity) is a form of prayer," and that sentiment resonated so deeply that it imprinted itself onto my soul. "Art is a form of prayer."

I have thought about that quote at least once a week. I thought about it when I was writing, but maybe more so the last few years during this heavy season where I haven't been writing, where I have been actively avoiding writing.

"Art, real art, is a form of prayer." Which is not saying that all artistic creations are forms of prayer. I'm speaking of the kinds of pieces that stop you in your tracks and make you sit with them in silence. Words, films, music, illustrations... that illuminate your own experiences and make you feel seen.

Depression. When G was first diagnosed with autism, I thought that I would skip this stage of grief. Truthfully, that I would skip all the stages. That I would use the coping skills I have been honing for the last 20 years, from the first time that I sat in a therapist's office. That I would drink my water, and take my vitamins and do yoga and wake up early for my morning devotionals and that it would ward the depression away.

The idea that I believed I could pick and choose which stages of grief I experienced says more about my neurosis than my ability.

Living with chronic grief has taught me that it is undulating. Not a linear set of experiences that can be passed through, but seasons that ebb and flow, spilling over into one another. I don't know that you can really be fully aware of the stage you are in when you are in the midst of it.

Looking back, I don't know that I was ever aware of any stage until I was in the next. I didn't know I was in denial when we were doing daily back-to-back therapies, and everything was centered on "fixing" G, helping him "catch up." I really believed he would be on par with his peers by the time he went to kindergarten.

It is only in hindsight that I recognize denial. I didn't know I was angry when I

was spending hours calling our insurance representatives after they discontinued G's therapies on the basis that he wasn't making enough progress, coercing his developmental pediatrician to make calls on his behalf, throwing around terms like "civil rights violations" and "ACLU" so often that they gave me a direct representative and extended his therapies an additional two years. I thought I was being an advocate, doing what all good parents would do, it was only with the passage of time that I could see anger.

I didn't know that I was depressed until I watched a film, "The Starling." There is this scene, where the main character Lilly, played by Melissa McCarthy, clears out her baby's nursery in this frenzied rage. She impulsively hauls all of the items onto her lawn and gives them away to a passerby. When she returns to the empty room she notices an imprint on the floor where the crib had stood, the only trace that the room had once been full, and she starts maniacally trying to smooth out the carpet, whether to erase the last physical sign of her grief or to bring it all back you can't tell.

I think about that scene a lot. To me, it is great art. Real art. I watched that scene and understood that I was depressed. I watched that scene and felt seen. I have spent a lot of time on the floor during this season of life. On the floor is where I most often find God.

A typical millennial, I always want things to be aesthetically pleasing. Aesthetics, that is something that is very important to me, but not to Him and I often forget that.

God doesn't care about aesthetics. He doesn't care about how you look, or the ambiance of the room, or that the tea you should have set out is in a visually pleasing mug that coordinates well with the highlights in your Bible, and the accents on your carefully cultivated, minimally decorated wall. He just wants you to show up.

On the floor is where I most greatly feel his presence. Not on the cushioned couch, with an overpriced throw pillow and soft, prettily colored afghan on my lap. It is on the floor that I most authentically show up, in the bleak seasons where I am desperately trying to erase the imprints of grief. That is the place where I suddenly find myself falling apart at his feet, reaching out to grab at his hem, knowing that if I can touch just the smallest part of him I will be well.



Gene and Charlotte Eichar, professional musicians and music educators, opened Eichar Music Centre at 108 West Ryder Street in 1958. In this photo from the 1960s, Mrs. Charlotte Eichar stands in front of Eichar Music Centre (at left) overseeing an inventory of Wurlitzer pianos as it is being unloaded. Litchfield Museum Photo

DID YOU KNOW? • Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center

Did You Know...About Eichar Music

Gene and Charlotte Eichar arrived in Litchfield in 1958. The couple had been professional musicians and music educators in Rockford.

Jacksonville and Springfield, and were looking for a good market to establish a retail music store.

They opened at 108 West Ryder Street in a rental space owned by longtime druggist Walter Holderread. The business soon outgrew the small storefront and Eichar Music Centre moved onto the main street. Inventory was expanded and the store became a Wurlitzer piano and organ dealership, and music studios, for a range of instruments were located upstairs, where music instructors offered lessons. Over the next three decades, the business grew and prospered and the Eichar Music Centre occupied a succession of four different storefronts in the 200 and 300 blocks of North State Street.

One of the store locations was owned by (and next door to) the Litchfield National Bank during the 1960s. There, the front space was devoted to rows of Wurlitzer pianos and electronic home organs, which had quickly grown in popularity. The storefront also contained a space named the "Combo Room," and it was here that Eichar Music established itself as a major area dealer in Fender guitars, amps and drum sets during the explosion of "pop" and "rock-n-roll" music in the 1960s. It was at this location that the Eichars' daughter, Cheryl, began to work in the store.

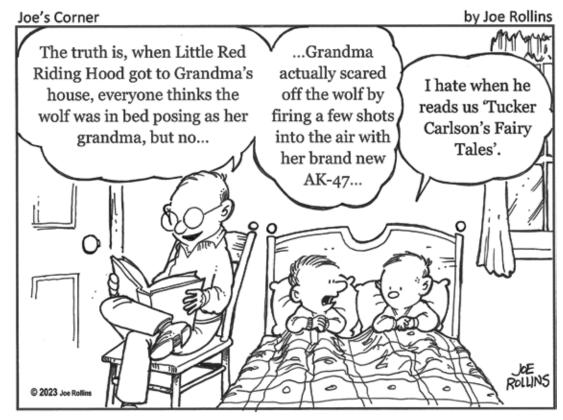
After renting four different locations, the Eichar Music Centre purchased a building, the former Holderread Drug Store on the corner of State and Ryder streets, just in front of the small storefront in which the

business began. This would be the last move that the store made.

In 1983, Gene Eichar, who spent his long life as a theatre musician and conductor, teacher and finally a retail merchant, passed away. Charlotte continues to operate the music store until she retired in the 1980s, selling the inventory and the corner building to John and Karen Sanders, who opened an antique store there.

Charlotte kept a small teaching schedule into her later years, before passing away in 2011.

More information about Eichar music Centre can be found by visiting the Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center located at Historic Route 66 North in Litchfield, during their regular business hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.



GROWING YOUR ROOTS • by Katie Wilson, Montgomery County Farm Bureau

Ag Week, Pipelines And Scholarships



Happy National Ag Week! March is a great month to celebrate for multiple reasons-National Ag Week, National Ag Day and Spring all arrive this month/week. Here's to brighter days ahead!

In honor of National Agriculture Day on March 21, I wanted to share a few impressive statistics

about Illinois agriculture and farming: 1. 96 percent of all farms in Illinois are family owned.

2. Farmers care for 75 percent of all the land in Illinois.

3. Illinois is #1 in the nation in soybean

4. Illinois is #2 in the nation in corn pro-

5. Illinois is #3 in the nation in farmers

6. Illinois is #4 in the nation in pork

production. 7. Today an individual farmer can feed

8. Illinois farmers rank #2 in the nation for acres dedicated to pollinator habitat through

the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program. We'll now change the topic to a heavier subject-one that's been on the minds of several Montgomery County citizens for a few months now. The subject that I'm referring to is carbon capture and storage. There is a proposed pipeline route in northern Montgomery County by a company named Navigator. The project is titled "Heartland Greenway" and more information about the project can be found on their website at https://heartlandgreenway.com/.

The Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors has taken a position on the project, and they have mailed a letter to all MCFB members and Montgomery County government board members. The letter stated the following:

Dear Montgomery CFB members and landowners,

As your representatives on the MCFB board, we feel it is our duty to look out for the best interest of our members and keep you informed. We have closely watched and participated in the topic of the carbon pipeline and had discussions internally and externally to conclude that we are in opposition to the Navigator CO2 "Heartland Greenway"

The MCFB board is concerned about:

• The long-term impact to the environment and economic value of property while liquifying, transporting, and storing CO2 under Illinois' fertile soils.

• The numerous concerns about the safety of this pipeline and storage project, including:

• The high operating pressure within the pipeline itself

• The fact that CO2 is a hazardous material that can cause asphyxiation to humans, animals, and livestock in the event of a pipeline leak or rupture.

From an environmental and climate change policy standpoint, carbon capture and storage (CCS) in its current state is a heavily subsidized and inefficient use of public and private resources as a climate change solution. In our opinion, it does not solve the root cause of CO2 emissions, just relocates the waste through and under Central Illinois.

Above all, we steadfastly support farmer and landowner rights. We believe if Navigator CO2 is granted eminent domain for this project, it would set an extremely dangerous precedence for future eminent domain in the name of climate change and renewable energy projects.

Illinois Farm Bureau policy states that, We oppose the use of eminent domain in the taking of private property for the purpose of economic development by private parties.'

For information about the status of the case, public comments, and other items, please visit https://www.icc.illinois.gov/docket/

 $One \, of our \, most \, important \, responsibilities$ as a board is to promote the general welfare and protect the rights of our members. If you are not currently a member but would like to support our efforts in being a voice for agriculture, please go to www.myifb.org or call our office at 217-532-6171 to start the process.

Montgomery County Farm Bureau

Our last item of business this month is to discuss the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. Applications are now available! There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted

The scholarship program, now in its thirty first year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP).

Applications are available online at www. *RIMSAP.com*. The deadline to apply is May 1. Thanks for taking time to grow your roots

in local agriculture. Be sure to thank a farmer if you see one this week!

LETTERS to the editor

Support CO2 Pipeline And Storage Legislation

Montgomery County residents and landowners in the pathway of the carbon dioxide pipeline and sequestration sites should support the following legislation, SB2421/HB3119. This bill establishes protections for human health and existing property owners through the life cycle of CCUS along the 292-mile Illinois pathway.

Some of the pipeline protections would include: 1. Ensure pipelines are not dangerously located closer than one mile to residences and businesses and one and a half miles from high-density housing, schools, daycares,

sensitive sites; 2. Prohibit the use of eminent domain for CO2 pipeline construction; 3. Require a geohazard analysis to improve safety measures for these hazardous pipelines; 4. Require public meetings with county boards in each county the pipeline will pass through.

Protections in the bill for storage sites would include: 1. Clarify that title to pore space belongs to the owner of surface land and prohibits the forced acquisition of pore space (similar to eminent domain); 2. Provide that sequestration operators, not

healthcare facilities, and landowners, are liable for any releases of stored CO2 and requires operators to set aside funds to plug wells and address emergencies; 3. Create a permitting process for the sequestration site that shows no adverse impact on water quality and no more CO2 generated than stored; 4. Operators remain responsible for post-injection care, monitoring, and reporting for at least 100 years.

Please contact your Illinois senator and representative and encourage their support of this critical bill.

Mary Ellen DeClue Litchfield

First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

National Poison Prevention Week MARCH 19-25, 2023





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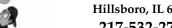
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Announcements

Notices

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CASH FOR your junk vehicle. Fast free pickup. 217-313-7881

Employment

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For Rent

Apartments

1 bd., one occupant apartments opening soon, \$500 includes trash, Wifi (TV). Must make 3x rent if on fixed income. Email: Litchfieldapartments@gmail.

TWO BEDROOM apartment for rent. Hillsboro, \$550 month. \$550 deposit. No pets. 217-815-1509

Houses

NICE CLEAN 2 bd. home in Coffeen, 2 car garage. No pets, no smoking. Available April 1st. \$650 per mo., plus deposit. 217-710-4604

Merchandise

Feed & Seed

HAY AND STRAW for sale. 217-563-7000

Furniture

MATTRESS SALE: Twin mattress \$169, full \$199, queen \$239, Mattress Direct across from Litchfield Walmart. 217-324-3636

Miscellaneous

NEWSPAPER bundles. \$1 ea. The Journal-News. Great for pets, moving etc.

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"

ANY ACTION figures, comics, non-sports cards and collectibles. 618-637-2132, ask for

Services

General Services

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY

TITLE: Deputy Collector

Job Description
or DEPARTMENT: County Treasurer
REPORTS TO: County Treasurer DATE: March 15, 2023 Application & Resume due March 31, 2023

BASIC FUNCTIONS: Perform the duties of Deputy Collector as required per Illinois Compiled Statutes Chapters 35 and 50. Must work cooperatively and maintain broad scope of knowledge re: real estate and mobile home tax billing, collection and distribution. Shall perform collector checking accounts bank reconciliations and assist Chief Deputy Treasurer with revenue files for tax collection and other revenue assistance as needed. This employee must be accurate and trustworthy with real estate and mobile home collections at the counter and must balance cash drawer daily. This is position must work cooperatively and effectively with the public and other employees. **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- 1. Must have a high school diploma and additional education and/or experience is preferred
- 2. Physical ability to perform general office clerical duties as required 3. Computer, Excel, and office equipment experience mandatory
- 4. Good accounting skills
- 5. Excellent public relations and communication skills
- **ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:** 1. Assist in all aspects of real estate tax billing, collection and
- distribution 2. Balance computer real estate payments with Chief Deputy Treasurer's bank deposits
- 3. Create and maintain distribution files
- 4. Balance and input bank collections as well as daily counter collections
- 5. Balance cash drawer daily with counter batch 6. Prepare distribution file and print and mail/email distribution
- summaries to taxing bodies 7. Process Certificate of Errors, PTAB decisions, Sale in Errors
- and court orders adjusting tax bills 8. Assist in generating and mailing tax bills and certified notices
- 9. Prepare sub-tax batches for tax buyers Update trustees file
- 11. Prepare tax sale judgment book for real estate and mobile
- 12. Balance tax sale and mail billing and certificates to tax buyers
- 13. Prepare documents necessary for county audit 14. Meet all office imposed deadlines relating to assigned work
- 15. Maintain accurate and neat records 16. Provide assistance to the public by explaining different documents and answering questions that pertain to the office
- 17. Provide courteous and accurate information to all who enter

or call the office

18. Other duties as assigned **WORKING CONDITIONS:** This job classification works in an office environment. This position requires lifting and carrying work materials weighing up to 30 pounds to a height of 5 feet. Stressful situations may arise when dealing with hostile tax payers or public and you must maintain a level of professionalism. Because of the nature of this position, duties must be performed during regular hours within the department. Federal, State and

County laws must be followed. Montgomery County is an Equal Employment Opportunity

Employer Send Resume and Application to: Montgomery County Treasurer 1 Courthouse Sq., Room 101 Hillsboro, IL 62049

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Fire Calls

Three-Vehicle Accident

Members of the Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department responded to a three-vehicle accident at South Main and School Street at 6:07 p.m. Wednesday, March 8.

No extrication was needed. Twenty-five personnel responded and were back in service at 6:40 p.m.

Litchfield Police

• Adam B. Tarran, 38, of Litchfield, was jailed for possession of meth and a Montgomery County warrant at 12:24 a.m. Monday, March 13, at Chestnut and St. John.

• Matthew J. Heyen, 34, of Litchfield, was jailed for a violation of an order of protection at 10:32 a.m. Monday, March 13, at the 1600 block of North State.

• Kelly R. Pease, 38, of Litchfield, was jailed for domestic battery at 1:58 a.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the 800 block of South State.

• Stephen S. Goodman, 35, of Momence, was jailed for Montgomery, Macoupin and Fayette County warrants at 2:18 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the 200 block of Ohren Lane.

• David L. Friesland, 49, of Litchfield, was cited for trespass to real property at 8:26 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the 800 block of West Beeler.

• Joseph W. Sherck, 48, of Litchfield, was jailed for pos-

session of meth with intent to deliver and possession of drug paraphernalia at 12:02 a.m. Thursday, March 16, at Corvette and Route 16.

Police

• Kayden D. Bess, 18, of Litchfield, was cited for a Montgomery County warrant at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 16, at the 1000 block of North Harrison.

• Keenan J. Edwards, 20, of Litchfield, was ticketed for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and for having an expired registration sticker at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at Tyler and

• Tiffany S. Osborn, 27, of Mt. Olive, was cited for installing unauthorized window treatment and having a driver's license that has been expired for more than one year at 9:12 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at Douglas and Sargent.

• Nathan Walker, Jr., 23, of Alton, was ticketed for failure to wear a seatbelt as a passenger at 8:55 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at Union and Route 66.

 Madison D. McNealy, 19, of Bethalto, was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 8:51 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at Union and Route 66.

• Donald S. Robertson, 49, of Benld, was ticketed for expired registration at 11:43 p.m. Friday, March 10, at Niemanville Trail and Walton Park.

• Osezua Olear, 36, of Chicago, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration at 8:26 p.m. Friday, March 10, at I-55 milemarker 51.

• Devon C. McBrain, 28, of Hillsboro, was ticketed for operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 9:27 a.m. Friday, March 10, at the 1200 block of West Union.

• Shawn D. Love, 28, of Dalton, GA, was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 12:01 a.m. Friday, March 10, at I-55 milemarker 52.

Title Transfers

February 8

Howard Eugene Hitchings to James P. Brockmeyer, Dottye Brockmeyer, WD, Sec. 7, Pt. NW/SE, situated in the village of Raymond.

New River Royalty to Colt, Spl. WD, mineral rights,

Beeler, WD, Lots 11-14, Blk.

19, Hardebecks Subdn.

February 9

property not located in Montgomery County. February 10 Gary Mills, Jr. to Diana

Diana Beeler to Ben Beeler, Diana Beeler, QCD, Lots 11-14, Blk. 19.

February 13Montgomery County Circuit Judge, Jared Voss, Lisa Voss, Ralph Voss to Barbara Rhodes Exec, Norma J. Porter Estate, Judicial D, Sec. 1, Pt. SW/SW, Audubon Twp.

Randall D. Riemann Cust., Diane L. Riemann Cust. to Dustin Johnson, Assign Lease, Lot 26, Stagecoach Junction 2nd Addn.

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John Niehaus, Dana M. Niehaus to Kesnie Enterprises, QCD, Blk. 1, Scherers Addn.; Lot 30, Blk. 45, Huggins PC Addn.; Lot 9, Blk. 2, Tratts.

David Roberson to Carola Murphy, QCD, Lot 579, Blk. 27, North Addn. Tyler P. Gregg to Bank

of Hillsboro, QCD, Lot 10, Fairmont Place. Mary Goode to Mary Goode, Cody Kline, QCD, Lots 11-12, Blk. 8, Coffeen

GF 2nd Addn. Ronald Lee Meredith to Mary Goode, QCD, Lots 11-12, Blk. 8, Coffeen GF 2nd Addn.

Montgomery County Sheriff, Donald L. Hansen, Brenda R. Hansen to Bank ertyfraudalert.com.

of Hillsboro, National Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Sheriff Deed, Sec. 24, 2 Pts. NE/SE, South Fillmore Twp. Mark W. Fenwick to Mark

W. Fenwick, Heather A. Fenwick, QCD, Lot 32, Town and Country Subdn., Hillsboro. Free online Search of

Montgomery County, IL Land Records at www. montgomeryco.com/countyclerk / recording / recordsearch.Search, View and Print

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PART-TIME SUMMER HELP

The City of Witt is accepting application for part-time summer help. Applications may be picked up at Witt City Hall, 106A W. Broadway and must be turned in no later than noon, April 25th, 2023.

VACANCY NOTICE Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Full-Time Custodian

Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent Submit Application/Résumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters

Fred Butler, Director of Maintenance; Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3; 1311 Vandalia Rd.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Phone: (217) 532-2942

Due By: March 31, 2023

Applications: Available at 1311 Vandalia Rd., Hillsboro, IL 62049 We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: High School Industrial Technologies Instructor Duties: Teaching basic and advanced trade skills including wiring, plumbing, measuring,

framing, finishing within a shop setting Qualifications: Secondary Illinois PEL with appropriate endorsements OR significant work

experience in the construction trades Salary: Regionally competitive based on teachers' salary schedule as posted in the labor

contract with HUÉA Start Date: 2023-24 school year

Submit Letter of Interest, District Application, Résumé, Transcript, and Certificates to: Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Fax to: 217-532-5142; E-mail to pheyen@hillsboroschools.net; Phone 217-532-2841 **Due Date:** Open until filled

We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

Re-Elect Barbara Adams

For Hillsboro School Board

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Members of the Lincolnwood High School FFA Chapter competed in the District Section 15 Proficiency on Wednesday, March 8, at Jacksonville High School. Pictured in front, from the left, are Abilene Norris, Morgan Hampton, Kaylee Gerlach, Kylie Neisler, Drake Germann, Avery Pope and JoBeth Matli. In the back row are Drew Gilpin, Cole Riemann, Eldon Brown, Gabe Armentrout, Izayah Matli, Trenton Hemann and Jonah Elvidge.

Lincolnwood FFA Competes In Section 15 Proficiency

nwood High School FFA Chapter in Raymond competed at District on Wednesday, March 8, at Jacksonville High School.

There were 22 FFA students who completed their record book competition for Section 15. Fourteen students advanced as winners and were able to compete at the District level.

The section winners include Avery Pope in hu-

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE **ASSUMED NAME ASSUMED NAME**

PUBLIC NOTICE

en that First National Bank holders and borrowers at

PUBLICATION NOTICE Public Notice is hereby given that on March 17, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: SISKO E-COMMERCE located at 443 SOUTH SPRUCE ST. in the city of NOKOMIS and state of IL. state of IL.

Dated March 17, 2023 Sandy Leitheiser, County Clerk 89-3tM*

LEGAL NOTICE

OF PUBLICATION

Notification is hereby giv-

of Pana, 306 South Locust

Street, Pana, IL 62557, has

filed an application with

the Comptroller of the Cur-

rency, 3001 Research Road.

Suite E2, Champaign, Illinois

61822 on or about Janu-

ary 25, 2023, as specified

in 12 CFR 5, for consent to

purchase the assets and

assume the liabilities of the

Pana Branch of the Bank

of Hillsboro, located at 302

West Second Street, Pana,

by given that following this

transaction, which is to

take place on or about May

6, 2023, First National Bank

of Pana will not operate this

location as a branch that

provides services to the

account holders and bor-

rowers of the Pana Branch

Notification is also here-

Illinois 62557.

PUBLICATION NOTICE Public Notice is hereby given that on March 2, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: CUSTOM CROCHETED CREATIONS BY MJ located at 303 W. SUMMER ST. in the city of HILLSBORO and

Armentrout in manufactur-

ing, engineering and trades,

Drake Germann in ag

mechanics design and fab-

rication, Trenton Hemann

in ag mechanics repair and

maintenance, Kylie Neisler

in agriscience research

animal systems, Eldon

Brown in beef production

placement, Cole Riemann

in diversified agricultural

production, Abilene Nor-

Dated March 2, 2023 Sandy Leitheiser. County Clerk 85-3tM*

of the Bank of Hillsboro.

First National Bank of Pana

will service these account

306 South Locust Street,

pursuant to 12 USC 1828(c)

and 12 CFR 5. Anyone may

submit written comments

on this application by March

23, 2023 to Director for Li-

censing, 425 S. Financial

Place, Suite 2700, Chicago,

IL 60605, or by email to

The public may find in-

ce.licensing@occ.treas.gov.

formation regarding this

application, including the

date of the end of the pub-

lic comment period, in the

OCC Weekly Bulletin at

www.occ.gov. Requests for

a copy of the public files on

the application should be

made to the Director for Li-

81, 83, 89

This notice is published

Pana, Illinois 62557.

 $production, Kaylee\,Gerlach$ in fiber and oil crop production, Izayah Matli in poultry production, Jonah Elvidge in sheep production, Morgan Hampton in specialty animal production, Drew Gilpin in specialty crop production and JoBeth Matli in swine production

placement. Lincolnwood had six Kaylee Gerlach.

Members of the Lincol- man public services, Gabe ris in diversified livestock District winners that will compete at State on Saturday, March 25. They include Kaylee Gerlach, Jonah Elvidge, Morgan Hampton, Jo-Beth Matli, Drake Germann and Kylie Neisler.

Students who earned their State FFA degree and will receive their award at the State Convention in June are JoBeth Matli and

MOWING BIDS

The City of Witt will be accepting bids for mowing of the Witt City Cemetery. This will also include weed control (weed eating). Please submit bids in a sealed envelope addressed to City of Witt, P.O. Box 374, Witt, IL 62094. Please mark the envelope with "Cemetery Bid".

Bids will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25th, 2023. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Hughes, Witt City Clerk, at (217) 594-2814.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on March 17, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: MA-SON'S DELIVERY SERVICE located at 401 S. VINE ST. in the city of NOKOMIS and state of IL.

Dated March 17, 2023 Sandy Leitheiser, County Clerk 89-3tM*

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on March 10, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: HEART-LAND GALLERY located at 315 SOUTH MAIN STREET in the city of HILLSBORO and state of IL.

Dated March 10, 2023 Sandy Leitheiser, County Clerk 87-3tM*

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXHIBIT B NOTICE OF SALE OF **PROPERTY OWNED BY** THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, IL AND INVITATION TO BID THEREON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the corporate authorities of the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois will receive sealed bids for purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest, to be transferred via Quit Claim Deed, in the following real property and any structure(s) thereon:

The South 62 feet of with all mining rights and drilling rights and other rights, privileges and immunities relating thereto. **P.I.N.:** 16-11-431-008

vacant. The City shall be granted an easement for storm water drainage, detention, and absorption

Sealed bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above-described property are hereby invited and will be received by the City Clerk at 447 South Main Street, Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois during normal business hours un30, 2023 will be rejected.

property and any structure(s) thereon are being sold "AS IS" without any warranties or representations. The sale is a cash only sale.

All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the Hillsboro City Council at 7:00 p.m. on April 4, 2023, at City Hall, located at 447 South Main Street, Hillsboro, Illinois. A contract may be awarded to the highest bidder or any other bid found to be in the best interest of the City of Hillsboro. The corporate authorities reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The corporate authorities further reserve the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within forty-five (45) days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Copies of the required sales

Date: February 22, 2023. Don E. Downs,

Accidents

Strikes Ditch

Tyler J. Thompson, 20, of Irving, along with two passengers, was northbound on Coffeen Road in East Fork Township at 7:48 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, when he left the roadway to the left, over-corrected and left the roadway to the right.

As a result, his vehicle struck the ditch. Thompson was cited for failure to reduce speed, improper traffic lane usage and unlawful possession of cannabis by the driver. **Slick Road Conditions**

Joseph D. Mattson, 20, of Taylor Springs, was southwest bound on Walshville Trail in Hillsboro at 9:03 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, when his vehicle began to slide on ice.

Mattson's vehicle struck the ditch, causing the vehicle to overturn. His vehicle sustained total damage and was towed from the scene by Elam's Towing in Taylor Springs.

Deer Collision

Adeer entered the roadway and collided with a vehicle driven by Robert E. Ackerson. Jr., 59, of Springfield, along with one passenger, while the driver was southbound

on North Road in Hillsboro at 6:24 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3.

His vehicle was towed from the scene by Elam's Towing in Taylor Springs.

Deer Accident

Brandi L. Uchtman, 38, of Witt, was westbound on Butler Avenue in Butler at 10:13 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, when she struck a deer that entered the roadway.

Her vehicle sustained front end damage.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on March 17, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: STAN'S FIELD located at 220 EAST LOCUST ST. in the city of FILLMORE and state of IL.

> Dated March 17, 2023 Sandy Leitheiser, County Clerk

THE CITY OF HILLSBORO **WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE** THE FOLLOWING REMINDER:

GLENN SHOALS LAKE LOT RENEWAL FEES ARE DUE BY MARCH 31ST

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal residents of the Town of Rountree in the County of Montgomery and State of Illinois, that the AN-NUAL MEETING of said Town will take place on TUESDAY, APRIL 11[™], 2023

being the second Tuesday of said month. The Town meeting for

the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Town will be held at the hour of

at Rountree Town Hall and a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meetina

8 o'clock P.M. on said day

Dated at Rountree Township, this 27th day of March,

Michael Franzen, Town Clerk 91-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXHIBIT B NOTICE OF SALE OF **PROPERTY OWNED BY** THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, **IL AND INVITATION TO BID THEREON**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the corporate authori-

ties of the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois will receive sealed bids for purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest, to be transferred via Quit Claim Deed, in the following real property and any structure(s) thereon: Part of the Northeast

Quarter (NE1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section Eleven (11) Township Eight (8) North Range Four (4) West of the Third Principal Meridian, beginning at a point on the West (W) line of Main (formerly Coffey) Street Two Hundred Eight (208) feet North (N) of the Northwest (NW) corner of Main and Mechanic Streets in the City of Hillsboro, running thence West (W) One Hundred Fifty (150) feet; thence North (N) Fifty (50) feet, more or less, to the South (S) line of an alley on the South (S) line of A. E. Fish's Addition to Hillsboro; thence Easterly (E) on South (S) line of alley One Hundred Fifty (150) feet to the West (W) line of Main Street; and thence South (S) Forty (40) feet, more or less, to the place of beginning, (excepting all coal underlying said premises), situated in the County of Montgomery, in the State of Illinois. **P.I.N.:** 16-11-430-021

Property Address: 1116 S. Main St.

Hillsboro, IL 62049 Said real property is currently vacant.

Sealed bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above-described property are hereby invited

and will be received by the City Clerk at 447 South Main Street, Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois during normal business hours until 12:00 Noon on Thursday, March 30, 2023. Said proposals shall be addressed to the City of Hillsboro, Attention: City Clerk, 447 South Main Street, Hillsboro, Illinois, and shall bear the legend: "PROPOSAL - SALE OF 1116 South Main Street, HILLSBORO, IL" and the name and address of the bidder. All bids received after 12:00 Noon on March 30, 2023 will be rejected.

The aforementioned real property and any structure(s) thereon are being sold "AS IS" without any warranties or representations. The sale is a cash only sale.

All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the Hillsboro City Council at 7:00 p.m. on April 4, 2023, at City Hall, located at 447 South Main Street, Hillsboro, Illinois. A contract may be awarded to the highest bidder or any other bid found to be in the best interest of the City of Hillsboro. The corporate authorities reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The corporate authorities further reserve the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within forty-five (45) days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Copies of the required sales contract and any bidding documents may be obtained in the office of the City Clerk. Please call (217) 532-5566 with any questions.

Date: February 22, 2023. Don E. Downs, Mayor City of Hillsboro, Illinois

83-4tM

PUBLIC NOTICE

censing.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT **FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MONTGOMERY COUNTY -**IN PROBATE IN THE MATTER

OF THE ESTATE OF SHARON L. EYMAN, Deceased.

No. 2022-PR-60 **CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Sharon L. Eyman. Letters of Office were issued to Joseph F. Kile as Independent Executor on November 2, 2022. Nicole E. Mollet and Silver Lake Group, Ltd., 560 Suppiger Way, P.O. Box 188, Highland, Illinois 62249, are the attorneys for the Independent Ex-

The Estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Sec 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk. Claims against the estate

may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Montgomery County Courthouse, 120 North Main Street Hillsboro, Illinois 62049 on or before the 13th day of September, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Sec. 18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before the date is barred.

Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (I0) days after it has been filed. (755 ILCS 5/18-1, 5/18-3.)

Dated: March 8, 2023. /s/ Nicole E. Mollet Nicole E. Mollet

IL Bar No. 06328578 Silver Lake Group, Ltd. Attorneys for Joseph F. Kile 560 Suppiger Way Post Office Box 188 Highland, Illinois 62249 Telephone 618.654.8341 Facsimile 618.654.8391 nicole@silverlakelaw.com

87-3tM

Lot Four (4) in F.P. Winchester's Subdivision of part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 8 North, Range 4 West of the Third Principal Meridian, situated in the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois, excepting title to the coal, gas and other minerals within and underlying the premises, together

Property Address: 1115 S. Main St. Hillsboro, IL 62049

Said real property is purposes.

til 12:00 Noon on Thursday, March 30, 2023. Said proposals shall be addressed to the City of Hillsboro, Attention: City Clerk, 447 South Main Street, Hillsboro, Illinois, and shall bear the legend: "PROPOSAL - SALE OF 1115 South Main Street, HILLSBORO, IL" and the name and address of the bidder. All bids received after 12:00 Noon on March

The aforementioned real

contract and any bidding documents may be obtained in the office of the City Clerk. Please call (217) 532-5566 with any questions.

> Mayor City of Hillsboro, Illinois 83-4tM

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23 CHEVY SILVERADO K1500 M113, Custom, crew, summit white



23 CHEVY SILVERADO K1500 M116, Custom, crew, northsky blue **RJI SALE PRICE*..**



23 BUICK ENCORE GX PREF. M112, FWD, moonstone gray met. RJI SALE PRICE*... \$26.840



23 BUICK ENCORE GX SELECT **RJI SALE PRICE*...**



23 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER ACTIV M129, FWD, mosaic black RJI SALE PRICE*... \$28.



23 BUICK ENCLAVE PREMIUM M132, AWD, moonstone gray **RJI SALE PRICE*...**



23 BUICK ENVISION AVENIR M131, AWD, ebony twilight metallic RJI SALE PRICE*... \$50, 148

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23 CHEVY BLAZER PREMIER M138, AWD, radiant red tincoat **RJI SALE PRICE***

IN TRANSIT



23 CHEVY SILVERADO K2500 M139, Duramax, crew, silver ice met. **RJI SALE PRICE*...**

IN TRANSIT



23 CHEVY EQUINOX LT M140, FWD, sterling gray metallic **RJI SALE PRICE*.**

JUST ARRIVED!



23 CHEVY EQUINOX LT M136, AWD, iridescent pearl **RJI SALE PRICE***

IN TRANSIT



23 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER RS M141, AWD, iridescent pearl tricoat **RJI SALE PRICE*.**



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20 GMC Terrain SLE Y7052

16 Ram 1500 Big Horn Y7058A



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	17 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM, 4WD, ruby red, 22k, Y7116	
Á	20 FORD ESCAPE SE, AWD, silver, 11k, Y7118	CALL
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	12 CHEVY EXPRESS 2500, passenger van, white, 132k, Y7020B	\$14,900
	20 BUICK ENCLAVE ESSENCE, FWD, white, 18k, Y7110	CALL
ä	12 BUICK ENCLAVE, FWD, leather group, mocha bronze, only 89k, N	1109B CALL
	20 CHEVY BLAZER 2LT, FWD, cajun red, only 2k, Y7111	CALL

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Spring Home Improvement

A Special Supplement to The Journal-News, M&M Journal and Macoupin County Journal



Lessman Businesses **Continue To Grow**

by Tori O'Dell

"It has grown in ways that I never expected when we started," said Dean Lessman, co-owner of Lessman Pools and Spas. "Our first pool was an inground pool that I built at our home, for our own family," Lessman explained. "I wasn't even thinking about it as a business but people kept calling and asking if I would install pools for them. It all grew from there."

 $Dean\, and\, Becky\, Lessman$ started what has grown into Lessman Pools Spas out of a small pool store in their garage. Now, more than 30 years later, the Hillsborobased pool and spa company, takes on both inground and above ground pools and spa installations within a 60 to 75 mile radius of their location at 9181 IL-127.

Lessman Pools and Spas has a wide variety of options and works closely with their customers to make sure that their purchase is the perfect fit for their lifestyle. While Lessman works with a team

of trusted contractors to install above ground pools, he personally installs all of the inground pools commissioned through the couple's business. In addition to installations, Lessman Pools and Spas also offers pool repair and liner replacements.

In addition to regular employees Beth Grider and Troy Dawdy of Hillsboro, and the seasonal employees needed during Lessman Pools and Spas busy season, the couple's children, Clint Lessman and Brittany Millburg, and grandson, Ethan Lessman, can often be found lending a hand, or two, at the family-business.

A one stop shop, the storefront carries a full line of pool supplies, as well as landscaping rock and materials that customers can purchase in bulk to tackle their outdoor home improvement needs.

"Lessman Pools and Spas has made us a great living and we have had fun building it," said Lessman, with a hint of pride in his voice. "It is a great business. Last year we installed 13 inground



Lessman Pools and Spas has more than 30 years of experience installing inground and above ground pools, and spas. Above, is a beach entry pool the Hillsboro-based company recently installed in Brighton. Owner Dean Lessman stated that it was a tough installation but a cool project to see in its finished state. Lessman takes on the majority of his installation projects in the spring, so homeowners dreaming of new pools should make appointments soon.

pools but we could have easily done more. When I was a younger man, I would have been out hustling and pushing myself, but I am creeping towards 60 and turning down jobs. With Becky and I starting approaching retirement, my ideal would be to find someone that wanted to learn from us, to eventually purchase the pool business. It has plenty of potential to

While having more time might be on his mind, it is not yet a reality as Lessman also operates Pro-Bilt Buildings, a company that his father-in-law and brotherin-law started, and that the Lessmans co-purchased with Rick and Barb Vogel 13 years ago. The couple eventually bought out their partners to become sole owners of the company. In addition to changing the name

from WR Dyer Construction, the Lessmans have greatly expanded the company's service area, which now ranges from Jacksonville to Caseyville, covering most of Central Illinois.

Pro-Bilt Buildings specializes in agriculture buildings, however their skilled crew has experience constructing suburban buildings, farm shops and "light" commercial buildings, as well as post-

frame homes. They also offer metal roofing, both G-Rib and standing seam roofs, for residential and commercial spaces. Pro-Bilt takes on projects of all scales. Often building from the ground up, Pro-Bilt works alongside local concrete companies and subcontractors to make sure that their customers' experience is as seamless as possible.

Continued on page 4C



- Land Clearing Forestry Mulching
- Excavating Pasture Reclamation

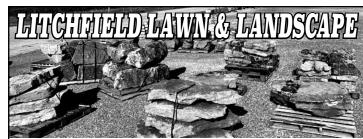
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- Monday, March 20, 2023





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Signs A Home Exterior Needs Updating

way for homeowners to reshape their homes. Some may aspire to renovate so their home is more reflective of their personal taste, while others may do so in an effort to make their homes better align with modern styles and sensibilities. Regardless of why a homeowner chooses to renovate, the need to do so is often evident to the naked eye, especially when the time comes to update home exteriors.

Curb appeal is often discussed in regard to the effects it can have when selling a home. But curb appeal is equally important for homeowners who aren't putting their homes on the market. Awell-maintained, aesthetically appealing home is a source of pride, while a home with fading curb appeal can make homeowners feel a little sheepish. Homeowners who want their homes to maintain their curb appeal can look for signs that it's time to update their home exteriors.

• Curling shingles: The roof may not be the first thing people think of when pondering curb appeal, but a damaged roof can contribute to problems that ultimately affect the exterior and interior of the home. Multiple curling shingles indicate it's time to replace the roof. The sight of curling shingles is not pretty, but the larger issue in such instances is the potential for



Upgrading a driveway and walkway is one way to update a home's exterior and restore its curb appeal.

costly water damage when water gets in through the affected shingles.

• Dated entry door: Many home improvement experts insist they can determine when a home was built or most recently renovated simply by looking at the front door. Steel and glass doors are popular in modern homes, so homeowners with front doors with ornate designs and oval glass inserts can likely benefit from an upgrade to their entryway. A modern front door can make a statement and real estate experts note how popular updated front doors are among buvers.

 Unsightly landscaping: It's not only the physical components of the home that may suggest an update is necessary. Homeowners without a green thumb may have exterior landscaping that has seen better days. If a spring or summer day spent tending to your landscaping is not your ideal weekend pastime, then consider replacing unsightly landscaping with low-maintenance plants or hardscaping. These alternatives to more needy plants can create curb appeal

without requiring any extra work for homeowners.

Cracked driveways/ walkways: If the driveway looks like a busy road at the end of snow plowing season, chances are that's adversely affecting the impression people have of your home. In addition, cracked walkways indicate a need for renovations, as these areas are front and center when welcoming guests.

Updating a home's exterior can restore curb appeal and help homeowners feel better about their properties.





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Spring Home Improvement

A Special Supplement to The Journal-News, M&M Journal and Macoupin County Journal



Five Signs It's Time To Renovate Your Home

their homes for a variety of reasons. Renovations can increase the value of a property and make homes safer and more comfortable for their occupants. Improvements also can be made to stay current with the times or to give a home a new vibe.

Statista projects \$510 billion will be spent on home improvements in 2024. The home improvement market is generating significant revenue. In fact, nearly a quarter of Americans opting to renovate their homes will spend an average of \$10,000 on their projects. According to a Home Stars Renovation $report, 8\,percent\,of\,Canadian$ homeowners who have renovated have spent more than \$20,000 on a home improvement project.

Kitchens and bathrooms often get the most attention when it comes to home improvement. However, every room and space in a home may need a renovation at some point, and the following are five signs it's time to renovate.



Renovations can increase the value of a property and make homes safer and more comfortable for their occupants.

Age

The National Association of Home Builders states that 50 percent of U.S. homes are over the age of 40. That means that age alone could dictate a need to renovate, particularly if some materials are original to the home. For example, asphalt roofs typically last 25 to 30 years, while window $frames\,can\,last\,20\,to\,50\,years$ depending on how well they have been maintained.

Inconvenient Lavout Some homeowners scratch their heads when faced with awkward floor plan layouts. While one may live with the inconvenience for some time, typically a floor plan that isn't working for the homeowner is a major driver of renovations.

Outdated Looks

A home can look dated even if it is a relatively re-

cent build. That's because trends change quickly. For example, dark, cherry cabinets that were popular just a little while ago have now been replaced by lighter color palettes. Homeowners whose homes do not match the looks emulated in design magazines may consider a change, particularly if they're planning to sell soon.

Deterioration

Signs of water, storm or structural damage should be addressed as soon as possible. Any deterioration should be a strong indicator that it's time to renovate.

Efficiency

Escalating utility bills could be indicative of an inefficient home. Homeowners can conduct energy audits and then improve the areas where energy loss may be occurring, such as windows, doors, siding, and insulation.

Homeowners can renovate their homes when they see fit, but various signs may warn that it's time consider updating or remodeling a home.



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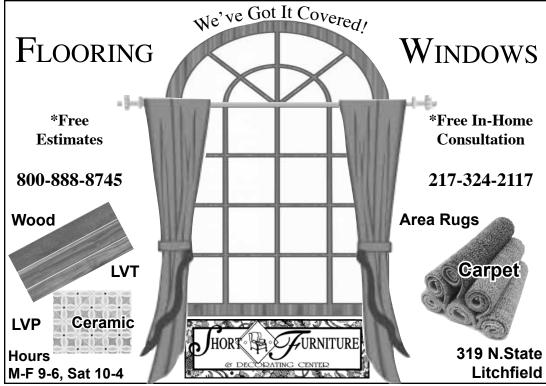
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that their customers' experience is as seamless as possible.

Currently, Pro-Bilt operates between 12 to 14 employees but is always looking to add skilled team members.

"If we had a larger team we could easily expand to cover all of Illinois," Lessman stated. "It is hard to find good help. I am incredibly grateful for the team that we have. Our crew is experienced, reliable and dedicated to their craft. That really makes a world of difference when you are a small business owner. We wouldn't be as successful as we are without our employees or the customers who continue to trust us with their home and business improvement needs. We are beyond grateful for all of the people who continue to support us and our fellow small businesses."

As spring approaches, so do Lessman Pools and Spas and Pro-Bilt Buildings busy seasons. Those interested in



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The skilled crew employed by Pro-Bilt Buildings has honed their craft constructing agriculture buildings, suburban buildings, light commercial buildings and farm shops across Central Illinois. Based in Montgomery County, Pro-Bilt buildings also offers G-Rib and standing seam metal roofing services.

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