

The Journal-News

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Thursday, June 15, 2023

Hillsboro Schools Will Have New Police Officer

by Mike Plunkett

The Hillsboro School District will have a full-time police officer beginning next school year, the school board decided on Tuesday, June 13, in approving an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Hillsboro for a school resource officer.

The intergovernmental agreement was required because officers must—by law—work

for a law enforcement agency. The school district will pay the officer's salary during the nine months of the school year, and the city will pay for the time while he works for Hillsboro when school is not in session.

Superintendent David Powell anticipates a cost of \$60,000 including \$45,000 for salary, and is confident that the first three years will be paid for by a grant. He also indicated he will put \$25,000 in the budget to pay for half

of a vehicle for the officer.

The officer's responsibilities will include a presence at district schools all day every day of the school year, presentations in classrooms, and a presence at sporting events.

"The agreement requires the city to hold a certain amount of liability insurance for the officer," Powell said in response to a question from board member Blake Furness.

Taking action on a discussion that began

last month, the board amended the 2023 fiscal year budget to reflect \$354,000 extra Transportation Fund revenue and expenses for three new buses, and \$7.5 million extra revenue in the Working Cash Fund from the bond sale to pay for part of the high school building project, and related expenses that will occur before the fiscal year ends.

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Nokomis Will Provide Police For Coalton

by Ben Schwarm

In a follow up to discussions at the last council meeting, Nokomis City Council approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Coalton to continue providing police protection for that community. At the regular June 12 meeting, the council unanimously voted to enter into a new agreement that provides that Coalton will pay Nokomis \$6,000 annually for the next three years. The Nokomis Police Department will do routine visits through the village and respond to police calls that are generated from the area.

Commissioners also approved a motion for the city to launch an official website. Currently, the city has no website but does have a presence on Facebook.

The city will enter into an agreement with Municipal Impact, a commercial webmaster that specializes in municipal governments. The city will pay a one-time \$450 fee for the service and an ongoing yearly service fee of \$900. State law does not mandate that local governments maintain a website, but does have specific requirements if a website is created. Certain documents must be available to the public on the website such as council meeting agendas, meeting minutes and public notices.

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Surrounded by family and friends, Betty Darda of Hillsboro celebrated her 100th birthday on Monday, June 12, with a party at Montgomery Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Hillsboro. From the left are great-nephew Sam Darda of Montana, Betty Darda, nephew Dave Darda of Washington and great-nephew Joe Darda of Michigan. See page 7A for more.

Journal-News Photo

Committees, ARPA Funds, Budget On County Agenda

by Mary (Galer) Herschelmann

Members of the Montgomery County Board discussed a variety of topics when they met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, June 13, at the Historic Courthouse in downtown Hillsboro. All members were present for the two-hour meeting, which included discussion of amending the budget for an assistant state's attorney, changing committee assignments, appropriating ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding and more.

In calling the meeting to order, Chairman Doug Donaldson asked board member David Loucks to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members unanimously approved the monthly mileage and per diem requests as well as minutes from the previous meeting.

They also unanimously approved the consent agenda, including monthly reports from department heads. Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl reported they took in 88 animals in May and transferred 31 of them. So far in June, they have taken in three cats, nine dogs, 12 kittens and 13 puppies and transferred 19 of them. Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins reported new state legislation, awaiting a signature from Governor Pritzker, that would eliminate all juvenile fines except restitution. If signed into law, he would begin the process of that for Montgomery County. Robbins also reported that in the past year and a half, his office has scanned all the records and files for drainage districts. County Coordinator Chris Daniels reported she continues to work

on the Enterprise Zone and she and David Jenkins continue to make inspections for the EPA. In a final update, Treasurer Nikki Lohman said property tax bills have gone out. Any residents who have not received theirs should contact her office.

Liaison Reports

Board member Ethan Murzynski said the 708 Board met in June and heard concerns about mental health issues in the county. The group formed a new Community Wellness Committee that will meet again this month. Board member Bill Bergen reported some updates from the Illinois Association of County Officials. He said that the state added \$85 million to the local government distribution fund, which will help local counties and municipalities. He added that both the gas and grocery taxes would go up for all state residents on July 1.

Board member Mark Hughes reported the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation continues to search for a new executive director. In a final update, board member Ken Folkerts said the Senior Citizens Center has a very large copy of the Declaration of Independence they would like to donate to the county for display in one of the courthouses.

Public Comments

The board room was standing room only with a large contingent on hand to express opposition to the proposed carbon sequestration pipeline that could run through Montgomery County. Board Chairman Doug Donaldson reminded board members they would have three minutes each to speak. He added that

the Rules Committee will be meeting soon to address concerns about the changes to public comment brought about by Bill Schroeder at the last meeting.

Up first to speak was Rick Graden, who farms in Audubon Township with his brother. He said he participated virtually in a public meeting hosted by PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration) May 31 and June 1 in Des Moines, IA. He said organizers were pleased by the amount of participation in the public meeting, especially the rural voices. Board Chairman Doug Donaldson contacted representatives from PHMSA to ask about hosting a public meeting in Montgomery County, but they told him they have hosted all the public meetings they plan to. Before finishing his remarks, Graden said he had multiple concerns about the pipeline and the company proposing to do it, Navigator. He said if the pipeline were to come through the county, they need good, strong regulations to keep residents and property safe.

Sabrina Jones spoke next, saying she and her family live 50 feet from the Navigator carbon dioxide drilling site in Audubon Township, which started in April. Initially, she was told it would be one month, but now she has been told, it will be under construction through August. Jones said the noise is problematic for her family, as well as the constant semi trucks in and out of the area. She also questioned some of the things the company has done without consequences from the county. Jones said their community doesn't trust the county board to enforce

safety regulations for the pipeline and said she's sad they are being swept away by big dollars.

Karen Sanders was next to speak. She and her husband, Eric, live in Witt Township, and the proposed pipeline will run less than 1,000 feet from their home. She passed out handouts to board members with statistics. Sanders told the board that less than 13 percent of landowners across Illinois have signed easements with the pipeline company. She added that many pipelines do exist in the county, and while they may be harmful in some ways to agriculture, they also bring much-needed resources to local communities, like water and natural gas, so she felt the risks outweighed the benefits. She feels that Illinois would be a dumping ground for carbon dioxide from five states, and asked the board to continue its moratorium on the project until at least until October 2024 when PHMSA releases its regulations.

Greg Archibald spoke, sharing his concerns that the pipeline company is in a hurry to finish this so they don't have to abide by regulations, like setbacks that would keep the drilling sites farther from homes like the Joneses.

Bill Schroeder spoke and asked board members to keep an eye on two pieces of state legislation, including House Bill 3119 and Senate Bill 2024. He asked the board not to consider entering into any agreement with the pipeline company that might diminish these two bills. In addition, he said the county could regulate setbacks if they had zoning.

Continued on page 6A

Thu 15	89°/61°		Sunny	4%
Fri 16	83°/57°		Mostly Sunny	2%
Sat 17	85°/63°		Sunny	8%
Sun 18	82°/64°		Scattered Thunderstorms	50%

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Who Will Wear The Crown?

Meet this year's Montgomery County Fair pageant contestants on page 5B.

Journalisms

News About People and Events of Interest Throughout The County

Due to the federal Juneteenth holiday on Monday, June 19, the next issue of *The Journal-News* will not be published until Tuesday, June 20. The deadlines for both advertising and news items will be Saturday at noon. The office in downtown Hillsboro will be open Monday for regular business hours. Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of African American slaves.

It was "High Noon" when Marshal Will Kane was set to have it out with the Miller gang in the iconic 1952 movie bearing that name, but this Saturday in Hillsboro it will be the same name—different contest. As part of the Tub Tobias bike ride, Mayor Don Downs will face Atlas 46 CEO Brian Carver in a bicycle race from the Historic Courthouse to the Opera House—two blocks down Main Street, in a braggin' rights race that began over the winter.

"After being called out at a Town Hall meeting to a foot race by Brian, we renegotiated to a bicycle race to fit with the Tub Tobias Classic," the 55-year-old mayor said of his upcoming athletic contest with Carver. The two are set to meet in front of the Historic Courthouse on Saturday. The time? High noon.

Clotfest will continue at 6 p.m. at Courthouse Pub with five bands: *Longhead, Salmon Creek, Dr. Noodle and the Rastafarians, Lost Highway and Grit and Groove.*

It won't be long before Old Settlers arrives in downtown Hillsboro this August! Volunteers continue to make plans for this year's celebration, which will commemorate the 200th birthday of Hillsboro. The next meeting for the Old Settlers Association will be Tuesday, June 20, at 7 p.m. at the Challacombe House in Hillsboro. Anyone interested in helping with the festivities is invited to attend. Community members are also encouraged to start planning for floats in both parades, the art show and other activities.

The Nokomis Public Library is still looking for volunteers to help move from their current location inside City Hall to their new location. Moving continues this week and next week, June 19-25, and organizers hope they will be open in their new location on June 26. The new library will be located at 100 N. Spruce Street in Nokomis.

It's a celebration two years in the making, as the Panama Progress Committee will celebrate the community's hard work and dedication of the new John L. Lewis Park on Saturday, June 17. The family-friendly event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes a bounce house, DJ and a chance to try out the new playground equipment.

The special dedication of the park will be held at 11:30 a.m. In addition, Off the Wall food truck will be on site serving lunch. Both the community center and the Coal Mine Museum will be open to guests that day as well.

The Imagine Hillsboro Farmers Market returns to the Lincoln Plaza this weekend on Saturday, June 17, from 9 a.m. to noon with a variety of unique, local vendors. The market is held on the first and third Saturdays of each month from May through September.

Want to relax and enjoy some coffee and candles? Alpha Candles and Black Rabbit Coffee, both in downtown Hillsboro, are teaming up to offer a "Make Your Own Candle Night" on Wednesday, June 21, at Black Rabbit Coffee at 6:30 p.m. Spots will be limited, and reservations will be accepted at alphacandles.net.

Scammers Try To Get \$15,000 From Grandparents

A set of Hillsboro grandparents were nearly scammed out of \$15,000 cash on Tuesday, June 13, in a bogus attempt to extort bail money for their grandson.

The grandparents had taken the \$15,000 in cash from their bank account when they began to put together the pieces that did not quite fit and became wise to the scam.

It all began when the grandmother got a call at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday on their landline from someone pretending to be her grandson and claiming that he was in jail after a distracted driving accident involving a pregnant 17-year-old girl who was taken to a hospital.

The fake grandson claimed he had been ticketed for distracted driving and had been booked into jail on potential

felony reckless endangerment charges. He said he was allowed only one call—and called his grandparents.

Because the potential scam victims believed the story of the fake grandson, the call was handed off to a fake attorney, "Michael Grant," who claimed that the grandson and his son were friends.

The fake attorney told the grandparents to get \$15,000 in bail money, and said he was attempting to get "Judge Kenneth Harris III" to set a hearing that day. Once the bail money was paid, the fake attorney said, the charges would be dropped and their grandson released.

The fake attorney gave the would-be scam victims a fake case number, told them to write the case number on a bag containing the \$15,000

cash, and a bail bond representative, "Karen Woods," would be arriving at their door to pick it up. Later in the scam, that name changed to "Jason Hemsley."

The fake attorney repeatedly stressed to the grandparents that there was a "gag order" in the case. If violated, the grandson would forfeit his chance for bail. The fake attorney also emphasizes a sense of urgency; the \$15,000 bail had to be paid immediately.

Noting the holes in the story, the grandparents contacted their local Hillsboro attorney, who suggested they try to locate credentials for "attorney Michael Grant" through the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (312-565-2600). Of course, there were none.

Incidentally, the Hillsboro attorney telephoned the potential victims later in the day and told them that he, too, had just gotten a call from a fake grandchild in distress.

As the grandparents began to backpedal from the scam, calls began to arrive from fake "Judge Harris," who stressed that the bail bondsman was enroute to their house to collect the bail money. At one point, the fake judge could not readily tell the potential victims what state they were in.

The fake judge eventually quoted an Elvis Presley song to the potential victims, and told them that if they wanted to help their grandson, "it's now or never."

The grandparents chose "never," and the fake judge ended the call.

Journal-News Recognized At IPA Convention

The Journal-News was recognized with more than two dozen awards at this year's Illinois Press Association advertising and editorial contests.

Awards were presented at the annual Illinois Press Association convention, held Thursday, June 8, in Bloomington. Those attending included owners John M. and Susan Galer, Publisher Mike Plunkett and his wife, Heather, Editor Mary (Galer) Herschelmann and Sports Editor Kyle Herschelmann.

Advertising Contest

Twenty-six newspapers submitted nearly 300 entries in this year's advertising competition, which was judged by the Iowa Press Association. *The Journal-News* competes in Division H, which includes newspapers with circulation of 1,501 to 7,000. This year, *The Hinsdalean* took home the trophy for the Sam Zito Award of Excellence, which is the top honor in Division H.

- Real Estate Ad - fourth place (Montgomery County Realty - Mike Plunkett).
- Automotive Ad - fourth place (Victory Lane Outdoors - Mike Plunkett).
- Service/Institutional Ad - second place (Tosetti It's All Good News - Mike Plunkett).
- Service/Institutional Ad - fourth place (First National Bank of Litchfield - Kyle Herschelmann).
- Religious/NonProfit Ad - fourth place (Hillsboro Presbyterian Fundraiser - Mike Plunkett).
- Miscellaneous Ad - first place (Tosetti and Associates - Mike Plunkett). Judges wrote, "Powerful Ad. Nice to see this ad with the chamber article."
- Political Ad - first place (Hats in the Ring - John M. Galer). Judges wrote, "Nice, clean, crisp ad. I like the framing, font, sizing, etc."
- Political Ad - third place (ReElect Nikki Lohman - Mike Plunkett).
- Best Small Ad - fourth place (TASC Month - Mike Plunkett).
- Best Color Ad - first place (National Autism Month - Mike Plunkett). Judges wrote, "Great use of the logo colors to tie the ad together."
- Best Color Ad - fourth place (Sky View Carnival - Mike Plunkett).
- Best One-Time Special Section - third place (Fall Farm Section - staff).
- Best Community Focus Special Section - third place (Montgomery County Guide Salute to Hospitals - staff).



Members of The Journal-News staff were honored with more than two dozen awards at this year's Illinois Press Association convention on Thursday, June 8, in Bloomington. Pictured above, from the left are owner Susie Galer, Editor Mary (Galer) Herschelmann, owner John M. Galer, Sports Editor Kyle Herschelmann and Publisher Mike Plunkett.

- Best Classified Ad - second place (Tobias Public House - Mike Plunkett).
- Best Shared/Signature Page - first place (Grandparents Day - staff). Judges wrote, "Grandparents are loyal readers of newspapers, so why not create a signature page for them. The letters from the fifth graders were fun to read."
- Best Shared/Signature Page - third place (School Safety ABCs - staff).
- Best Group Promotion - second place (Imagine Hillsboro Rock the Block - staff).
- Best Holiday Ad - fourth place (Alpha Candles - Mary (Galer) Herschelmann).
- Best Online Ad - fourth place (Neuhaus Heating and Cooling - Mike Plunkett).

Editorial Awards

This year's editorial competition featured 1,400 entries from nearly 100 daily and non-daily newspapers for work done in 2021. Taking home the top sweepstakes award for the large, non-daily category was *The Hinsdalean*, with *The Journal-News* placing fourth.

- Local Editorial - first place (Make HHS Accessible for All - Mary (Galer) Herschelmann).
- Localized National Story - first place (Wilhelm Helps Families Evacuate From Ukraine - Mary (Galer) Herschelmann). Judges wrote, "A perfect score? Indeed. Wilhelm told his story thoroughly and with grace. The reporter got out of the way and let Wilhelm tell the powerful story. The management committed space and resources to sup-

port a lengthy story. A story well told."

- Business/Economic Reporting - fourth place (Matthew Sparks Picks Up Lucchi Family Tradition - Tori O'Dell).
- Sports News - third place (Three or Not A Three The Question At Hillsboro - Kyle Herschelmann).
- Sports Feature - fourth place (Loucks' Commitment to Hillsboro Wrestling A Service to Mankind - Kyle Herschelmann).
- Feature Writing - Personality Profile - second place (Brazel Donation Helps Save a Life - Bethany Martin).
- Photo Series - third place (Riders Scramble to Race At Cahokia Creek - Kyle Herschelmann).
- Sports Photo - first place (Four State Medals Definitely Something to Crow About - Kyle Herschelmann). Judges wrote, "This photo is all the right blends of emotion, angle and consideration of foreground and background. The light/color could be crisper, but it's good. I did not consider the explanation/caption, but it's also a nice touch. ('head and shoulders above' sort of true, but also sort of inverted in the photo)."
- Sports Photo - Portrait/Personality - first place (Lancers Survive Whistle Fest On Senior Night - Kyle Herschelmann). Judges wrote, "This photo is full of personality and captures a real part of the game of basketball."
- Sports Photo - Portrait/Personality - second place

(Celebrating Second In State - Mary (Galer) Herschelmann).

- Informational Graphic - fourth place (No-Hitter A Dream Come True for Detmers - Kyle Herschelmann).
- Newspaper Design - second place (staff).
- Headline Writing - third place (Kyle Herschelmann).
- Special Sections - second place (Fall Farm Section - staff). Judges wrote, "Great photo of the crop duster. Would like to see more photos like that. Local interest stories would have been a nice touch too." The crop duster photo was taken by Sheila Moore of Moore Focused in Hillsboro.
- Sports Section - third place (staff). Judges wrote, "Great coverage of local sports. Nice photography."
- Robert M. Cole Award for Best School Board Coverage - first place (Panhandle School Board - Kyle Herschelmann and Mary (Galer) Herschelmann). Judges wrote, "Excellent explanations when needed, great depth of reporting of board discussions, all clear and well-written. Good work connecting board of education and community."

Publisher Mike Plunkett congratulated the entire staff of the newspaper for all their hard work and dedication in covering Montgomery County each and every day.

"We don't do what we do at the newspaper for awards," Plunkett said. "We do it out of love for our community. Being honored by our peers is just the icing on the cake."

Scholarship Award Winners



Blake Rentz

United Recyclers Group Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce Blake Rentz as a \$4,500 Award winner for 2023. Blake is the son of Karen Rentz and Craig Rentz. Craig Rentz is employed by Mullins Auto Parts, a URG

member in Mount Olive, Illinois.

Blake is currently enrolled at SIUE with a major in environmental toxicology. He is doing research in his program, holds a vice president position in his fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon, and is serving as the Interfraternity Council President for SIUE. His future plans are to earn a master's degree in environmental chemistry and toxicology. Blake was selected as the 4th place finisher for the United Recyclers Guild annual Scholarship.

Blake is grateful to the United Recyclers Guild, Mullins Auto Parts in Mt. Olive, IL, and his father—who has worked at Mullins Auto Parts for over a decade—for providing him this opportunity.



Hailey Rentz

United Recyclers Group Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce Hailey Rentz as a \$5,500 Award winner for 2023. Hailey is the daughter of Karen Rentz and Craig Rentz. Craig Rentz is employed by Mullins Auto Parts, a URG member in Mount Olive, Illinois.

Hailey plans to attend the University of Notre Dame to pursue a degree in statistics.

Congratulations on your Academic Achievements!
Best of Luck in your Future Endeavors!

HILLSBORO
ILLINOIS Bicentennial
1823 - 2023 PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

Please join us in celebrating Hillsboro's 200th Birthday!

When: Saturday, June 24, 2023
Where: Central Park, Hillsboro, IL

11:00 am Bounce Houses and Kids Free Play
11:30 am Picnic in the Park
12:00 pm Tree and Plaque Dedication
Immediately following Cake Cutting

sponsored by:

Limited seating will be available, so we encourage you to bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. You may bring your own picnic OR pre-order a sack lunch from Imagine Hillsboro.

Sack Lunch Pre-Order
imaginehillsboro.com/events-registration

Includes:
• sandwich
• chips
• drink
• cookie

\$12

Comes in an "Everything A Small Town Should Be" cotton tote (14" x 14"). No tote = \$5 per sack lunch.

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Obituaries

Marie L. Pursell, 86 Enjoyed Fashion



Marie Louise Pursell, 86, of Litchfield, died at 6:24 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, at Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield, with the Rev. Mike Rogers of Litchfield Southern Baptist Church officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service, from noon until the time of service. Interment will be at Cedar Ridge Cemetery in Honey Bend. Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Pursell was born on June 26, 1936, in Worden, a daughter of Paul and Louise (Homier) Albrecht. She married Ronald H. Pursell on June 26, 1965, at St. Timothy's United Methodist Church in Litchfield, and he preceded her in death on Nov. 30, 2020.

Mrs. Pursell graduated with Livingston High School's class of 1955. She attended the Central Illinois School of Beauty Culture. Mrs. Pursell enjoyed fashion; she was employed in Litchfield by Sydney's Women's Wear for 25 years until its closing, Clothes-Go-Round, Kirlins and Glik's. She enjoyed volunteering at Hearts United and was an avid St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan. Mrs. Pursell was devoted to her family and took a great interest in all of her grandchildren's activities.

Mrs. Pursell is survived by her daughters, Connie (Brad) Frerichs and Tina (Winston) Grabner, both of Litchfield; grandchildren, Courtney (Nick) Wood, Casey Frerichs, and Taylor (Zach) Shelton; great-grandchildren, Serenity, Tori, Colin, Heaven, Jayde and Eleanor.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; three brothers, Irvin Albrecht, Paul Albrecht and Raymond Albrecht; and an infant sister, Ruth Marie Albrecht.

Memorials be made to the Litchfield High School Student Assistance Fund. Condolences may be left online at www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Wilda Mae Pfeifer, 87 Teacher, Quilter



Wilda Pfeifer, age 87, of Luverne, MN, died on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, at the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 24, at the Fillmore Methodist Church in Fillmore. Burial will be at Mount Moriah Cemetery in rural Coffeen. Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne, MN, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Pfeifer as born on March 13, 1935, to Floyd and Rhoda (Spears) Hill in the farm home in Montgomery County. She attended Alexander Country School through the eighth grade and then completed her education at Fillmore High School in Fillmore.

Following graduation, Mrs. Pfeifer attended Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. She then taught elementary school in several schools in Fayette County and later northern Illinois and Iowa. Mrs. Pfeifer spent most of her career teaching second grade and later, junior high school art class. Upon the death of her father in 1975, she resigned from her teaching position at Green, Iowa, to become a companion and caretaker to her mother. She also worked as a substitute teacher in Hillsboro and Ramsey, Illinois.

She married Roy Pfeifer on Jan. 11, 1985, and the couple moved to Coffeen. At this time, she took a clerking job at a grocery store in town. Mrs. Pfeifer was active in the Fillmore United Methodist Church Women's group, Royal Neighbors, Red Hat Society, Senior Citizens Club and Bunco Group. She enjoyed embroidery work, making quilts, traveling and spending time with her family. In January 2022, she moved to Luverne, MN, and became a resident of the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home.

Mrs. Pfeifer is survived by her sister, Melba Boeve of Luverne, MN; sister-in-law, Opal Lawrence of Hillsboro; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband on June 17, 2004; parents; infant sister, Frances Hill; brother, Sollie Hill; aunts and uncles; three nephews; and one niece.

Memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association or the American Diabetes Association. Condolences may be left online at www.hartquistfuneral.com.

William J. Wilson, 79 Teacher, Enjoyed Traveling



William J. Wilson, 79, of Carrollton, died at 4:08 p.m. on Friday, June 2, 2023, at Helia Healthcare in Jerseyville.

Gravesite services were held on Thursday, June 8, at Holy Cross Cemetery in Gillespie. Kravanya Funeral Home in Gillespie assisted the family with arrangements.

Mr. Wilson was born on April 24, 1944, in Litchfield, to William Orville Wilson and Marguerite (Zboyovski) Wilson. He was retired after having been a teacher for 34 years. Mr. Wilson taught special education

and fifth grade at North Greene and WhiteHall. He enjoyed spending time with family and traveling.

Mr. Wilson is survived by his special friend, Jackie Williams of Roodhouse; and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Marguerite Wilson, II. Condolences may be left online at www.kravanyafuneral.com.

Diana L. Parsons, 73 Excellent Cook, Gardener



Diana Lynn Budd Parsons, 73, of Litchfield, died on Monday, June 12, 2023.

Funeral services will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 16, at the Christian Church of Litchfield, located at 131 Yaeger Lake Trail, with the Rev. Steve Revisky and the Rev. Tim Barbee co-officiating. Visitation will be at the church from 3 p.m. until the time of service. Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Parsons was born on May 4, 1950, a daughter of Alfred Richard and Elsie Lorraine (Ealey) Budd. She married David D. Parsons on May 22, 1993 in Litchfield. Mrs. Parsons graduated from Gillespie High School with the Class of 1969, and attended Lincoln Land Community College. She was employed at Schutt Sports Group for 23 years, and for several years was the office administrator at the Christian Church of Litchfield.

Mrs. Parsons was an excellent cook. She enjoyed gardening, doing crafts and going to gospel sings. Mrs. Parsons also enjoyed being involved in the Easter pageant at Meramec Caverns, where she played the part of Mary.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Parsons is survived by her children, Tony (Lanette) Geninatti, Jr., of Benson, NC, Collin (Marsha) Geninatti of Salem, MO, and Cassie (Greg) Holder of Raymond; three brothers, Donald Budd of Channahon, Bill (Marilyn) Budd of Sherman and Wayne Budd of Litchfield; a sister, Wanda Wagner of Mt. Olive; six grandchildren, Lee Dean, Chad Dean, Chasity Dean, Dakota (Savhanna) Fenton, Alyson Holder and Steven Holder; a great-grandchild, C.J. Dean and one on the way; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, John Budd; a sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Eugene Perrine; and a sister-in-law, Linda Budd.

Memorials may be made to the Christian Church of Litchfield or Hearts United. Condolences may be left online at www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Robert Miller, Sr., 90 Principal, Coach



Robert "Bob" Miller, Sr., 90, died on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at his home, receiving in-home hospice care.

A Celebration of Life Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus, GA, on Thursday, June 15. Father Andy Blakemore will be the celebrant. Visitation with family and friends will take place one hour prior to service. Interment will be in Belleville. Striffler-Hamby Mortuary is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mr. Miller was born on July 10, 1932, in Belleville, son of Robert F. and Mary Ann Nugent Miller. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri in 1955, later receiving his master's degree in education from the University of Illinois, in 1959. Mr. Miller was proud to serve his country during the Korean War. Stationed at Fort Belvoir in Virginia. He taught in the Engineer School and played on the Army basketball team.

Mr. Miller had a passion for basketball whether playing, refereeing or coaching the game. Upon discharge he entered the field of education. Mr. Miller taught all levels and became a principal of Litchfield High School from 1969 to 1972. The last 14 years, 1972 to 1986 of his career, he was principal of Taylorville High School. Following his 30 years in education. Mr. Miller and his wife retired in Columbus, GA in 1989. He was active in the community, coaching a softball team for All Saints Presbyterian Church, a member of St. Thomas Church and later became a member of Trinity Episcopal Church. At one point he served on the vestry as well as being a Lay Episcopal Minister. Mr. Miller was happiest serving in several capacities such as coaching, playing basketball, softball, mentoring students, always putting a smile on another person's face, brightening their day.

Mr. Miller was a positive, jovial mentor, always exhibiting a warm smile and genuine concern for all who crossed his path. He always seemed to demonstrate God's love to others. Mr. Miller will be fondly remembered by all his loving family, friends and the thousands of students he served.

Mr. Miller is survived by his beloved wife, Jean Marie Fuller Miller of 65 years; son, Robert "Bobby" James Miller, Jr. of Westmont and LTC (retired) Mary Elizabeth (husband, MG (retired) Robert David) Tenhet of Swansea, MA, and Black Mountain, NC; and his brother-in-law Col. (retired) John D. (wife, Sara) Fuller of Freeport, FL.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister JoAnn Miller Sekosky and her husband of Rocky River, OH.

Memorials may be directed to Trinity Episcopal Church, 1130 First Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901, or the charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be left online at www.shcolumbus.com.

June Weise, 98 Nurse, Loved To Travel



June Weise, 98, of Carlinville, died on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at Heritage Health in Carlinville, a week after celebrating her birthday with her daughter Patrice Fraser and lifelong friends Mary Ann Dunn, Monica (Dunn) Sottoriva, and Susan Dunn, all of whom were at her side during her last days.

Funeral mass was celebrated on Wednesday, June 14, starting 11 a.m. at Ss. Mary and Joseph Catholic Church. Heinz Funeral Home of Carlinville assisted the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Weise was born on June 1, 1925, in Verona Township, Grundy County, to Elmer and Susie (Elsperman) Redman. She married Joseph L. Weise on Nov. 22, 1958, and they lived their entire lives in Carlinville. He preceded her in death in June 1990.

Mrs. Weise grew up in Girard and graduated from high school in 1943. She attended St. John's Hospital School of Nursing in Springfield through her acceptance into the United States Cadet Nurses Program and graduated in 1946. She attended classes at Blackburn College in Carlinville and later graduated from the College of St. Francis in Joliet in 1986 with a bachelor of science degree. Her career in nursing and health care spanned over four decades, and included work at HSHS St. John's Hospital, Carlinville Area Hospital, the TB Sanatorium Board in Macoupin County and the Macoupin County Health Department. Mrs. Weise was the health department's first administrator when it was created in 1983, and remained in that position until she retired in 1990.

Mrs. Weise was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, and her favorite activities involved spending time with family and friends. As a young woman, she enjoyed reading, listening to music, dancing, golf and bowling. As she grew older, she also enjoyed knitting, embroidery, macrame, baking, sketching, tole painting, and bingo. Mrs. Weise traveled a bit before and after her retirement, taking trips to Morocco and Hawaii with her husband and to Germany with her lifelong friend Martha (Fouk) Dunn. She also traveled to various locations in the United States with her daughter Patrice, to Las Vegas with dear friend Margaret (Schoenherr) Bloomfield, to the Alton Belle with lifelong friend Doris (Miller) Schmidt and Debbie Zilm, as well as the countless evenings at local bingo halls with Margaret, Sue (Levi) Coonrod, and Cy and Betty Karrick. She also enjoyed attending concerts and performances at the Fox Theatre in St. Louis, MO. Mrs. Weise fully embraced her role of grandmother. As her grandson grew they became best buddies, and she loved to keep him overnight, take him to Dairy Queen for treats and accompany the family for his sports and other school activities.

Mrs. Weise is survived by her children, Patrice of Carlinville, Dan Weise and Suzanne Hoots; grandson, Joe Fraser of Carlinville; sister, Elaine Handle of Hillsboro; brother, Gene (wife Paula) Redman of Highland; many cousins, nieces and nephews; and the daughters and sons of lifelong friends who assisted in managing her care for the last several years.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Doris Sturgeon and Anna May Hemken; brother, Bill Redman; and her son-in-law, Bill Fraser.

Memorials may be directed to HSHS St. John's Hospital School of Nursing. Condolences may be left online at www.heinzfuneralhome.com.

Janet L. Smith, 77 Master Gardener



Janet L. Smith, 77, of Litchfield, died at 10:55 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at her home.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 18, at Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield, with the Rev. Jon Magnuson of Beacon Church officiating. Visitation will be prior to the service, from noon until the time of service. Interment will be at Cedar Ridge Cemetery in Honey Bend. Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Smith was born on Jan. 4, 1946, in Springfield, a daughter of Thomas Charles and Helen Louise (Gerhard) Shepherd. She married Ronald Lee Ray on Aug. 28, 1965; they later divorced. On July 29, 1988, she married Roger Keith Smith, and he survives. She graduated with Lincolnwood High School's Class of 1964. In her earlier years, she enjoyed quilting and raising show horses with her first husband, Ronald Ray. Later, she was the activity director for Berry Care Center in Litchfield, and she was employed by Litchfield Community Unit School District #12 as a bus driver for several years. As a University of Illinois Master Gardener, she loved working in her floral garden and kept it looking beautiful.

In addition to her husband Roger, Mrs. Smith is survived by two sons, Jess (Fawn) Ray and Lucas (companion Shannon Sweeny) Ray, both of Normal; one step-son, Chad (Michelle) Smith of Butler; one step-daughter, Candi (Rowdy) Luck of Hillsboro; a brother, Jim (Dorothy) Shepherd of Hillsboro; seven grandchildren, Aidan and Alannah Ray, Taylor Huber, Shoal Luck and Avery, Presley and River Smith; two great-grandchildren, Sterling and Jesse Huber; and several cousins, nieces and nephews, all of whom she was very fond of.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

The family suggests memorials be made to Alzheimer's Association or St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Condolences may be left online at www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

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THANK YOU!

We wish to thank our friends and family for their prayers, cards, food, flowers, texts, messages on social media, and for all the words of comfort and support during our loss. It was amazing!

Thanks to the outpouring of those who attended the visitation, and for all the stories and wonderful memories shared. They truly brought us joy; smiles to our faces, and times of laughter.

We were wholeheartedly touched by the military ceremony at the gravesite, as it brought tears of honor to our hearts. We are forever grateful.

A special thanks to Pastor Ritter and Faith Lutheran Church, Litchfield Family Funeral home, Dr. Phillip Johnson, and the women of Trinity Lutheran Church. Your support and kindness will always be treasured.

We are so thankful and blessed for all of you.

With love and gratitude,

The Family of Harvey Ernst



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On His Birthday
June 15th

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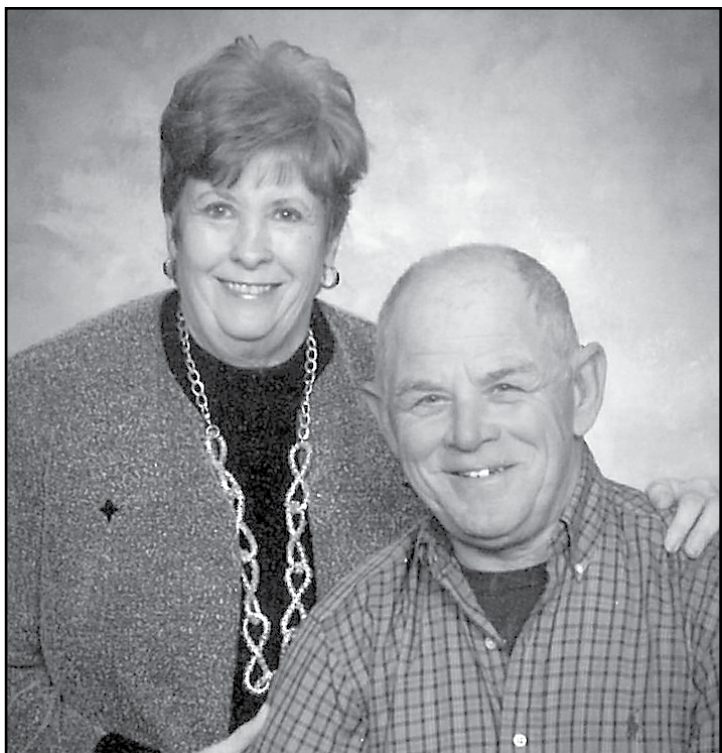
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Mr. and Mrs. Dale Walcher today

Mr. and Mrs. Walcher Celebrate Anniversary

Dale and Gloria Walcher of Irving celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, with a vow renewal at the Free Methodist Church in Hillsboro, officiated by Pastor CJ Dyas.

Mr. Walcher is retired from the Peabody Coal Company. Mrs. Walcher is retired from UMB Bank in Swansea, where she was employed as a bank manager.

Mr. and Mrs. Walcher share six children, Amy (Scott) Bauer, Wade Walcher, Christine Farmer, (the late) Stephen Markovic, (the late) Eric Markovic, and Christopher (Heather) Markovic. The couple has



The newly married couple on May 30, 1998.

also been blessed with 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Mt. Olive First Baptist Honors Fathers During Sunday Service

Mt. Olive First Baptist Church, located at 410 West 3rd North Street, will host a special "Honor Father's Day" service on Sunday, June 18, during their worship services at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The services will feature

special music, such as "Faith of Our Fathers" and will center on honoring both fathers and spiritual fathers. A small gift will be given to each man present.

For more information contact Mt. Olive First Baptist at 217-299-0508.

Births

Larry Spencer and Tifani Giller announce the birth of their son, La'Tayvion Jamez Spencer, born at 10:31 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. He weighed 7 lbs., 5 ozs., and measured 20 ins., long.

La'Tayvion is welcomed to the world by his older siblings, Kei'Lani, age three years old, and Lakahri, age one year old.

Maternal grandparents are Randle Giller of Centralia and the late Kristi Giller. Paternal grandparents are the late Deberah Anderson and Larry Spencer, Sr., both formerly of St. Louis, MO.

Maternal great-grandparents are Brenda Giller of Greenville and the late Steve Giller. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Sam Edwards and Dorothy Anderson.

~ ~ ~

Former Old Settlers Queens Gather For Aug. 6 Reunion

The Historical Society of Montgomery County, in conjunction with the Old Settlers Association, is planning an Old Settlers Past Queen reunion.

The informal event is planned for Sunday, Aug. 6, at the Abbey on Broad in downtown Hillsboro, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Historical Society invites all past Old Settlers Queens who are able to come

and enjoy cupcakes, cake and drinks, as well as the opportunity to visit and share experiences with each other.

Please help spread the word to all former Old Settlers queens to come and join the fun.

For more information, call Linda Zimmer, president of the Historical Society of Montgomery County at 217-254-9307.

Mt. Zion Lutheran To Host Worship Service

Pastor Cynthia Munker will lead worship for the third Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 18, in the church sanctuary. The service will be livestreaming on the "Mt. Zion Lutheran, Litchfield, IL" page on Facebook.

Scriptures for study are Exodus 19:2-8a and Psalm 100. The gospel for preaching and study is Matthew 9:35-10:8. The congregation will sing "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life," "I Love to Tell the Story," "Bind us Together" and "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises."

Mt. Zion Lutheran church's Mission Beyond

their Walls for June is Education Station.

"Education Station is organized by Southside Church. The program purchases and distributes school supplies to students in the Litchfield area," explained Pastor Munker. "Students receive brand new bookbags and school supplies, enabling them to start the school year all bright and shiny. In each recent year, upwards of 100 children have been served."

All Christians are welcome to join in Holy Communion with the church. Mt. Zion Lutheran Church is located at 824 North Monroe Street in Litchfield.



Sapphire Anniversary For Raymond Couple

Larry and Nancy (Edmiston) Weitekamp of Raymond will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary tomorrow Friday, June 16. The couple was joined in marriage on June 16, 1978 at St. Raymond Catholic Church in Raymond with Father Gorman officiating.

Mr. Weitekamp retired as president of Agrivest Inc. and Mrs. Weitekamp retired after over 33 years of teaching at Lincolnwood High School and substitute teaching for Panhandle School District #2.

They are the parents of seven children, including

Kimberly (David) Gray of East Peoria, Brett (Cara) Weitekamp of Urbana, Ryan Weitekamp of Springfield, Austin Weitekamp of Verona, WI, Kayla (Chip) Manuel of Tampa, FL, Lauren Weitekamp of Plano, TX, and Kaitlin (David) Allsach of Mt. Pulaski. The couple has been blessed with 11 grandchildren with two more due this summer, Mitchell, Ethan, Matthew, and Suzanne Gray, Andrew Quednau, Melissa Johnson, Benjamin Weitekamp, Christian, James, Beau, and Baby Manuel, Asia Weitekamp and Baby Allsach.

Theo Edwards Earns Degree From Eastern

Theo (Helena) Edwards of Hillsboro graduated Cum Laude with Departmental Honors from Eastern Illinois University this May, earning a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and minors in journalism and sociology.

A 2020 graduate of Hillsboro High Schools, Edwards is the daughter of Darryl Edwards of Hillsboro and Peggy Edwards of Georgetown. During her time at EIU, she was a member of the Psychology Honors Program and Psi Chi Honor Society. Edwards also worked on the Daily Eastern News (DEN), and at the EIU Textbook Rental services.

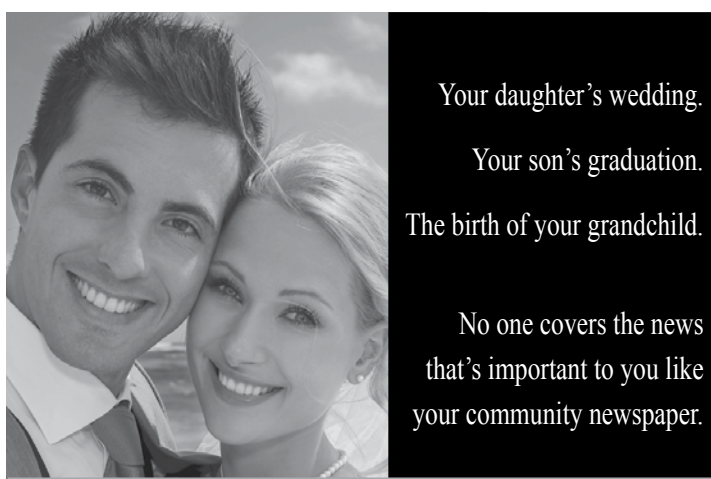
In April of 2023 she presented her undergraduate thesis research at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago and at the Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference in Evansville, IN.



Theo Edwards

Edwards will be an incoming student in the master's program at EIU this fall. She will be working as a graduate assistant in the Gender and Sexual Diversity Center while earning a master's degree in psychology.

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Calvary Baptist Hosts Vacation Bible School

Members of Calvary Baptist Church in Hillsboro are hosting Vacation Bible School June 12-15, nightly from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for children ages four years old through fifth grade. This year's theme is Twists and Turns. Twists and Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. The final evening of the week, Friday, June 16, children will arrive for VBS at 6 p.m. Their families are invited to come at 7 p.m. for a special program of songs they have learned throughout the week. Following the program, there will be hot dogs, chips and drinks, as well as an ice cream bar.

Journal-News Photo

Matoush Earns Degree At Washington University

Sammi Matoush of Hillsboro graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, MO, this May with a bachelor's degree in statistics and a minor in finance.

During her senior year, she completed an honors thesis analyzing the statistical relationship between injuries and in-game statistics among NBA players. She graduated with highest distinction from the Mathematics and Statistics Department and was the recipient of the Martin Silverstein Award presented to the top undergraduate statistics student.

Throughout her time at Washington University, she was also a starter on the women's basketball team.

Matoush is a 2019 graduate of Hillsboro High School, and the daughter of Chris and Jill Matoush of Hillsboro.

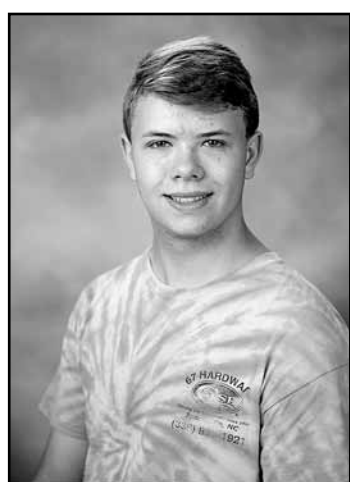


Sammi Matoush

Following graduation, she will be working as a life underwriter for Prudential Insurance in St. Louis, MO. In the future, she plans on taking the necessary actuarial exams to become an actuary.



Blake Cullison



Greg Bland



Chloe Martincic



Allie Kuhns

Hiltopper Students Receive Topper Pride Award

Hillsboro High School (HHS) has announced that Blake Cullison, Greg Bland, Chloe Martincic and Allie Kuhns were selected for the Topper Pride Award for the second quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

The special recognition is awarded to students who show exemplified characteristics in leadership, attitude and direction. Students are nominated by teachers and the winner is chosen by administration.

Blake Cullison

Blake Cullison is a freshman at Hillsboro High School and is the son of Alex and Taylor Cullison. Cullison likes cars and he likes to drive his rc cars. He plays soccer and basketball for Hillsboro High School and enjoys being friends with so many people on the team. Cullison also enjoys listening to country

music.

Greg Bland

Greg Bland is a sophomore at HHS and is the son of Melinda Goodman and Greg Bland. He enjoys attending church and going to football games. Bland's favorite part of Hillsboro High School is that it is a fantastic school with great people. His favorite book is *Code of Honor* by Alan Gratz. Bland's advice to other students is to "be your best at what you are good at." He would like to give a shout out to Mitchell Cunningham because he is a great and cheerful student, and is always around when you need a laugh. After high school, Bland hopes to attend a university and possibly move into a field of law enforcement.

Chloe Martincic

Chloe Martincic is a junior at Hillsboro High School and

is the daughter of Shelby and Nate Martincic. Martincic has a pet dog named Mia, a sister and two brothers. She said the best part about high school is getting to be a part of different clubs and sports. Martincic is active on the tennis and dance teams. She also enjoys reading, listening to music, and baking. Her favorite book is *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo. Martincic would like to give a shout out to Sam Frailey because she is a good friend. After high school, Martincic plans to attend college to become a biochemist.

Allie Kuhns

Allie Kuhns is a senior at HHS this year and is the daughter of Gwen and Nick Kuhns. Kuhns enjoys coaching her swim teams and playing indoor soccer. She is involved in Chamber Choir, Operetta, Soccer,

Cross Country, National Honor Society, Student Council and Interact Club. Her style for books is historical fiction and she enjoys all types of songs, ranging from Indie folk to Harry Styles. Kuhns' advice to others is to "appreciate high school to the fullest because it goes by so quickly." In addition, she advised her peers to "not be afraid to get involved in a club or sport, because it really changes your life for the better." She would like to give a shout out to her mom and dad for always pushing her to do things outside her comfort zone and to be the best she can be. After high school, Kuhns plans to attend a university to major in exercise science and minor in business.



Wednesday Lego Club Continues In Litchfield

Lauren Cruthis built the world's tallest beanstalk at the latest meeting of the Litchfield Public Library's Lego Club. Cruthis used all the flower petals in the box to create this oversized stem, complete with bloom at the top. Shortly after the photo was snapped, the stalk crumbled to the table. Lego Club is held every Wednesday at 3 p.m. at the Litchfield Public Library, and kids of all ages are welcome to attend.

Participants Needed For Quilt Show

The 2023 Old Settlers Quilt Show will be held on Thursday, Aug. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in downtown Hillsboro.

Due to the Hillsboro Bicentennial celebration this year, organizers are looking for heirloom, patriotic and sentimental favorite (old or new) quilts.

To reserve a spot in the

quilt show, contact Becky Gonzalez at 217-622-0682 or Maribeth Rahe at 217-494-7439 by July 10. They are looking forward to seeing and displaying treasured quilts from the community.

Lincoln Land Plans Freedom Walk

Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) is hosting a Freedom Walk at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.

The public is invited to participate in the 1.25-mile walk around LLCC's Springfield campus at 5250 Shep-

herd Road. The Freedom Walk will begin at the flag poles outside of A. Lincoln Commons, and will include tributes to the timeline of events leading up to Juneteenth's Freedom Day.

A light continental breakfast will be provided after

the walk. Participants are encouraged to wear Juneteenth colors of red, green, gold or black.

More information about Juneteenth can be found online at <https://library.llcc.edu/juneteenth2023>.

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Montgomery County Board

Continued from page 1A

The last speaker was Dave Schweitzer, who changed the topic to ARPA funding. He said that the Nokomis Area Ambulance Service was awarded ARPA funding for a new ambulance, but couldn't afford the 40 percent match, so they didn't get any funding. He asked what happened to the funding allocated for their project. Schweitzer also asked the board if they have errors of omission insurance. When the ambulance billing office was closed, they lost the ability to make claims on 93 calls they responded to. He said the next step would be litigation with the county to get that funding back. Montgomery County State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti said the county does not have a separate errors of omission policy, but that instance might fall under the county's general policy.

Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds Committee Chairman Bob Sneed said they handled a few routine maintenance and cleaning issues.

Sneed said the committee got a bid for \$11,800 to do exterior painting at the Historic Courthouse, including the fire escape and the band around the building. That project is currently on hold, as they don't want to bring heavy machines onto brand new sidewalks, which was the very next motion.

Board members unanimously approved the lone bid from Kinney Contractors for \$232,215 for sidewalk replacement at the Historic Courthouse, which is expected to be done by Old Settlers at the beginning of August. Sneed said the engineering fees were a little higher than they anticipated, but felt it was time to do the project. The county has an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Hillsboro, who will share in the cost of the project. The county will pay for it in its entirety, and then Hillsboro will reimburse them. Board Vice Chairman Evan Young asked what happens if Hillsboro doesn't pay, and Affrunti said that's why the intergovernmental agreement is in place.

Sneed said they are awaiting funding from the DCEO (Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity) for an interior door project at the county clerk's office.

In a final motion, the board unanimously agreed to sell the old Highway Department property as one parcel to a developer. The property includes six or seven lots that can be developed and put back on the tax rolls. Currently, the EMA (emergency management) department uses the building on the property for storage. In one to two years, when there is a new building at the Highway Department, EMA will move into one of the older buildings down there, and the county will demolish the red building on the property. The county will also pay for abatement of asbestos. Young asked why they were waiting to do the asbestos abatement in a year or two, as costs could continue to rise. Sneed said it could be done now, and the committee would discuss it.

Development and Personnel

Development and Personnel Committee Chairman Mark Hughes reported that Amanda Mast will attend their next meeting to go over the latest employee health insurance numbers.

In animal control news, Hughes said they continue to work on getting municipal contracts signed with local communities. He met with stakeholders in Taylor Springs to answer questions. In addition, the next mayors' meeting will be held on June 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse.

Board members unanimously approved the annual agreement with the Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Service.

Hughes said he attended the latest meeting of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation, and is concerned about what the county is getting for its \$15,000 annual investment into the group. He asked for copies of their yearly budget, and will continue to look into the matter.

Later in the meeting, the board unanimously re-appointed CJ Liddell and Brian Niemann to the County Planning Commission for three-year terms, but Hughes noted there are still three vacancies.

Hughes said his committee heard a presentation from Rick Harnish of Nextlink, who got a grant to bring broadband internet service to the northern areas of Montgomery County. Another company was awarded the area in the south of the county. Hughes said at this point, they don't think it will cost the county anything, but they are looking for letters of support from the community. The project is a six-year build out.

In a 10-4 vote, the board approved the county's updated solar ordinance, which was changed to meet new state regulations. Board members had 30 days to review it. Young asked what happened if the county said no, and Affrunti said they would likely be mired in litigation from the state. Voting against the measure were Young, Russ Beason, Chad Ruppert and David Loucks.

In a 12-2 voice vote, the board approved the county's updated wind ordinance, also after a 30-day review. Voting no were Young and Loucks.

The board unanimously tabled a request from Solar Provider Group for a permit application. It was independently reviewed by Hurst-Rosche, and representative Jeremy Connor said he would be okay with it once the group completed a few final things they were expected to complete. Affrunti said he doesn't like to approve permits provisionally, and the board tabled it until next month.

The board unanimously approved tax abatement for G&M Vending in Schram City for four years, as they are expanding their business. Hughes said he felt it was a great idea, and wished everyone did it.

In a final note, Hughes said they would soon begin contract negotiations with county unions.

Finance and Budget

Finance and Budget Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie had a request from the supervisor of assessments office. Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus is asking the board to consider requiring a recording lease to qualify for a homestead exemption for property taxes. She's also asking that renters bring in an electrical bill with his or her name on it as proof of residence. Niehaus said in some cases, landlords put a name for the exemption, although that person doesn't actually reside there. In addition, she said that the TrueRoll software (which cost the county \$11,000) has already recovered \$16,561 for the county.

Board member unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement with the multi-township assessment district of Nokomis and Audubon. Young asked what was in the agreement, and Ritchie said the county would do assessments like they do for some other townships. Niehaus said it would be \$6,900 per year, which is what was paid the previous two years.

In capital improvement news, Ritchie said the county received \$170,000 in coal royalty money in May. They are expecting smaller checks in the coming months as the coal company catches up and moves some coal, but then they could be larger again.

The board took no action on conveyance of a deed in North Litchfield Township to Yvonne Hart.

Board members unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Litchfield for an increase in coverage of police dispatch and radio. Currently, the county covers about 80 percent of the dispatching services. Litchfield will pay \$25,000 more per year for the increased service. In 2023, it will be pro-rated to \$14,809 for the six months from now until the county's fiscal year starts on Dec. 1.

The board unanimously approved \$13,425 for body cameras for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and \$86,275 to outfit vehicles with

cameras. Both are required by state statute. Sheriff Rick Robbins got a grant to cover the costs, and the county will be reimbursed for the expenses. Board members also unanimously approved \$130,725 for storage of that footage over a five-year period. Sheriff Robbins is looking into grant opportunities to help offset the cost of that as well. Affrunti said this really helps his office with cases and having the footage in the Cloud saves on costs as well.

The board unanimously approved an imprest account for the maintenance department, which will be overseen by the Building and Grounds Committee. Sneed said it would be a help to their maintenance manager. Treasurer Nikki Lohman said the account would also be part of the county's audit every year.

Although no action was taken, Affrunti is asking the county to consider amending the budget this year to increase the line item for assistant state's attorney by \$30,000. His office lost an assistant state's attorney in April, and he and the other assistant are struggling to keep up with the workload. Although he has been advertising for the position, he isn't able to recruit anyone with experience at the current salary. With a nationwide shortage of attorneys, other counties are also struggling to fill that position, despite offering more than Montgomery County. Loucks said state statute says the budget should not be amended for an increase in salaries and feels this would be a bad precedent to set. Affrunti said he felt the board had no trouble amending the budget when the sheriff needed squad cars, and felt this was a similar matter. Sheriff Robbins said the state's attorney's office is so overwhelmed right now, they can't reach him when he's needed. Board member Russ Beason asked why Affrunti couldn't have foreseen this problem during budget hearings last summer. Affrunti said he hadn't expected to lose a staff member in April.

Board member Patty Whitworth said she felt other office holders weren't drowning in work because of lack of staff in response to the precedent comments. Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins said typically the state's attorney's case load is 120 felony cases. Currently Affrunti has 745, and that doesn't include misdemeanors, traffic or juveniles.

Board member Chad Ruppert asked about the process to amend the budget, and Affrunti said it takes a two-thirds vote of the board. Treasurer Lohman said the budget can be amended for three reasons, and one of those is an emergency. She said if the county proves this is an emergency and defines where the funding comes from, then it can be done. She felt a resolution or ordinance should come under a 30-day review by the board. No action was taken that night.

The board unanimously approved \$42,684 to Victory Lane in Litchfield for a Dodge Durango for the sheriff's office. This replaces a vehicle that was totaled in an accident. Young asked how many vehicles they bought this year and Robbins said nine. That includes vehicles purchased in other years that just arrived this year due to the pandemic. Board members also unanimously approved up to \$25,000 for equipment for those nine vehicles. The sheriff said much of the equipment from the totaled vehicle will not fit in the new purchase.

The board unanimously approved a plan to disperse \$57,500 for new pagers for first responders, which comes from ARPA funding. The cost is about \$500 per radio. Ritchie said they will enter into individual intergovernmental agreements with each first responder group and then disperse the funding for them to purchase the radios on their own. The group will then be responsible for maintenance and service. If a group finds radios for less than \$500 each, they may purchase more with the funding, but will not be able to keep excess funding and will have to show an invoice to the county.

Board members unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Nokomis, as well as an appropriation of funds for a warning siren using ARPA funds. The city of Nokomis returned the signed form, as well as their check for 40 percent of the funding.

In a final note, Ritchie said the committee would be discussing how to spend the remaining ARPA funding, which is about \$1 million. Ritchie said they will not be accepting any new potential projects, but will use the list they already have of projects not approved the first round.

Road and Bridge

Evan Young gave the Road and Bridge Committee report. He said new state legislation (awaiting a signature from Governor Pritzker) could increase funding to the township bridge projects from \$15 million to \$60 million, which could help local townships.

Young said he did not have an update on permits issued to Navigator for the pipeline project.

He said the Whitetown Bridge project has begun, and the bridge is now gone for construction. It's expected to be complete in 95 business days. The county is looking for bid letting in December for the Coffeen Road/Seven Sisters Ave. project, that way fall harvest will not be affected.

Whitworth encouraged the committee to listen to the concerns for Audubon Township residents about semi road use for the carbon sequestration project, and not to let them fall on deaf ears.

Coordinating

Chairman Doug Donaldson said the information systems department reported they have three of ten PCs left to install for an update.

In EMA news, EMA Director Kevin Schott said the next hazardous mitigation meeting will be Aug. 23, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro. He also reminded the board that the county's weather radio is out as it was on site at the Coffeen Power Plant. They are looking into other options.

Donaldson reported he had agreed to serve as chairman of the West Central Development Council, who would meet again on July 20 in Carlinville.

Donaldson also made the motion for some committee changes for board members. He proposed Ethan Murzynski as chairman of the Road and Bridge Committee. Young felt that was a conflict of interest as Murzynski serves as road commissioner for Hillsboro Township. Donaldson said they have had road commissioners on the committee in the past, although not serving as chairman. Affrunti said it's not an issue, but Murzynski would have to abstain from votes that appropriate funds to Hillsboro Township. Voting against the move were Young and Loucks, but it passed 12-2. Donaldson also made the motion to add Murzynski to the Coordinating Committee as chairman of the Road and Bridge Committee, and that was approved 11-3. Voting no were Beason, Young and Loucks.

Other committee changes were approved unanimously. Bill Bergen was voted as vice chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee. New board member Chad Ruppert was added to both the Road and Bridge and the Development Personnel committees. Young was added to the Finance and Budget Committee and removed from the Road and Bridge Committee. Murzynski was removed from both the Finance and Budget and the Development and Personnel committees.

Announcements

After approval of all five standing committee reports, Donaldson announced that Treasurer Nikki Lohman was named Illinois County Treasurers' Association 2023 Zone Two Treasurer of the Year. He also reminded board members that committee meetings for July might change due to the July 4 holiday and to watch for changes.

After paying bills and payroll, the board voted to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. They will meet again on Tuesday evening, July 11, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse in downtown Hillsboro.



Local Girl Scouts Enjoy Swim Party This June

Girl Scouts in Troop 6133 held an end-of-the-season pool party on Tuesday, June 13 to celebrate what they learned throughout the year and earned from cookie sales. Troop members planned the entire event from the location to the food. Pictured above on the left are Aspen Lemons, Edee Lindsey, Alaina Marburger, Kalayah Thompson and Ivy Robbins. On the right side are Jemma Schneider, Mel Hanners, Afton Lemons, Vivien Koschak, Brylynn Lemons and Kourtney Thomet.



Above, library trustee Carrie Matthews reads interactive books during her weekly Thursday morning program at Farmersville-Waggoner Library.

Carrie Matthews Hosts Weekly Library Program

Carrie Matthews, Farmersville-Waggoner Library trustee, hosted a program at the library on Thursday, June 8.

Matthews read two interactive books to the kids in attendance, *Can You Make a Scary Face?* by Jan Thomas and *I Say Ooh You Say Aah* by John Kane. The little attendees enthusiastically responded in the appropriate spots while listening to the stories.

After the story time, participants designed and made funny face pictures to take home.

Helpers Jacqueline Enrietta, Aleigha Gomez, Gracie Arnold, Korbin Rovey and parents assisted them in

crafting their face pictures.

The program concluded with snacks of Fruit Smiles and juice that were enjoyed by all.

Attending were Will Marshall, Ellie Moxley, Jake Arnold, Ramsey Weitekamp, Ryker Weitekamp, Kenden Rovey, Kolton Rovey, Cara Stone, Hudson Dvorak, Payson Sidwell, Quinn Sidwell, Reece Sidwell, Ainsley Smith, Lennox Sidwell, Cal Webb, Audrey Eilerman, Gus Eilerman, Zeke Mendoza and Parker Mason.

Matthews will be hosting programs at the library each Thursday at 9 a.m. through Thursday, July 13.

Sheridan Lyerla Earns Dental Hygiene Degree

Sheridan Olivia Lyerla of Coffeen earned her Associate in Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene from Lake Land College in Mattoon on Friday, May 12, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She also received her dental hygiene pin during the class pinning ceremony, which took place in the Luther Student Center Theater earlier that day.

A 2019 graduate of Hillsboro High School, Lyerla is the daughter of Luke and Angie Lyerla of Coffeen and the granddaughter of Dale and Sheila Yeske of Nokomis. After high school, she attended Lincoln Land Community College where she completed pre-requisite courses as well as a Dental Assisting Certificate.

Lyerla also completed a required externship at Litchfield Family Dentistry and was employed there as a dental assistant while waiting to be accepted into the hygiene program at Lake Land, which was shut down for a year due to Covid-19.

Lake Land College's intensive, two-year academic program included classroom skills, laboratory and clinical experiences in various healthcare agencies and the Dental Hygiene Clinic on Lake Land's campus.

She passed both the Na-



Sheridan Lyerla

tional Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) and the Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS) clinical examination, allowing her to apply for and receive her Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) License.

Lyerla has accepted a full-time hygienist position with the Heartland Dental office at North Vermilion Family Dental in Danville. She is currently seeing patients and looks forward to utilizing specialized skills that focus on patient treatment and education, prevention of oral diseases and role as a dental health educator.

Nokomis City Council

Continued from page 1A

The council anticipates that city ordinances, various forms and documents, and city contact information will also be included on the site.

In a related discussion among commissioners, the council nixed the idea of contracting with Archive Social, a social media archiving service. Though the notion of having a service archive all of the historical city data, ordinances and public

interaction was appealing, councilmen decided it was cost-prohibitive at this time at the cost of \$340 per month.

In other business, the city council approved permit applications for the Nokomis Homecoming Committee for fireworks and a parade; and for a Special Event Liquor License for the Knights of Columbus for the homecoming.

It also approved a liquor license for 101 E. State Street. That license was granted to John and Nicky Murray, who

were present at the meeting. The Murrays addressed the council, stating that they have purchased the property - which was the former IGA grocery store and more recently, Steele Hall - to operate an event center for small private parties.

The plan also includes adding video gaming machines as well. The Murrays also own and operate Rudy's Deli and Convenience Store in Witt.

Betty Darda Celebrates 100th Birthday

With 100 reasons to smile, longtime Hillsboro resident Betty Darda celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends on Monday, June 12.

Family members planned an open house celebration at Montgomery Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Taylor Springs on Monday, which was Darda's actual birthday.

More than two dozen well-wishers attended the festivities and sang "Happy Birthday" to the centenarian before enjoying cake.

During the celebration, Darda's nephew, Dave Darda, made a special presentation in her honor.

He mentioned that Darda was born in Hillsboro and lived more than 90 of her 100 years in the community. She lived for about six years in St. Louis, MO, during the 1940s where she attended business school.

She returned to the Hillsboro community after accepting a job offer from Illinois Power, where she worked for 39 years.

Outside her job, Darda was active in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where she has been a member for over 90 years. She's also been part of the American Legion Auxiliary, holding offices locally and regionally. Darda has also been active with the Historical Society of Montgomery County, providing tours of the historic Harkey House each year at Old Settlers.

"She is one of the most generous people you will meet," said Dave Darda. "She's always thankful and appreciative and accepting of everyone. She truly has inner peace."

Darda and his wife, Patty, who reside in Washington, planned the party. Also in attendance were two of their three sons, including

Joe Darda of Michigan and Sam Darda of Montana. Zach Darda, also of Washington was not present.

Dave Darda also introduced Betty's goddaughter, Debbie Seeck. Seeck's mother, Rosemary, and Betty were good friends from her time in St. Louis, often writing letters to each other each week. Rosemary has since passed away, but she would have turned 100 on the day after Betty. Another special guest was Lynn Smith, who lived next door to Betty for many years.

"I'm thankful after all these years to have my health in pretty good shape," Betty said. "I have good family and plenty of friends. That's not too bad for an 'old settler.' Thank you for helping me celebrate. It's nice to have friends that care so much about me."

Hillsboro School Board

Continued from page 1A

"Certainly not good news here," Superintendent Powell said to begin a discussion about a potential 24 percent increase in commercial insurance rates.

There are several reasons: lightning strike claims, increased replacement values, etc., but "the lawsuit is our primary exposure that is hurting us," Powell said of pending litigation.

He said that if competitive rates were sought, there would likely be no bidders, so his recommendation was to accept the renewal.

Responding to a question from board President Matt Lentz, Powell said deductibles range from \$1000 to \$2500.

In response to a question from board member Brian Patton about storm losses during the past year, Powell

estimated those at about \$100,000.

"It appears as though we don't have much of a choice," the president said before the board accepted the renewal, which takes effect July 1.

Near the beginning of the meeting, junior high principal Don VanGiesen introduced eighth grade student Jaida Linn who cleared 5-1 to win the state championship in the high jump.

"On top of being a great athlete, she's a great student," her principal said.

Powell shared a report from Curriculum Director Hope McBrain indicating that summer school is going well.

The superintendent also shared a report from Maintenance Director Fred Butler regarding summer work projects, including enclosing the library at Beckemeyer and the road going to the bus

garage at the high school, work on the track at the high school, as well as work on the ag building.

After a closed session accepted resignations from teacher aides Rachelle DeWierff and Veronica Groom, from boys tennis coach Fred Butler, from bus driver April Pier, and accepted a letter of intent to retire from teacher Stephanie Paden. They hired Drake Paden as assistant high school boys basketball coach, Lauryn Tuetken as assistant high school softball coach, Jim Hewitt as high school AP computer teacher, Emma Dixon as high school science teacher, Adreanne Cruthis as school nurse, and Ashley Schmidt as CNA instructor. Rachel Kirby was approved as volunteer volleyball coach, and all spring coaches and sponsors were re-hired.

and they've never felt this harassed. So hopefully this shows librarians across the state that we support them."

The bill passed through both chambers of the General Assembly with only Democratic support. Republicans argued that it undercut the authority of local library boards and school boards. Some also argued that it could lead to unintended consequences such as libraries being forced to carry books espousing racism or providing instructions in how to make a bomb.

"That's got nothing to do with this legislation," Giannoulas said when asked about this criticism on Monday. "That will not be the case, it will continue not to be the case. Again, what we're saying simply is a book cannot be removed that's already currently in circulation for partisan or doctrinal beliefs. It's very simple, straightforward, and our librarians have begged for this legislation. I could not be more proud of it."

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Governor Signs Anti-Book Ban Legislation

by Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation Monday that seeks to protect public and school libraries from pressure to ban, remove or restrict access to books based on "partisan or doctrinal disapproval."

Speaking at the Harold Washington Library Center in downtown Chicago, Pritzker said there were 67 attempts in 2022 to have various books removed from library shelves in Illinois, including books about LG-BTQ-plus youths, the Black experience and racism.

"The argument for banning books always begins with the claim that it's about protecting the children, and yes, of course, we all want to protect our children so they're reading age-appropriate material," he said. "But banning books from libraries isn't about that at all. Book bans are about censorship, marginalizing people, marginalizing ideas and facts. Regimes ban books, not democracies."

House Bill 2789 declares it to be the policy of Illinois to "encourage and protect the freedom of libraries and library systems to acquire materials without external limitation and to be protected against attempts to ban, remove, or otherwise restrict access to books or other materials."

It also requires that, as a condition for being eligible for state grants, libraries and

library systems must adopt either the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights or some other written statement prohibiting the practice of banning books or other materials.

Tracie Hall, executive director of the Chicago-based ALA, called the bill signing a historic event.

"I could not be prouder that the American Library Association, founded in 1876, and based for much of its 147 years right here in Chicago, makes its home in a state that is first in the nation to create a law that stands up to censorship and calls it what it is - a threat to education, to libraries, to our individual freedoms, and a threat to our democracy," she said.

The bill was an initiative of Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas, who serves as the state librarian and whose office administers grant programs for local public libraries and school libraries. He described it as the first of its kind in the United States and a needed response to a growing wave of antagonism toward libraries.

"Most of the premise of this bill and our inspiration for this bill was hearing from librarians throughout the state who have never seen a level of intimidation, threats to violence and job insecurity like they have across the state, whether it's in the western suburbs or whether it's in downstate Illinois. So that's been really troubling," he said. "We should be applauding them,



Dreamers Market Returns To Farmersville

The Small Town Dreamers Market returned to downtown Farmersville on Saturday, June 10, for the second market of the season. Dozens of unique vendors set up shop with live entertainment and food throughout the day. Pictured above, the newly crowned Farmersville Irish Days royalty hosted a special booth, "Crafts with the Queen" for youngsters. From the left are Little Miss Irish Days Sheffield Stimac, Miss Irish Days Kamryn Russell and Junior Miss Irish Days Arya Stimac. There are two markets left in 2023 on Saturday, Sept. 9 and Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wolf To Teach In Hometown After Blackburn

After six years away from Raymond, Lincolnwood High School graduate Kenneth "KJ" Wolf is coming back home, this time as a teacher.

Wolf, the son of David and Rachelle Wolf of Raymond, graduated from Blackburn College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education this past May and was hired on June 5, as an elementary school teacher by the Panhandle School Board.

During his time at Blackburn, Wolf was involved with the College Street Readers program, where students from the Carlinville school district would come to the college after school to get assistance in strengthening their reading abilities. He was also involved in the STEM program at Blackburn, where Carlinville students were invited to lessons prepared by Wolf and his peers for

the science theory they were working on that week.

Wolf student taught at J.D. Colt Elementary School in Litchfield and also was a substitute teacher in a third grade classroom for four months during another teacher's maternity leave at J.D. Colt.

"First is observation to understand the students," said Wolf, who was mentored by an active teacher during the process. "Next I slowly took control of the classroom and taught my own lessons. I enjoyed every minute of it."

Wolf and his wife Kaitlyn, who is a nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield, currently reside in Litchfield.

"Teaching and helping the community is a passion of mine and I am excited to be back in my hometown of Raymond to continue that passion," said Wolf.



Lincolnwood High School graduate Kenneth "KJ" Wolf recently graduated from Blackburn College and was hired as an elementary School teacher at Raymond Grade School.

Radio Operators Host Carlinville Field Day

Ham radio operators from the Macoupin County Amateur Club will be participating in ARRL Field Day, a national amateur radio exercise, from 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, until 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, at the Macoupin County Fairgrounds. ARRL Field Day is an annual amateur radio activity that has been organized yearly since 1933 by ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio in the United States.

Hams from across North America ordinarily participate by establishing temporary ham radio stations in public locations to demonstrate their skill and service. Their use of radio signals, which reach beyond borders, bring people together while providing essential communication in the service of communities. The Field Day highlights ham radio's abil-

ity to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent, wireless communications network.

Some hams use the radio stations set up in their homes or taken to their backyards and other locations to operate individually or with their families. Many hams have portable radio communication capability that includes alternative energy sources such as generators, solar panels and batteries to power their equipment.

Ham radio functions completely independently of the internet and phone systems and a station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.

During Field Day 2021,

more than 26,000 hams participated from thousands of locations across North America. According to ARRL, there are more than 750,000 amateur radio licensees in the US, and an estimated 3 million worldwide. Among the tenets of the Amateur Radio Service is developing and practicing skills in radio technology and radio communications, and even contributing to international goodwill. Hams range in age from as young as nine to older than 100.

For more information about ARRL Field Day and ham radio, contact Mark Lewis, KD9EFO at kd9efo@arrl.org or visit www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio. Information can also be obtained online at www.k9mce/club or via the "Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club (K9MCE)" page on Facebook.



The Class of 2023 graduated from Faith Bible Christian Academy on Sunday, May 20. From the left, are Matt Houser, Gabrielle Vallelonga of Witt, Adam Jeffrey, Will Davidson of Morrisonville, Noah Koski of Pana, Will Boehler of Owaneco, Grace Jeffrey of Taylorville, and Matt Kessler

Local Students Graduate From FBCA

Faith Bible Christian Academy said goodbye to the Class of 2023 during a commencement ceremony held on Saturday morning, May 20, at the school's gym.

After the senior procession, Matt Houser, principal/administrator of Faith Bible Christian Academy, gave the Invocation. All in attendance sang "Great Are You Lord" together.

Salutatorian William Boe-

hler took the stage to speak to his peers and the guests present. He was followed by valedictorian Gabrielle Vallelonga's class address. Mr. Adam Jeffrey, a Real Estate Broker with Craggs Realtors in Litchfield, then took the podium to give the commencement address.

Mr. Houser and School Board President Mr. Matt Kessler presented diplomas to the graduates. The seniors

presented their parents with roses following the presentation of diplomas. The ceremony concluded with the audience singing, "The Goodness of God." After which, Mr. Kessler gave the benediction.

Junior honor attendants were Katie Christer of Pana and Micah Dianne Beetem of Taylorville. Mr. Kenny Vallelonga was the musical accompanist.

Out & About

8A - Thursday, June 15, 2023

Clotfest Returns To Hillsboro

The 12th annual Clotfest celebration will return to downtown Hillsboro this Saturday, June 17, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Courthouse Pub.

Danny Clotfelter started the celebration in memory of his dad, Denny Clotfelter, and their timeless motto is "Good People, Good Music and Good Time."

This year, five local bands are lined up to play the event, including *Longhead*, *Salmon Creek*, *Dr. Noodle & the Pastafarians*, *Lost Highway* and *Grit & Groove*.

There is no cover charge and the first 300 attendees will get a free kuzzi.

Prior to the annual Clotfest, the Tub Tobias Bicycle Classic will begin at 9 a.m. at 100 Main Street in Hillsboro. Cyclists of all ages and experience are invited to join the fun.

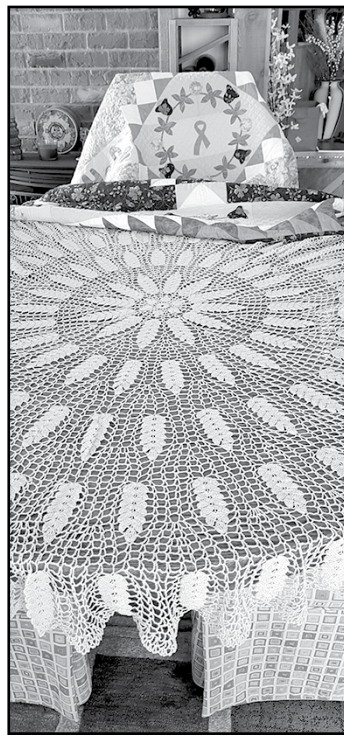
Burger King Ready For Car Showcase

Litchfield Burger King will host its next monthly car showcase and meetup at 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 24.

The free event is being held to bring car enthusiasts from Litchfield and the surrounding area together. The casual, fun event will provide a place to showcase cars, trucks or bikes and connect with fellow automotive enthusiasts and for the community to see the unique vehicles.

Burger King will be offering specials on food and frozen drinks exclusively for attendees during the event.

The car showcases will be held monthly, on the last Friday of every month at Litchfield Burger King, located at 2 Corvette Drive.



MCCA Begins Collecting Auction Items

Volunteers with the Montgomery County Cancer Association have begun collecting auction items for this year's Birthday Party and Celebration of Life event on Saturday, June 24, at The Event Center of Montgomery County in Taylor Springs. Pictured above are some of the items that have already been donated. At left is a fold-up utility wagon and two Big Outdoorsmen director's chairs, donated by Jim and Pat Peterson of Sorrento. At right is a beautiful, hand-crocheted tablecloth, made and donated by the late Ruth Rau of Sorrento. Also pictured is a 72x90-inch breast cancer awareness quilt, handmade by Brenda Rompasky of Nokomis. In addition, a pink pedal tractor and Stamp Out Cancer tickets will also be auctioned that night, with lots of items arriving daily. Anyone with items to donate to this year's live and silent auctions may contact Brenda Cobetto at 217-725-9156 or 217-532-3081 or Linda Klotz at 217-259-5914.



Litchfield Library Hosts \$9 Night Out

The Litchfield Public Library's latest \$9 Night Out on Thursday evening, June 8, featured a fabric bunting with red, white and blue color scheme. Participants cut or tore patriotic fabric into strips, then knotted them on a rope. The bunting can be displayed on a mantle, table or even a window. The next \$9 Night Out will be held Thursday, July 13 and will feature a summer theme. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and is for adults only. Pre-registration is suggested, as space is limited.

Shown with their creations, from the left, are attendees Pat Boeher, Robyn Dickson, LeElen Watson, Sylvia Selander, Lori Brandt, Mary Bishop and Alexis Selander in the front. Also attending was Donna Spencer, not shown.

Celebrate New Park In Panama This Saturday

Panama Community Progress Committee will celebrate the community's hard work with a dedication of the new John L. Lewis Park this Saturday, June 17.

The family-friendly event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will feature bounce houses, a D.J., and a chance for local youth to test out the new park equipment. A dedication recognizing those that have made contributions to the park project will be held at 11:30 a.m.

Local favorite, Off the Wall food truck will be on site serving lunch beginning at 11 a.m. The community center

will be open to allow people to relax and catch up with old friends. The Coal Mine Museum will also be open to guests during the event.

"In the past 2 years, we have raised approximately \$40,000 to install new playground equipment," said Casey Edgerton, committee chair. "The park dedication will recognize individuals from the community who have worked to organize events as well as those who have donated to our cause. This event is for adults as well as the kids. We hope to see a lot of familiar faces on Saturday."

Built Thrasher Tough Event To Benefit Thrasher Family

Family and friends of Vernon Thrasher of Litchfield are hosting a benefit in his honor on Friday, June 23, at Gudgel Ranch Saloon.

In April, Thrasher was diagnosed with stage four duodenal cancer, and began chemo treatments in June. A longtime Echlin employee, Thrasher also worked for the city of Litchfield and the Montgomery County Housing Authority. He has been unable to work since April. Outside of work, he is an active member of the Litchfield Eagles, where he served as an officer for more than 10 years and participated in many community service acts.

Family and friends said Thrasher would give anyone the shirt off his back, and is always trying to help others. He can often be found in the garage working on a project, flipping a house or camping and spending time with his grandchildren.

Doors open for the benefit at 4 p.m. at Gudgel Ranch Saloon in Litchfield. Tickets are \$20 each, and includes a mostaccioli dinner, beginning at 5 p.m. There is a \$2 entry fee for children under 12.

In addition to the meal, the benefit includes a silent auction, cash bar, 50/50 raffle,



Vernon Thrasher

bags tournament and live entertainment from local band 10-55. Tickets for the 50/50 raffle go on sale at 6 p.m. with the drawing at 9 p.m.

Registration for the bags tournament begins at 5 p.m., and the competition begins at 6 p.m. Entry fee is \$20 per team with a 50 percent payout in the double elimination tournament.

To make donations for the silent auction or for more information, contact Nicole Thrasher at 217-313-1021. All proceeds from the event will benefit Thrasher and his family in their battle against cancer.

on-line all the time
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THE LSEF PRESENTS
PANTHERPALOOZA
LIVE MUSIC SHOW
JULY 22, 2022

1055 • RETROROCKIT
JARMAN/RUDOLPH BAND • HUNTER SHARP
STARKILLERS • CHAOS THEATRE

LITCHFIELD COUNTRY CLUB
105 Old Quarry Trail
Litchfield, IL 62056
12:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Tickets are available online at
<https://neartial.com/us/pantherpaloozaticketsales>

Community Blood Drive To Be Held In Raymond

The community of Raymond will host a blood drive at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 510 East Sparks, from 3 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27.

Those interested in making a donation are instructed to contact ImpactLife Springfield at 800-747-5401 or visit www.bloodcenter.org and use code 60041 to locate the drive. Appointments are required.

Blood donation is a safe, simple procedure that takes 45 minutes to one hour. Individuals with diabetes or controlled high blood pressure may be accepted as eligible donors.

Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission form available through www.bloodcenter.org) and weigh more than 110 lbs. A photo ID is required to donate. For questions about eligibility, call ImpactLife at 1-800-747-5401.

ImpactLife is the exclusive provider of blood and blood components to Hillsboro Area Hospital and HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield.



Nokomis Lions Donate To Ambulance Service Area

Gary Hulbert (right), representing Nokomis Lions Club, recently presented a donation to Chief Travis Hocq (left) in support of the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service.

Visit The Fair

Kids' Day Activities
Saturday, June 24
Noon-p.m. — Open Pavilion

Admission Special until 3 p.m.
\$30 per carload up to 6 people
Extra person(s) \$10 each

Come out and meet the 2023 Royalty and enjoy the fun activities they have planned for you. Then stay for the **Carnival Matinee** from 1-3 p.m.

How many lives will you impact in your lifetime?

Tub Tobias

Tub Tobias impacted over 6 generations of people with "Bicycles"

Join us Saturday, June 17th
For the Tub Tobias Grand Fondo style bike ride!
The ride includes two routes (short/long) with additional support in case someone has a flat or needs a ride. The event is in honor of "Tub" Tobias, a former Fire Chief and longtime member of the Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department. Tub was an avid volunteer who often re-built old bicycles for area youth.

Starts @ Courthouse Square Hillsboro, IL
Saturday June 17th • 9 a.m.
Courthouse Square

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/930931907920160>

Clotfest 2023

This Saturday, June 17th
Beginning at 6 p.m.
At the Courthouse Pub in Hillsboro
The public is invited to attend the 12th edition of "Clotfest".

Clotfest is a celebration of life that was started when "Denny" Clotfelter passed away in 2010, promoted by his son "Danny" Clotfelter aka "Clot". The event's timeless motto is "Good People, Good Music and Good Time" and this year has 5 of Montgomery County best bands: *LongHead*, *Salmon Creek*, *Dr. Noodle & the Rastafarians*, *Lost Highway* and *Grit & Groove!*

Free Kuzzi's will be given to the first 300 attendees and no cover charges at the event.

Students Make Honor Lists At Nokomis High

Nokomis High School has released its honor roll and high honor roll lists for the second semester.

High Honors

Seniors: Josiah Barker, Hunter Broers, Kamron Coss, Emily Cress, Addison Dangbar, Hailey Engelman, Natalie Engelman, Lilly Huston, Emma Keller, Carley King, Joseph Knodle, Thomas Lieber, Kristen Mascher, Mason Morris, Nora Patton, Emma Sneddon, Kaylee Tester and Olivia Tosetti

Juniors: Maddux Himes, Cade Johnson, Reagan Jonas, Coree Keagy, Reece Lohman, Presley Mehochko and Irene VandenBergh

Sophomores: Natalie Brownback, Marcie Carroll, Gracelynn DeWerff, Garrett Engelman, Jayden Gonet, Elizabeth Hill, Rebecca Hill, Jack Johnson, Bond Knodle, Abygail O'Malley, Jesse Osterhous and Arianna Presnell

Freshmen: Camryn Engelman, Levi German, Bryce Gillock, Addison Glenn, Blain Goodwin and Dylan Yeske

Honors

Seniors: Elijah Aumann, Craig Bertolino, Hunter Brummet, Kalynd Davis, Ryan Eisenbarth, Skiler Emery, Nolan Himes, Laynie Kamer, Hallie Mott, Audrey

Sabol, Zaylon Sisk, Makenzy Smith, Braxston Taylor and Matthew Ulrici

Juniors: Jaxson Batty, Cydney Bertolino, Travis Broers, Kennedy DeWerff, Chloe Flowers, Owen Foster, Kayla Hampton, Austin Hausman, Troy Hopping, Shelby Johnson, Zylar Pavolko, Boyd Pease, Mason Stauder, Brody Steele, Lucas Stinson and Kohen Stolte

Sophomores: Atticus Bertolino, Noah Blaum, Leah Hand, Dolan Harrison, Alyssa Huddleston, Mattie Johnson, Ian Keller, Mason LaChance, Auron Mills, Anthony Presnell, Dustin Renaker, Kyle Reynolds, Morgan

Smoot, Allison Sneddon, Riley Steele, Drake Taylor, Avalon Tolberd and Conner Wilson

Freshmen: Deiken Altevogt, Caleb Bauer, Jeffrey Bernardini, Maddison DeWerff, Izaak Doyen, Daryl Evans, Nolan Herpstreith, Glavine Himes, Arianna Hocq, Ella Huelson, Darrell Jackson, Kennadie Johannsen, Grace King, Kennley Kirk, Riley-Lyn McBroom, Faith Morrison, Addelyn Pearse, Kadynn Petty, Riley Reynolds, Summer Spencer, Walker Stewart, Kinley Stolte, Andrew Suslee, Rilee Waterman and Elizabeth Watson



Kiper, Morford Receive Masonic Scholarships

Kamryn Kiper, at left, and Reese Morford, both class of 2023 graduates of Hillsboro High School received the Health Care Scholarship from the Valley of Springfield Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. They accepted their awards at a ceremony on Sunday evening, June 4, in Springfield.

The Valley of Springfield awarded more than \$54,000 in scholarships from the Scottish Rite along with an additional \$12,000 on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. The Illinois Scottish Rite provides over \$500,000 in scholarships each year to students across the state.

Nokomis Junior High Announces Honor Roll

Nokomis Junior High School has named several students to the honor roll and high honor roll lists for the fourth quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

High Honors

Eighth: Cloey Dirks, Maliah Harris, Peyton Harrison, Harry Lynch III, Katelyn Marley, Daelon Patton, Madelyne Rhodes and Leigha Smith

Seventh: Lilly Broers, Alaina Bugg, Autumn Davis, Maddox DeWerff, Ilexia Doyen, Luke Eisenbarth, Ryan German, Dominic Hammond, Maddox Hoffman, Elissa Probst, Quincee Riebe and Hannah Tarter

Sixth: Carter Abendroth, Kennedi Aumann, Cole Bailey, Micah Barker, Dayne Brownback, Kolton Cachera, Addilyn Cress, Lane Herpstreith, Joelle Jackson, Jager Johnson, Nina Johnson, Leni Johnston, Ethan Marley, Jack Province, Lexie Smith, Colby Stewart, Gage Vedder and Avry West

Honors

Eighth: Kaitlyn Adams, Hunter Arkebauer, Madalyn Barding, Parker Beaty, Braydon Cachera, Hunter Casterline, Paige Coots, Ethan Dahler, Reese Goodin, Trevor Gregg, Kali Johnston, Kannon Jonas, Bridget Jones, Aubrianna Ketcherside, Ki-

ley Lawhorn, Alexis Linn, Isabella Lyons, Braden McNeill, Cody Norine, Anakin Pasdeck, Konnor Reynolds, Samuel Rhodes, Talon Rivers, Devin Robertson, Daniel Ross, Alivia Sabol, Trevin Sanders, Emma Shirck, Chloe Smoot, Addyson Spallinger, Kadence Townsend, Hannah Tucker, Carter Wexstten and Dalton Yeske

Seventh: Olivia Black, Hailey Chiti, Jacob Cox, Temperance Crossland, Kenadi Dagon, Kensey Davis, Kendree Dean, Mykel Dilley, Leala Edgington, Haley Evans, Peyton Gonet, Julia Grimes, Ayden Henry, Zoe Jackson, Jenna

Kamer, Keegan Kettelkamp, Myka LaChance, Brooklyn Marley, Landon Orsborn, Alauna Patton, Abigail Probst, Zemirah Robertson, Keeli Sanders, Justin Scholes, Zoey Smith, Jaden Thompson and Colby Wilson

Sixth: Zaeden Beaman, Keatyn Brooks, Steven Chairez, Daetona Davis, Natalie Graden, Jordyn Henkelman, Jaxon Kunz, Aliyah Lidster, Madilyn Marshall, Corbyn Murkin, James Neal, Layne Parker, Josiah Patton, Bryton Renaker, Aliczander Sleboda, Paige Suslee and Elyse Tuetken

Illinois 4-H Campaign Geared Towards Alumni

Illinois 4-H is calling all 4-H alumni to raise their hands if they are "4-H Grown." As part of the "Are You Illinois 4-H Grown?" campaign, from June 1 to Aug. 31, 4-H alumni not yet registered for the alumni association are encouraged to register for a free Illinois 4-H Alumni Association membership online at go.illinois.edu/4halum.

"We want to continue to build lifelong connections and identify 4-H alumni near and far. We do not have a list of past 4-H members of the Illinois 4-H program,

so 4-H alumni will need to self-identify whether they were a member for one year or more than ten years. We hope to find 5000+ new 4-H alumni during this campaign," said Tina Veal, 4-H constituent and engagement manager. "4-H alumni know the positive impact made on youth and we hope they will help us continue to create a lifelong connection to support the next generation of leaders."

The campaign is geared towards past 4-H members that are not currently registered as a member of the

association. The Illinois 4-H Alumni Association seeks to create a lifelong connection with 4-H alums through free membership in the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association. Individuals registered will be entered into a drawing to receive one of four prizes of \$50 in credit towards Illinois 4-H alumni apparel.

The Illinois 4-H Alumni Association was established in 2016 and sought members to build a network of 4-H alums throughout Illinois and beyond. The mission of the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association is to create a life-

long, statewide community of 4-H alumni and provide increased opportunities for meaningful engagement to increase awareness, pride, participation, volunteerism, and philanthropic commitment to Illinois 4-H. By joining, Illinois 4-H Alumni Association members are kept current on the Illinois 4-H program, learn about 4-H alumni opportunities to engage, and receive a quarterly newsletter.

For information on joining 4-H or the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association, contact Veal at vealtr@illinois.edu.

LHS Grad Ryan Poole Presents Music Recital

Litchfield High School graduate Ryan Poole presented a music program on Sunday, June 11, at the home of his piano teacher, Suzanne Stewart.

Poole is the son of Laura Poole of Litchfield and has studied piano privately for ten years. He has also taken voice lessons for many years. Poole was a member of the concert and jazz bands and choirs throughout his time at Litchfield Middle School and Litchfield High School. He has also been active in the music theater productions at LHS for the last four years, and has performed in the Blackburn Summer Repertory Theater, Springfield Hoagland Center for the Performing Arts and the Muni.

Poole's recent recital consisted of classical and contemporary selections, as well as solo and duet arrange-



Ryan Poole

ments in both piano and voice. He also performed an original piano piece that he composed the past year for high school music class.

Poole has enlisted in the United States Air Force and will be stationed in Texas later this summer.

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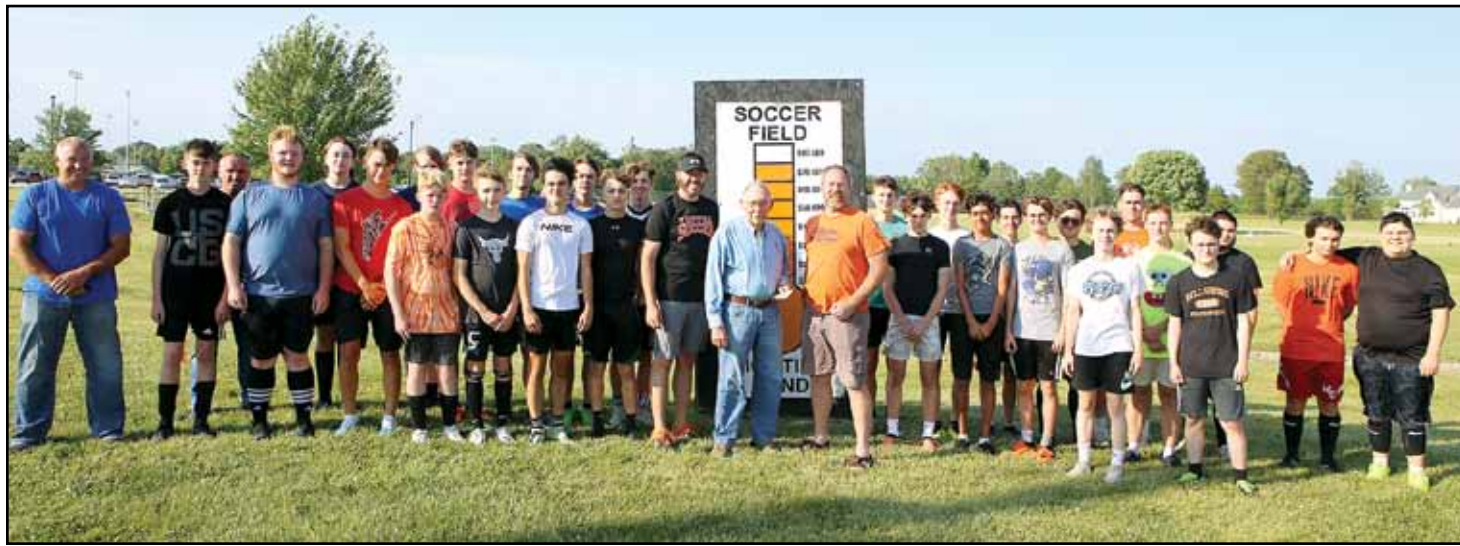
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Ullman Family Donation Nearly Hits The Goal

Flanked by soccer coaches John Burke and Dave Mattson, Hillsboro High School soccer players, Hillsboro Sports Association President Matt Lentz and Hillsboro Youth Sports Administrator Bill Christian, Emerald Ullman of Hillsboro made a \$5000 donation to help light the Hillsboro Sports Complex soccer field on Tuesday, June 13. The donation, made by Mr. Ullman and his daughter Shelley Ann Traylor of Cantrall in memory of his wife and her mother, Peggy J. Ullman who passed on Nov. 6, 2022, raises the donation total to within a few thousand of the \$80,000 goal. According to Lentz, the light poles are in, the conduit is in the ground, and the lights are on the way.

Journal-News Photo

IL CPA Society Helps Students Earn Degrees

The Illinois CPA Society (ICPAS), one of the largest state associations in the nation serving the certified public accountant (CPA) community, has awarded \$106,000 in scholarships through its charitable partner, the CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois. This year, 54 accounting students from

20 Illinois colleges and universities will receive tuition scholarships for demonstrating strong academic performance, leadership qualities, and financial need.

Among the recipients Alexander Tosetti of Nokomis (currently attending Augustana College) received the ICPAS James A. Sikich

Visionary Accounting Scholarship.

Scholarships are made possible thanks to the generosity of more than 1,000 annual donors who support the CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois. Donor contributions also support initiatives like ICPAS' CPA Exam Award

Program, Student Influencer Program, and Mary T. Washington Wylie Internship Preparation Program, which help students and CPA candidates transition into the profession by enhancing their business skills and providing financial aid toward their CPA exam preparation and testing.

Stephanie Noyes Joins MCR Realty Professionals

Brandi Lentz, designated managing broker and Owner of MCR Realty Professionals, Inc. is pleased to announce that Stephanie Noyes has joined her team of Realtors and will be working out of the 551 S Main St., Hillsboro location.

Noyes and her husband Robert live in Hillsboro with their four children: Wyatt, Wayde, Myrah and Mavry. She is a 2008 graduate of Hillsboro High School and went on to pursue a career as a dental assistant. After working as a dental assistant and having four children, Noyes said it was her heart's passion to stay home. She was blessed to be able to stay home with their children for the past eight years but is ready to pursue a new career in real estate now that they are older.

She has always been intrigued by watching her mother-in-law, Kim Noyes, over the last 20 years in the



Stephanie Noyes

real estate business and is excited to be mentored by her now, as well as by Brandi Lentz and Lori Weiss.

"Stephanie is excited to get her career started in her hometown," Lentz said, "and can be reached at 217-851-5961 or by email at Stephanie@MCRRealty.net."

Earns Place On President's List

Sarah Pence of Litchfield has been recognized on the President's List at Union University. To be named on

the academic list students must achieve a 4.0 on a 4.0 grading scale.

Police

Litchfield Police

• Joy L. Frank, 49, of Litchfield, was charged with retail theft at Walmart in Litchfield at 1:19 p.m. Friday, June 9.

• Tracy L. Dains, 61, of Litchfield, was charged with retail theft at Walmart in Litchfield at 1:50 p.m. Friday, June 9.

• Briann M. Morell, 42, of Litchfield, was arrested at 9:04 p.m. Friday, June 9, on West Kirkham in Litchfield on an outstanding Montgomery County warrant.

• Amy M. Blaylock, 34, of Granite City, was charged with possession of meth at 1:45 a.m. Saturday, June 10, on Old Route 66 at Kirkham in Litchfield.

• Brad C. Fricke, 64, of Litchfield, was charged with domestic battery at 7:40 p.m. Saturday, June 10, on South VanBuren in Litchfield.

• Dakota P. Osborn, 28, of Hillsboro, was arrested at 2:55 p.m. Sunday, June 11, at Columbia and Douglas in Litchfield on an outstanding Montgomery County warrant.

• Melissa L. Zucha, 39, of Collinsville, was charged with endangering the life or health of a child and arrested on an outstanding Madison County warrant at 3:44 p.m. Sunday, June 11, at Litchfield Plaza.

• Gerome Henderson Jr., 23, of Alton, was arrested for domestic battery at 12:11 p.m. Monday, June 12, on South Chestnut in Litchfield.

• Jason L. Johnson, 41, of White Hall, was charged

with possession of meth, possession of a controlled substance, obstructing justice, and possession of drug paraphernalia at 7:49 p.m. Monday, June 12, on Corvette Drive in Litchfield.

• Michelle R. Green, 48, of Litchfield, was cited for failure to reduce speed at 1:54 p.m. Saturday, June 10, at Union and Illinois in Litchfield.

• Melissa L. Zucha, 39, of Collinsville, was charged with driving on a suspended license, operating an uninsured vehicle, operating a vehicle with suspended registration, child restraint violation, and driving under the influence at 3:44 p.m. Sunday, June 11, at Litchfield Plaza.

• Beth A. Church, 41, of Litchfield, was cited for operating a vehicle with suspended registration at 1:34 a.m. Sunday, June 11, at Union and Franklin in Litchfield.

• Two bicycle citations were issued to Kevin R. Hemken, 52, of Litchfield, at 7:16 p.m. Tuesday, June 3, on North Madison in Litchfield.

• Frank P. Thomas, 51, of Litchfield, was cited for operating a vehicle with suspended registration at 11:23 p.m. Tuesday, June 13, at Union and Monroe in Litchfield.

• Briana R. See, 29, of Litchfield, was cited for illegal transportation of alcohol at 12:22 a.m. Wednesday, June 14, at Clinton and Buchanan in Litchfield.

Public Meetings

Hillsboro Planning Commission

Hillsboro Planning Commission will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, at Hillsboro City Hall. Agenda items up for discussion include updates on vacant properties downtown, the Eagle Zinc property site and zoning locations for solar panels and manufactured homes.

Hillsboro Area Public Library Board

The Hillsboro Area Public Library Board will meet at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, at the library. Items up for discussion include the Smithsonian Exhibit, work being done on the basement and personnel issues.

It's County Fair Time!

Montgomery County Fair June 21-25

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
 6:45 pm Opening Ceremonies At Grandstand
 7:00 pm Royalty Pageants At Grandstand

THURSDAY, JUNE 22
 9:00 am Beef & Steer Show at 4-H Park
 7:00 pm Karaoke Contest

FRIDAY, JUNE 23
 4:00 pm Goat Show at 4-H Park
 6:00 pm Sheep Show at 4-H Park
 7:30 pm Motocross Racing At Grandstand
 8:00 pm Wes Barnes at Beer Tent

SATURDAY, JUNE 24
 11:00 am Swine Show at 4-H Park
 12-3 pm Kids' Day (\$30/carload up to 6) at Open Pavilion
 7:30 pm Car Demo Derby At Grandstand
 8:00 pm The Antics at Beer Tent

SUNDAY, JUNE 25
 11:30 am Tractor & Truck Pulls At Grandstand
 12-4 pm Senior Day at Open Pavilion

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Durbin Earns Another Shot At Nationals

Hillsboro seven-year-old Huntley Durbin is heading back to the AMA Amateur National Motocross Championships at Lorretta Lynn's Ranch in Hurricane Mills, TN, on July 31 through Aug. 5.

Durbin, who competed in the nationals last year, had to finish in the top six to earn a return trip to Tennessee. He ended up doing that and much more as he won the Micro 2 (4-6) class at the Mid-East Youth Regional Qualifier at Baja Acres in Millington, MI, on June 10-11.

The young Hillsboro racer was consistently good throughout the weekend, never finishing worse than third in the three motos. Durbin took the top spot in his first race of the weekend, beating out Mason Howard of Tecumseh, MI, by 17 seconds.

He'd be nearly as good in the second and third motos as he finished second to Bryce Hollinger of Louisville,



Seven-year-old Huntley Durbin, son of Jon Durbin and Jordan Butler, finished first at the AMA Mid-East Youth Regional Qualifier at Baja Acres in Millington, MI, on June 10-11, to earn his spot for nationals later this year at Lorretta Lynn's Ranch in Tennessee.

OH, by 4.251 seconds in the second race and third behind Landon Kratt of Dover, MN, and Rylie Gall of Loveland, OH, in the third race.

Durbin was the only racer to finish in the top three in all three motos, with Kratt, who finished second in the class, the only other racer to finish in the top five three times.

Archer Durbin, Huntley's five-year-old brother, also competed in the Micro 2 (4-6) class and had a solid weekend, finishing 18th out of 47 riders. After finishing 16th and 24th in the first two motos, it was unlikely that the younger Durbin would finish in the top six, but rather than bail on the final race, he went out to gain experience and ran 14th, his best finish of the event.

Archer will have another shot at advancing to nationals as the Durbins' home track of Lincoln Trail Motorsports in Casey hosts the North Central Regional on June 23-25.



Run, walk or ride, nearly 50 eager individuals crossed the starting line at the first Tutus and Bow Ties Fun Run to benefit Project Third Day-Panhandle on Saturday, June 10, in Raymond. *Journal-News Photo*

Project Third Day 5K Tutu Much Fun

Nearly 50 eager individuals were running for a reason in Raymond on Saturday, June 10, at the first Tutus and Bow Ties Fun Run to benefit Project Third Day-Panhandle in Raymond.

The starting line was splashed with color as many sported tutus for their run around Raymond. That included military veterans Aaron Myers and David Weir sporting camouflage versions of the ruffled skirt.

The race consisted of a 5K course and a one-mile jaunt for those not up for the big one. The Raymond Baptist Church provided snacks for all of the runners and walkers upon their return, no matter where they finished.

Drew Collins was the first overall finisher, crossing the

line in 21 minutes and 55 seconds, while Paula McCray was the first female to finish, clocking in at 28:07 to finish fifth overall.

The big winners were the kids of the Panhandle School District, who will benefit from the funds raised for Project Third Day. The group provides food for students during three-day weekends during the school year, along with snacks and other items during testing periods.

This summer, Project Third Day has partnered with local churches to provide lunch for children six days a week, with an average of 30 children per day taking the meals. More information on Project Third Day-Panhandle can be found on their Facebook page.

Area Racers Off To Strong Start At Lincoln Trail MX

It takes a while to get from Montgomery County to Casey, but several local motocross riders have found the trip worthwhile so far.

Four rounds into the Thor Showdown Series at Lincoln Trail Motorsports, 17 riders from the *J-N Motorsports* area are in the top 10 of the series, with several others putting up solid performances at individual events.

The latest two rounds of the series were on May 6-7 and May 27-29, rounds three and four for the year.

Hillsboro brothers Archer

and Huntley Durbin are currently leading the 50cc Pee Wee and 50cc Jr. classes and had good showings in round three at Lincoln Trail. Archer finished first in the Pee Wee class and was eighth in Jr., while Huntley was fourth in Jr. and third in the 50cc Open class.

Two more Hillsboro riders, Silas Randall and Landon Saathoff also ran in the 50cc Jr. class, with Randall finishing seventh and Saathoff finishing 20th.

Continued on 3B



Local kids are splashing into the summer with some pool time at Central Park Pool in Hillsboro, which officially opened over Memorial Day weekend. The pool is open, weather permitting, seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pool Manager Bailey Newingham is planning several special events at the pool this summer, including a free swim day on Saturday, June 24, to coincide with the Imagine Hillsboro 200th Birthday Party celebration for Hillsboro. Pictured above, local youth Ryleigh Dilks, Ava Dossett and Kaleb Dossett beat the heat with a triple jump into the deep end. *Journal-News/Mary L. Herschelmann*

Panhandle Picklers Ready To Have A Ball

by Kyle Herschelmann

If you haven't heard of pickleball by this point, you're probably living under a rock. According to an article on pickleball website *The Dink*, an estimated 36.5 million people played pickleball between Aug. 2021 and Aug. 2022 per the 2023 Association of Pickleball Players Participation Report. And if you can't trust *The Dink*, who can you trust?

Ultimately, you don't need to leave Montgomery County to see the sport's growth. Hillsboro has three dedicated lighted courts at Central Park, with open play on Tuesdays from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Davis Park in Litchfield also hosts open play on two tennis courts that have been painted for pickleball on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Add in indoor play at the Litchfield Community Center in the winter months and during inclement weather and the sport is definitely booming in Montgomery County.

The latest example of this boom comes out of the county's panhandle as an alliterative and aptly named group is working on refurbishing the tennis court at the park in Raymond to further build the game.

The Panhandle Picklers started playing on the ten-

nis court in Raymond last summer with a half dozen players in attendance, but those numbers have more than doubled and a Facebook group has 64 members and is growing every week.

With the 44-foot long, 20-foot wide pickleball court mapped out on the old tennis court, the Panhandle Picklers can be found dinking, chopping and smashing shots all over the court on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 8 a.m. and on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. The multiple times are meant to give anyone who would like to give the sport a try that opportunity.

"Sometimes you have conflicts and evenings worked for some, but mornings worked for others," explained Linda Hocking.

Hocking is one of the driving forces behind the Panhandle Picklers after she picked the game up in Florida. Hocking spoke with the Raymond Park Board about having the oft unused tennis court striped for pickleball, and once that was complete, she put feelers out on Facebook to see if there would be any interest in playing.

"I said I would be happy to show them a few pointers and how to play and a few people were interested," Hocking said. "We decided on a time and it kind of just

grew from there. Pretty soon I said, 'Well, let's not play one time a week, let's play more.'"

As the group grew, so did its plans. The tennis court has some significant cracks in it, which can cause the plastic ball used in the game to take sharp turns at unexpected moments. When Hocking spoke to the park board about resurfacing the court for pickleball surfacing, the board countered with a proposal that would make the court one the community could be proud of.

The proposal would convert the one tennis court into three pickleball courts, which would allow more people to play at the same time. But big dreams come with a big price tag and at \$80,000, the pickleball complex in Raymond definitely fits that description.

"My first reaction when they proposed this was, 'Are you proposing this so you can deter us from even going forward?'" but they said no. They are behind us 100 percent. They believe we can do it," Hocking said.

The support is more moral than financial though as raising the money for the complex is on the shoulders of the Panhandle Picklers, who are looking at grants and other fundraisers to make their dream a reality. They would also like to have a tournament as well, possibly



On just about any Tuesday or Friday morning, plus Thursday evenings, you can hear the sound of plastic hitting paddle at open play for the Panhandle Picklers pickleball group. From the left are Pat Pope, Ginny Brockmeyer, Jean Fuchs, Marcia Osterholt, Sandy Smith, Robin Riggs, Linda Hocking, Kathy Johnson and Rhonda Sanford. *Journal-News Photo*

indoors in the winter.

"I talked with Senator (Steve) McClure and he gave me a couple links to grants," said Robin Riggs, who is also a regular on the Raymond pickleball court. "He told me to let him know if there is anything else he can do to help."

The group is currently reaching out to area businesses and individuals for donations, which can be designated for the "Panhandle

Picklers" and dropped off at First National Bank in Raymond.

They know that they have a steep hill to climb in regards to fundraising, but as they say, "Anything worth doing, is worth doing well."

"If we're going to put ourselves into this and try to improve ourselves, it's going to make a big difference playing on a court where everything is marked out and where your ball doesn't

hit a crack and..." Hocking said with a zig zag motion of her hand, before adding with a smile, "You don't want the bad side of the court."

If they have their way, there won't be a bad side of the court by the time spring of 2024 rolls around, although Hocking knows a lot needs to happen before that comes to fruition.

"It might be a dream," Hocking said. "I just hope this dream becomes reality."



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Hearn Takes Top Spot At Havana Race

Litchfield junior drag racer Timothy Hearn picked up a win on day two of the Midstate Lucky Sevens event at the Central Illinois Dragway in Havana on Sunday, June 4, earning the \$500 grand prize in the process.

After a tough Saturday in the two-day event, Hearn overcame some belt issues to make it to the quarterfinals on Sunday, when the car began to come together. In his quarterfinal race, the young Litchfield racer posted his fastest run of the day, a 7.97 second run, to advance to the semifinals.

Issues arose again in the semifinals as Hearn and his race team decided to change his dial-in from 7.99 to 8.49. In the final, the driver affectionately known as T-Bone was just .02 seconds off his dial-in, running an 8.51 for the win.

While Hearn was the only one of the Hearn racing team to make it to victory lane, his brother Brayden and father David also had some success in Havana to start the month of June. Brayden, who celebrated his 9th birthday at the track on June 3, made passes on Saturday and Sunday as he adjusted to going from a mid-14 second dial-in to a mid-12 second dial-in.



Timothy Hearn (second from the right) took his junior dragster to victory lane on June 4, as he won his class at the Midstate Lucky Sevens event at the Central Illinois Dragway in Havana. Pictured with Hearn are his younger brother Brayden, his parents Michelle and David and fellow junior dragster racer Rebekah Motley.

David bounced back from a tough Saturday to peel off a half dozen solid runs in a row, with a reaction time no worse than .009. Unfortunately, he ran into the eventual winner, Brian Mileham, with six cars left and saw his day end.

No Delay Nationals
To end the month of May, the Hearn family was at the 25th Annual Bernie Mann Memorial No Delay Nationals, held on May 27-28 at Wabash Valley Dragway in Terre Haute,

IN. Brayden Hearn finished in the runner-up spot on May 28, in the 6-9 year-old division, while Timothy Hearn made it down to seven cars before turning on a red light to end his day. Rich Komor, formerly of Litchfield, also made the trip north for the event and went a few rounds before returning home to Florida.

Door Car Shootout
The most recent must-go bracket racing event was June 9-10 at Ellis I-57 Drag-

way in Benton for the JEGS Summer Door Car Shootout.

More than 250 cars were entered into this year's event, including Litchfield's David Hearn, Nathan Gerl, Dwayne Gerl, Roger Burdell, Phil Bryant and Corey Wood. Unfortunately, none of the Montgomery County racers were among the big winners at the event, which saw Saturday and Sunday's action combined due to rain in the forecast.



Raffle Raises \$2,000 For Waggoner Ball Diamond

More than \$2,000 was raised for improvements to the Waggoner ball field thanks to a raffle for a Henry rifle, courtesy of Bruce's Welding. The winning ticket was drawn at the Small Town Dreamers Market on June 10 by Little Miss Irish Days Maylee Hampton, with Cassandra Rovey purchasing the winning ticket. Pictured above are Hampton, Rovey and Bruce's Welding owner Kody Nimmo.

Beal 2nd, Consolation Winner At Charleston

Racing season is starting to heat up for 14-year-old Addy Beal of Farmersville, and by the looks of it, the driver of the Bad Addytude is ready. Racing at Coles County Dragway in Charleston on June 3, Beal picked up a Ray Evans Consi Bracket win, running a 7.948 on a 7.92 dial-in to beat Aspyr Dhom of Dietrich in the consolation final.

Beal proved that the day before was no fluke the following day as she made it to her first final and finished second to Pesotum's Carsyn Smith after both driver's went red. Smith got the win as she jumped the gun by .002 seconds, compared to .012 seconds for Beal.



Addy Beal, pictured with her parents Angie and Andy Beal of Farmersville, picked up a second place finish in the Jr. Dragster class on Sunday, June 4, at Coles County Dragway in Charleston. Beal also did well the night before, winning the Ray Evans Consolation Bracket.

Coles County Dragway Photo



Wood Scores Runner-Up For Litchfield Gang

The drag racers known as the Litchfield Gang recently partnered with Five Star Racewear (fivestarracewear.com/theitchfieldgang) to release new merchandise featuring the cars of Dustin Bryant, Randy Weller, Corey Wood, Phil Bryant and Roger Burdell. A week later, one of the group nearly had the opportunity to wear the new shirt in victory lane. Corey Wood finished second in the Box class at the Midstate Lucky Sevens race at Central Illinois Dragway in Havana on Sunday, June 4, giving the group something to celebrate.

Lincoln Trail Motorsports

Continued from 1B

Randall, who is currently third in the Jr. standings, was 21st in the first moto in the Open class (he didn't run the second moto), while Saathoff was 23rd in the first moto in the Open and sixth in the 50cc Shaft/Shifter class.

The youth ranks continued to be a family affair as the Wright and Short families also competed in round three in Casey.

Hillsboro's Holden Wright was fourth in the Mini-E bike class and 26th in the 65cc Jr. class, while older brother Hudson was seventh in the 65cc Sr. Class and 12th in the 85cc Jr. class. Hudson is currently 12th in the 65cc Sr. overall standings and 11th in the 85cc Jr. standings, while Holden is ninth in the Mini-E bike class.

Kendall Short joined Holden Wright in the Mini-E bike class and finished 17th overall, while her brother Grayson was 39th in the 65cc Open Class. The Litchfield siblings are currently 18th and 67th in those same two categories after just a few appearances in the first four rounds.

The family theme invaded the adult ranks as well, with Chris Short currently sixth in the 30+ A standings and Adam Wright currently second and third in the Throwback

class. Short didn't race in round three, but Wright did, finishing first in the Throwback class and in the 40+ A grouping.

Litchfield's Derek Birkenkamp finished second in 40+ A and third in 30+ A in round three. He's currently fourth in the 30+ A standings and sixth in the 40+ A ranks.

Anthony Krivi, formerly of Hillsboro and now of Pawnee, took the top spot in the 30+ A class and was second in the 25+ A class. Krivi is third in the 30+ A standings and sixth in 25+ A.

Others racing in Casey on May 6-7 from the area were Morrisonville's Benjamin Ferrill (17th in 25+ B/C and 10th in Open B), Brighton's Ellie Goeken (3rd in women and 16th in 250 C) and Bunker Hills' Ford Klocke (1st in Open Beginner) and Ricky Woods (5th in Open Beginner).

Round Four
Many of those same names made the trip back to Casey on May 27-29 for round four of the Thor Showdown Series, with 15 top 10 finishes coming for the J-N Motorsports area riders.

Three of those top 10s came in the 30+ A class, where Anthony Krivi finished first, followed by Chris Short in second and Derek Birkenkamp in fifth. Krivi also finished fourth in the 25+ A

class, while Birkenkamp was second in the 40+ A class.

Adam Wright was third in the 40+ A class and picked up another win in the Throwback class. Irving's Ryan Petroski and Taylor Springs' Trenton Kimbro joined him in Throwback, finishing fifth and 13th respectively.

Kimbro and Petroski also finished 24th and 32nd in the 250 C class, which also included Witt's Ty White (19th) and Brighton's Ellie Goeken (39th). White also finished 14th in the Collegeboy class, while Goeken was second in the Women's class.

In the youth races, Hudson Wright was 13th in the 85cc Jr. class and 16th in the 65cc senior class. Younger brother Holden also ran two classes, finishing sixth in Mini-E bikes and 30th in 65cc Jr.

Kendall Short finished sixth in the 50cc girls class and 20th in the Mini-E bikes class, while Grayson Short was 34th in 65cc Jr. and 48th in 65cc Open.

The 50cc squad from Hillsboro had another big day, with four more top 10 finishes. In the 50cc Jr. Class, Huntley Durbin was third, Silas Randall was fifth, Archer Durbin was 11th and Landon Saathoff was 14th.

Saathoff also finished seventh in the 50cc Shaft/Shifter class, while Archer Durbin was third in the 50cc Pee Wee

class. Both Durbins also ran in the 50cc Open class, with Huntley finishing 11th and Archer coming in 33rd, while Silas Randall also competed and finished 28th.

Round five of the Lincoln Trail Motorsports Thor Showdown Series will be on July 7-9 in Casey.

- May 6-7 at Casey**
Lincoln Trail Motorsports Thor Showdown Series - Rd. 3
50 Shaft/Shifter (4-8): 6. Landon Saathoff (Hillsboro)
50 Pee Wee (4-8): 1. Archer Durbin (Hillsboro) 1/2
50 Jr. (4-6): 4. Huntley Durbin (Hillsboro) 1/6; 7. Silas Randall (Hillsboro) 12/8; 8. Archer Durbin (Hillsboro) 13/9; 20. Landon Saathoff (Hillsboro) 17/20
50 Open (4-8): 3. Huntley Durbin (Hillsboro) 2/7; 39. Archer Durbin (Hillsboro) 21/35; 42. Silas Randall (Hillsboro) 21/DNS; 45. Landon Saathoff (Hillsboro) 23/DNS
Mini-E (4-8): 4. Holden Wright (Hillsboro) 6/5; 17. Kendall Short (Litchfield) 17/16
65 Jr. (7-9): 26. Holden Wright (Hillsboro) 27/23
65 Sr. (10-11): 7. Hudson Wright (Hillsboro) 7/9
65 Open (7-11): 39. Grayson Short (Hillsboro) 24/38
85 Jr. (9-11): 12. Hudson Wright (Hillsboro) 12/9
25+ A: 2. Anthony Krivi (Pawnee) 3/2
25+ B/C: 17. Benjamin Ferrill (Morrisonville) DNS/10
30+ A: 1. Anthony Krivi (Pawnee) 1/1; 3. Derek Birkenkamp (Litchfield) 2/4
40+ A: 1. Adam Wright (Hillsboro) 1/1; 2. Derek Birkenkamp (Litchfield) 2/2
Throwback: 1. Adam Wright (Hillsboro) 2/1
Women (12+): 3. Ellie Goeken (Brighton) 3/3



Bryant 2nd Twice At I-57

Litchfield racer Dustin Bryant, pictured above with his dad Phil, hadn't raced since October, but old habits die hard and Bryant put on a show at Ellis I-57 Dragstrip in Benton on May 27-28. Bryant worked his way through the competition to make it to the finals in the pro class on both nights, before running into the red hot Luke Bogacki, who won both finals and the Super Pro class on Saturday. Bryant went red on Saturday by just two thousandths of a second in his race against Bogacki on Saturday.

- 250 C: 16.** Ellie Goeken (Brighton) 12/18
Open B: 10. Benjamin Ferrill (Morrisonville) 9/10
Open Beginner: 1. Ford Klocke (Bunker Hill) 1/1; 5. Ricky Woods (Bunker Hill) 12/3
May 27-29 at Casey
Lincoln Trail Motorsports Thor Showdown Series - Rd. 4
50 Shaft/Shifter (4-8): 7. Landon Saathoff (Hillsboro) 7
50 Pee Wee (4-8): 3. Archer Durbin (Hillsboro) 5/3
50 Girls (4-8): 6. Kendall Short (Litchfield) 6/6
50 Jr. (4-6): 3. Huntley Durbin (Hillsboro) 4/4; 5. Silas Randall (Hillsboro) 8/3; 11. Archer Durbin (Hillsboro) 10/11; 14. Landon Saathoff (Hillsboro) 14/15
50 Open (4-8): 11. Huntley Durbin (Hillsboro) 12/10; 28. Silas Randall (Hillsboro) 32/25; 33. Archer Durbin (Hillsboro) 34/33
Mini-E (4-8): 6. Holden Wright (Hillsboro) 6/7; 20. Kendall Short (Litchfield) 22/20
65 Jr. (7-9): 30. Holden Wright (Hillsboro) 34/26; 34. Grayson Short (Litchfield) 33/38
65 Sr. (10-11): 16. Hudson Wright (Hillsboro) 20/11
65 Open (7-11): 48. Grayson Short (Litchfield) 24/DNS
85 Jr. (9-11): 13. Hudson Wright (Hillsboro) 17/14
Collegeboy (14-24): 14. Ty White (Witt) 14/DNF
25+ A: 4. Anthony Krivi (Pawnee) 4/4
30+ A: 1. Anthony Krivi (Pawnee) 1/1; 2. Chris Short (Litchfield) 4/2; 5. Derek Birkenkamp (Litchfield) 5/4
40+ A: 2. Derek Birkenkamp (Litchfield) 3/2; 3. Adam Wright (Hillsboro) 2/3
Throwback: 1. Adam Wright (Hillsboro) 2/1; 5. Ryan Petroski (Irving) 6/8; 13. Trenton Kimbro (Taylor Springs) 7/DNF
Women (12+): 2. Ellie Goeken (Brighton) 2/2
250 C: 19. Ty White (Witt) 22/17; 24. Trenton Kimbro (Taylor Springs) 25/19; 32. Ryan Petroski (Irving) 30/32; 39. Ellie Goeken (Brighton) 39/DNS





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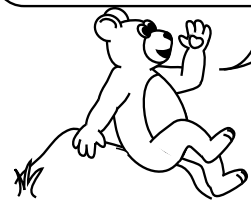
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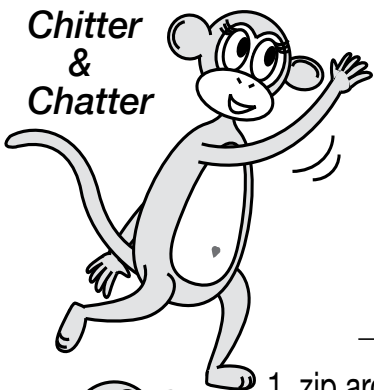
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Kids: color stuff in!

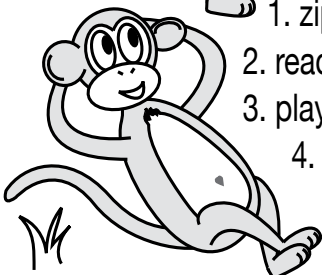
Chitter & Chatter



Whether you're on the move or just relaxing with Dad, have a fun Father's Day!

Read the clues to fill in this puzzle with ideas for fun things to do with Dad (maybe you can do this puzzle together!)

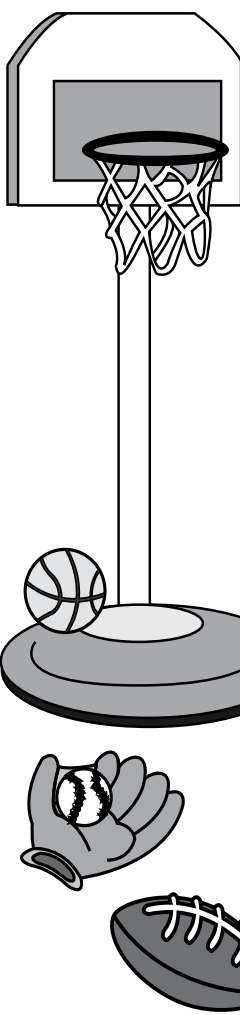
Happy Father's Day



- zip around the track with the "pedal to the metal"
- read a chapter of a mystery or adventure _____
- play _____ in your driveway or at the park
- grab a putter at _____
- practice hitting a home run at a _____ cage (wear a helmet)
- make a secret _____: use tree branches, old bedsheets...
- get out glue and magnifying glass for painting miniature _____
- play guitar or sing - you and Dad could make some rocking _____
- pitch a tent, start a fire, and enjoy the great outdoors by going _____
- bring a roll of quarters and level up with Dad at the game _____
- give Dad a helping hand with the yard work and mow the _____
- get comfy on the couch or in hammocks for a midday _____
- get a little grease on your hands while you help Dad work on a _____
- let Dad pick a _____ to watch at home - don't forget popcorn!
- get _____ - there's no one better than Dad to teach you how or how to _____ a knot
- find a walking stick, lace on _____ shoes and hit the trails
- grab a controller and play some _____ games with Dad
- football, basketball, soccer - pull up chairs and watch the _____

Clues for crossword puzzle:

- 1. zip around the track with the "pedal to the metal"
- 2. read a chapter of a mystery or adventure _____
- 3. play _____ in your driveway or at the park
- 4. grab a putter at _____
- 5. practice hitting a home run at a _____ cage (wear a helmet)
- 6. make a secret _____: use tree branches, old bedsheets...
- 7. get out glue and magnifying glass for painting miniature _____
- 8. play guitar or sing - you and Dad could make some rocking _____
- 9. pitch a tent, start a fire, and enjoy the great outdoors by going _____
- 10. bring a roll of quarters and level up with Dad at the game _____
- 11. give Dad a helping hand with the yard work and mow the _____
- 12. get comfy on the couch or in hammocks for a midday _____
- 13. get a little grease on your hands while you help Dad work on a _____
- 14. let Dad pick a _____ to watch at home - don't forget popcorn!
- 15. get _____ - there's no one better than Dad to teach you how or how to _____ a knot
- 16. find a walking stick, lace on _____ shoes and hit the trails
- 17. grab a controller and play some _____ games with Dad
- 18. football, basketball, soccer - pull up chairs and watch the _____



Sports Fun

Shooting hoops or tossing baseballs with Dad is fun. If it rains, bowling or roller skating are good ideas. Use the letters in the word "father" to spell out these sports.

- b _ sk _ _ b _ ll
- b _ s _ b _ ll
- socc _ _
- _ _ nnis
- voll _ yb _ ll
- gol _ ing
- _ unning
- l _ c _ oss _
- _ oo _ b _ ll

Find and circle these words about cooking outside:

- grill
- gas
- charcoal
- flames
- cooking
- barbecuing
- vegetables
- steak
- hot dogs
- hamburgers
- hickory chips
- sear
- flip
- spatula
- tongs
- fork
- basting brush
- thermometer
- grill glove
- grill basket



Grilling With Dad and Grandpa

Z	C	M	J	A	I	K	H	O	C	S	T	H	N	O	M	H									
O	S	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	O	K	C	O	A									
S	N	X	L	C	P	S	F	M	K	G	V	T	H	Q	G	M									
W	R	F	P	I	P	K	T	S	Y	W	K	D	I	G	P	B									
C	B	F	L	Y	V	E	A	E	C	C	K	O	C	T	L	U									
K	S	F	L	V	S	B	C	U	N	Y	A	G	K	A	F	R									
L	Z	H	M	A	L	P	X	D	G	J	R	S	O	F	M	G									
B	G	O	S	L	M	W	A	G	A	Q	H	C	R	C	K	E									
A	D	R	I	C	Z	E	N	T	S	O	R	I	Y	C	I	R									
R	H	R	I	J	A	I	S	T	U	A	F	C	C	D	H	S									
B	G	B	Q	L	K	N	D	Q	H	L	F	H	H	T	M	Z									
Z	C	M	J	A	I	K	H	O	E	S	R	T	O	L	Z	O	C	X	J	A	Y	I	R	H	T
O	S	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	C	E	U	O	L	B	R	S	F	O	C	K	L	P	J	X	O
S	N	T	L	C	P	S	F	M	U	A	C	G	F	T	P	U	J	P	O	Q	P	S	L	C	N
W	R	F	E	I	P	K	T	S	I	R	Y	B	A	S	T	I	N	G	B	R	U	S	H	A	G
C	B	F	L	A	V	E	A	E	N	I	R	O	A	M	K	D	X	B	N	W	I	H	J	F	S
K	S	F	L	V	K	B	C	U	G	X	K	K	C	M	I	Q	R	I	T	G	O	D	M	U	J
L	F	O	R	K	L	P	X	D	K	H	Q	L	G	R	I	L	L	G	L	O	V	E	A	H	C
B	G	O	S	L	M	W	A	G	C	Y	P	Z	P	K	T	H	E	R	M	O	M	E	T	E	R

Mini Golfing with Dad

Hit the golf ball along the path to the windmill hole to win.

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Miss Montgomery County Fair Contestants



Retiring royalty will be passing on their crowns to this year's winners at the Montgomery County Fair Pageant on Wednesday evening, June 21. From the left are 2022 Miss Montgomery County Fair Madalynn Kraus, 2022 Little Miss Montgomery County Fair Sawyer Spencer and 2022 Junior Miss Montgomery County Fair Ady Ferguson.

Photos courtesy of Brianna Wolf Photography

County Pageants Kick Off Fair On Wednesday

The annual Montgomery County Fair kicks off with three pageants on opening day, Wednesday, June 21, at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Butler. The opening ceremonies for the fair will be held at 6:45 p.m., followed by the pageants at 7 p.m.

Retiring royalty, including 2022 Miss Montgomery County Fair Madalynn Kraus of Farmersville, 2022 Junior Miss Montgomery County Fair Ady Ferguson of Litchfield and 2022 Little Miss Montgomery County Fair Sawyer Spencer of Nokomis, will pass on their crowns to this year's winners.

Miss Montgomery County Fair Contestants

- Alexis Lessman, 20-year-

old daughter of Laura Lessman and Jason Lessman of Hillsboro, sponsored by Lessman Pools and Spas.

- Alyssa Lohman, 17-year-old daughter of Cody and Tasha Lohman of Litchfield, sponsored by House of Glow.

- Amya Robinson, 21-year-old daughter of Danielle Abel and Joe Robinson of Hillsboro, sponsored by Freedom Diagnostic Testing.

- Angel Trader, 17-year-old daughter of Jessica and Darren Johnson and Chris and Lindsey Trader of Litchfield, sponsored by MyFormals.

Jr. Miss Montgomery County Fair Contestants

- Raina Cunningham, 12-year-old daughter of Damien and Sara Cunningham of Harvel, sponsored by Mid-



Alexis Lessman



Alyssa Lohman



Amya Robinson



Angel Trader

Junior Miss Montgomery County Fair Contestants



Raina Cunningham



Nataleigh Jackson



Brooklyn Karnes



Emma Millburg

way Bar and Grill.

- Nataleigh Jackson, 12-year-old daughter of Brett and Shelly Jackson of Hillsboro, sponsored by Miller's Lime Service.

- Brooklyn Karnes, 12-year-old daughter of Jordan and Ashley Karnes of Oconee, sponsored by Midland and Associates Home Inspections.

- Emma Millburg, 13-year-old daughter of Ryan and Jessica Millburg of Farmersville, sponsored by Steward Farms.

- Tessa Pastrovich, 12-year-old daughter of Brad and Marisa Pastrovich of Litchfield, sponsored by Reid Eye Care.

Little Miss Montgomery County Contestants

- Lainey Barcum, eight-

year-old daughter of Eric and Abby Barcum of Litchfield, sponsored by Perry Estelle Boutique in Litchfield.

- Mailee Cloe, eight-year-old daughter of Caine and Amanda Cloe of Hillsboro, sponsored by Shags Vintage in Hillsboro.

- Karsyn Jones, seven-year-old daughter of Matthew and Shay Jones of Hillsboro, sponsored by Lessman Pools and Spas.

- Autumn Kitchens, seven-year-old daughter of Mallory Kitchens of Nokomis, sponsored by Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance.

- Sophia Nail, six-year-old daughter of Carl and Twishia Nail, sponsored by Nail Land Surveying.

- Adelyn Nicol, six-year-

old daughter of Alex and Melissa Nicol of Raymond, sponsored by West End.

- Myrah Noyes, eight-year-old daughter of Robert and Stephanie Noyes of Hillsboro, sponsored by JF Electric.

- Aubrey Otto, six-year-old daughter of Mary Potts and Edward Otto of Fillmore, sponsored by Elite Roofing and Exterior Professionals.

- Tyffany Plummer-Jaynes, eight-year-old daughter of Nolan and Sara Plummer-Jaynes of Litchfield, sponsored by R-N-D Sanitation.

- Karsyn Sisk, six-year-old daughter of Dalton Sisk and Megan Thompson of Nokomis, sponsored by JD Welding and Construction.

- Lilliana Smith, seven-



Tessa Pastrovich

year-old daughter of Justin and Brittany Smith of Hillsboro, sponsored by Massage Therapy and Bodywork by Karen Ingles.

Little Miss Montgomery County Fair Contestants



Lainey Barcum



Mailee Cloe



Karsyn Jones



Autumn Kitchens



Sophia Nail



Adelyn Nicol



Myrah Noyes



Aubrey Otto



Tyffany Plummer-Jaynes



Karsyn Sisk



Lilliana Smith

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PUBLIC AUCTION

MON., JUNE 19 - Bidding ends for online only RE auction of 2108 Miller Ave., Schram City at 6 p.m. with a soft close. 3BR/2BA, full bsmt., all steel I-beams, att. 2-car gar., apps. stay. Bidding starts Sunday, May 14. To register/bid, go to micenheimerandmeyer.hibid.com. Micenheimer & Meyer Auction Services, Jim Micenheimer, 217-820-9324 and Cory Meyer, 217-710-5642, auctioneers.

MON., JUNE 19 - 4-6 p.m. Open house, 2BR, 1BA bungalow style Sears home at 302 W. State St., Pocahontas. **Public auction July 8 at 9 a.m.** Charles & Velda Carson Estate. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

WED., JUNE 21 - 5:30 p.m. soft close for blacksmith auction. Over 700 items. Anvils, hammers, vises, blowers, forming blocks, pins, plates, shoes, pry bars, pouring ladles and much more. Preview: June 16 & June 17 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Pickup: June 23, 1-4 p.m. & June 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Both at 1172 New Trenton Rd., Highland. Register/bid at ahrensauktion.hibid.com. Ahrens Auction LLC, Dennis Ahrens, auctioneer, 618-779-1883.

WED. & THURS., JUNE 21 & 22 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only auction of approx. 1250 lots incl. JD ZTrak, fine furniture, collectibles, jewelry, coins, paper money, 75 lots misc., more. Bid now at micenheimerandmeyer.hibid.com. Mrs. Roberts, M. Wells & other owners. Micenheimer & Meyer Auction Services, James Micenheimer & Cory Meyer, auctioneers, 217-820-9324 or 217-710-5642.

THURS., JUNE 22 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Household, Furniture, Tools, Antiques & more auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview & pickup at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Preview June 20, 4-6 p.m. Checkout June 23, 4-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., JUNE 22 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends with a soft close for online only auction of 698 lots incl. guns, ammo, knives, household, collectibles, furniture, appliances, Longaberger basket collection, toys, outdoor items, lots of Christmas items & seasonal/holiday wreaths, & misc. Bidding opens Thurs., June 8 at 6 p.m. Register now & bid at whiteauctionservice.hibid.com. Stephanie Broom Nelson, owner. Located at 8544 Rt. 108, Carlinville. Preview June 18, 1-3 p.m. & pickup June 25, 1-4 p.m. Eric White, auctioneer, 217-556-2135.

THURS., JUNE 22 - Bidding ends for online auction of real estate and personal property of the Galer Trust. RE consists of 7.5 acres with 2,500+ sq. ft. 4BR, 2BA home, 2+ car det. gar. & 44'x82' pole building. Also personal property that incl. 2000 Chevrolet 1500 truck, 1970s jon boat, tri-hull boat, firearms, ammo, furniture, household items, home décor, tools, appliances and more. Open house June 15 from 2-6 p.m. at 208 Lake Lane, Hillsboro. Bid now at amannauction.com, 217-563-2523.

SAT., JUNE 24 - 9 a.m. at 1754 Maxey Cemetery Ave., Smithboro. Public auction of Pat & the late Jim Henson. 2008 16' Load Master trailer, tandem axle 2' beaver tail, 81" wide (with title), Bass Hunter boat, tools, firearms, ammo, antiques, collectibles, household, lawn & garden/outside items. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., JUNE 29 - 6 p.m. RE closes; 6:30 p.m. personal property closes. 404 South St., Gillespie. Viewing June 25, Noon-2:30 p.m. Pickup/checkout July 1, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. by appt. Register/bid now at mikercrabtreeauctions.hibid.com. RE of 2BR/2 1/2 BA 2400 sf brick home w/bsmt. on 2 lg. corner lots. Lawn mowers, furniture, appliances, grandfather clock, antiques-collectibles-household, shop tools-tools-etc. Heirs of Robert Brown, sellers. Mike Crabtree, auctioneer, 217-473-2507.

THURS., JUNE 29 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Gerald & Sharon Schreckenberg Trust auction. Register/bid now at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Checkout June 30, 4-6 p.m. at 1221 S. Clinton Rd., Caseyville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com.

MON., JUNE 19 - Bidding ends for online only RE auction of 2108 Miller Ave., Schram City at 6 p.m. with a soft close. 3BR/2BA, full bsmt., all steel I-beams, att. 2-car gar., apps. stay. Bidding starts Sunday, May 14. To register/bid, go to micenheimerandmeyer.hibid.com. Micenheimer & Meyer Auction Services, Jim Micenheimer, 217-820-9324 and Cory Meyer, 217-710-5642, auctioneers.

MON., JUNE 19 - 4-6 p.m. Open house, 2BR, 1BA bungalow style Sears home at 302 W. State St., Pocahontas. **Public auction July 8 at 9 a.m.** Charles & Velda Carson Estate. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

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THURS., JUNE 22 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Gerald & Sharon Schreckenberg Trust auction. Register/bid now at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Checkout June 30, 4-6 p.m. at 1221 S. Clinton Rd., Caseyville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com.

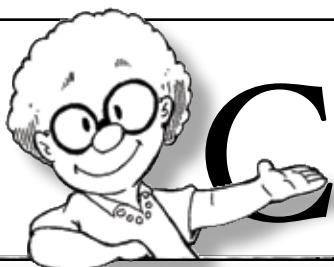
FRI., JUNE 30 - Simulcast (online & live) auction of 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on 1.7 acres & 2012 Chevy Equinox for Gerald & Sharon Schreckenberg Trust. Register/bid now at mollettauctions.hibid.com. 1221 S. Clinton Rd., Caseyville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

SAT., JULY 8 - 9 a.m. Charles & Velda Carson estate live auction at 302 W. State St., Pocahontas. Open house June 19, 4-6 p.m. RE of 2BR/1BA Sears home w/det. 2 car garage, close to schools. 2002 Chevy S-10, antiques, collectibles, household, misc., tools & accessories. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., AUG. 24 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only machinery auction. Bidding begins Mon, Aug. 7 at 5 p.m. All items must be delivered to Micenheimer auction lot, 4.5 mi. S of Taylorville, by Sun, Aug. 6 at 6 p.m. Register/bid at micenheimerandmeyer.hibid.com. Micenheimer & Meyer Auction Services, Jim Micenheimer & Cory Meyer, auctioneers, 217-824-9324 or 217-820-9324 or 217-710-5642.

SELMA CAN SELL THAT

6B - Thursday, June 15, 2023



Classifieds

TO PLACE AN AD

CALL: (217) 532-3933
 WEB: www.thejournal-news.net
 EMAIL: thejournal-news@consolidated.net

Merchandise
Furniture

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

Livestock, Poultry

FINNSHEEP LAMBS: 4 Finnsheep ram lambs. Pet and breeding quality. Born first of March. Ready to go beginning of July. 2 dark brown, 1 light brown, 1 black/white. 217-494-2049. Juli Shipman

Miscellaneous

ANTIQUES, all types, golf clubs, Cardinal memorabilia and collectibles, fishing equipment, high dollar firearms, comic books, action figures, VHS movies. Call 217-710-1147

Merchandise
Pets & Supplies

AKC YORKSHIRE TERRIER puppies. 3 males, 1 female, parents on site. Decatur. 217-358-1424

GREAT PYRENEES puppies: 4 males and 2 females. Born 03-18-23. Text or call for more info. \$400. 217-820-8835

Services
General Services

JJ's HANDYMAN and Construction Service. Free estimates. 217-825-5951

BEELER FENCING: Free estimates. 217-825-5951

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

TV ANTENNA Installation and repair, electronics recycling. KB Electronics, Carlinville. 217-556-1385

J&K LAWN Care accepting new clients in Litchfield township. Reasonable prices and free estimates. Jesse @ 217-851-6575 or Kay @ 217-313-8933

5 GALLONS filtered water \$1; bag or bulk ice. 611 N. Monroe, Litchfield. Twice the Ice machine.



Garage Sales

HUGE YARD SALE: 309 Hamilton Road, Taylor Springs. Friday, June 16 @ 11 to 6, Saturday, June 17 @ 8 to 2. Priced to sell.

CORNER OF East/ Brown, Hillsboro. Fri. 9th, 4 to 7 p.m., Sat. 10th, 8 to 2 p.m. 217-381-7087

YARD SALE: Sat., June 17, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 10075 Miller Trail, Hillsboro. Baby girl, women and men clothing, 31 bags, home decor, summer water items, misc.

SEVEN FAMILY garage sale in Park Ridge Subdivision (south of Litchfield Community Center), Saturday, June 17, 8 to ? China cabinet, treadmill, elliptical, furniture, vacuum, baby & kids clothes, toys and baby items.

Mary Miller Plans Office Hours

Congresswoman Mary Miller will host office hours from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, at the Hillsboro Area Public Library.

Constituents that need assistance getting in contact with a federal agency are encouraged to attend. Congresswoman Miller's casework team is available to help with Social Security, IRS, VA and other federal issues.

Personal Assistant will care for DORS client
Call Joshua at 217-710-5783

Extension County Director - Unit 18

University of Illinois Extension is seeking an individual to provide educational leadership for program delivery in Unit 18 (Christian, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Jersey Counties). Master's degree required. To view complete job description and apply, visit go.illinois.edu/1018370. Closing date is **July 6, 2023**. *The U of I is an EEO Employer/Vet/Disabled go.illinois.edu/EEO that participates in the federal e-Verify program and participates in a background check program focused on prior criminal or sexual misconduct history.*

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3
Position: (2) Full Time Classroom Teacher's Aide at Beckemeyer Elementary
License: Current Para Professional Certification or willingness to obtain certification with district assistance.
Job Description: Working with Elementary age children in the classroom
Salary: Teacher's Aide Salary Schedule
Submit Application/Resumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Zach Frailey, Principal; Beckemeyer Elementary School; 1035 Seymour Ave.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Fax to: 217-532-5142; E-mail to: zfrailey@hillsboroschools.net; Phone: (217) 532-6994
Application Due Date: June 30, 2023
 We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

CONCRETE FLATWORK & EXCAVATING
217-971-5077

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3
Position: Head Wrestling Coach
Qualifications: Qualified candidates will have knowledge of and experience in High School Wrestling and possess an Illinois Professional Educator's License, or IHSA approved coaching certification or willingness to attain IHSA certification
Job Description: Plan and manage practices, arrange training camps, conduct fundraisers, develop and grow the program; model and promote athleticism, sportsmanship, and character; adhere to all IHSA and District rules and guidelines
Start Date: August 2023
Salary: Per Teacher's Contract Schedule B
Submit Application/Resumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; E-mail to: pheyen@hillsboroschools.net; Phone 217-532-2841
Due By: August 1, 2023
 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 Boys' Head Tennis Coach
Qualifications: ISBE certification or IHSA approved coaching certification or willingness to attain
Description: Organize and manage practices and competitions; establish and present schedules, rosters and records in a timely fashion; conduct and supervise fundraising activities and training camps; promote athleticism and sportsmanship; promote and grow the program; adhere to all IHSA and District rules and guidelines
Salary: Per Teacher's Contract Schedule B
Submit Letter of Interest and District Application to: Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; E-mail to: pheyen@hillsboroschools.net; Phone 217-532-2841
Due By: August 1, 2023
 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 Math Teacher. Primarily Algebra 1 with possibility of Geometry depending upon candidate qualifications.
License/Qualifications: Secondary Illinois Professional Educator's License with appropriate endorsement or willingness to attain.
Salary/Benefits: Per Teachers' Salary Schedule/Labor Contract. Benefits include health insurance, tuition reimbursement and district-paid TRS contribution
Additional Notes: Various extra-curricular sports and club sponsorships may be available
Application Due Date: July 7, 2023
Start Date: August 14, 2023
How to Apply: Please email a letter of interest, district application (see website), resumé, letters of reference and transcripts to: pheyen@hillsboroschools.net; Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; 217-532-2841
 We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MONTGOMERY COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: STEVEN D. CAIN, Deceased.
No. 2023-PR-11 CLAIM NOTICE
 Notice is given of the death of Steven D. Cain, of New Douglas, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on May 2, 2023, to Joshua S. Cain, of Litchfield, IL as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Erik Hyam of Silver Lake Group, Ltd. of Litchfield, IL 62056.
 Claims may be filed within six (6) months from the date of publication and any claim not filed within that period is barred as to the estate which is inventoried within that period.
 Claims must be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois, and copies mailed or delivered to the Administrator and to his attorney.
 Erik Hyam
 IL Bar No. 6311090
 Attorney for Administrator
Silver Lake Group, Ltd.
 314 N. Monroe St.
 P.O. Box 98
 Litchfield, IL 62056
 Phone: (217) 324-6147
 erik@silverlakelaw.com
 10-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2023-01 FOR THE VILLAGE OF FARMERSVILLE, IL FOR THE PERIOD OF MAY 1, 2023 TO APRIL 30, 2024
 An ordinance making appropriations for the corporate purpose of the Village of Farmersville, Illinois, for the fiscal year commencing on the 1st day of May, A.D., 2023 and ending on the 30th day of April, A.D., 2024.
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE VILLAGE OF FARMERSVILLE, ILLINOIS.
SECTION 1. That the following sums or so much thereof as may be authorized by law, be and the same hereby appropriated for the corporate purposes of the Village of Farmersville, Illinois to defray all necessary expenses and liabilities of said Village of Farmersville, Illinois, as hereinafter specified, for the fiscal year commencing the 1st day of May, A.D., 2023 and ending on the 30th day of April, A.D., 2024 to wit:

ITEMS OF APPROPRIATIONS APPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND	AMOUNT
For repairing and maintaining streets and alleys including (\$40,000) MFT and general fund payroll expenses	\$110,000.00
For street lighting-purchase of electricity	30,000
For utilities-other than electricity	30,000
For Street superintendent and street department salaries	100,000
For printing of ordinances, official reports and official notices	4,000
For office supplies and purchase of new equipment	15,000
For salaries of Village Officers	30,000
For Village Treasurer	15,000
For Village Clerk	15,000
For Village Attorney	20,000
For police protection including salaries	120,000
For audits and reports	20,000
For maintenance and operations of park and equipment	35,000
For equipment and building purchase and renovation	100,000
For other services	25,000
For insurance	30,000
For sidewalks	10,000
For Social Security	40,000
For reserve for contingencies	20,000
For employee insurance	15,000
For Zoning administration	15,000
WATER & SEWER M&O	
For payroll	\$150,000
For legal	10,000
For Administrative and Operational Expenses	80,000
For reserve for contingencies	55,000
For new equipment	150,000
For insurance	25,000
For sewer upgrade and water upgrade	250,000
For IMRF	50,000
TOTAL	\$1,569,000

VACANCY NOTICE
Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3
Position: Half-time Pre-K Teacher (.5 FTE)
Duties: Responsibilities include working with student accommodations, managing classroom behavior, developing differentiated instruction, co-teaching with ECSE teacher. Effective communication and strong collaboration skills with other professionals are essential to this position.
Certification: Early Childhood License required, ECSE approval preferred
Starting Date: Beginning of the 2023-2024 School Year
Salary: Regionally competitive. District paid TRS. Final salary and other potential incentives to be discussed with successful candidates.
Send Application/Resumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Marci Gutierrez, Pre-K Director; Coffeen Early Childhood Center; 200 School St.; Coffeen, IL 62017; or E-mail to: mgutierrez@hillsboroschools.net; Phone 217-532-7822
Due By: June 25, 2023
 We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

IGA JOB OPPORTUNITIES
CAPRI IGA, HILLSBORO
Full-Time Stocker
Full-Time Bakery
Part-Time Deli
Apply in person or online at capriIGA.com

HELP WANTED
Hayes Abrasives, Inc.
 Accepting applications for machine operators.
 Apply at
 120 Smith Road, Hillsboro

HELP WANTED
 Part-time work available in mail room
 Less than 20 hours a week • Some nights
Call 217-532-3933 and leave a name and phone number

ESTATE SALE EVERYTHING MUST GO
ESTATE/MOVING SALE
 Friday, June 16 • 9-5
 Saturday, June 17 • 8-12
 715 Pence Dr., Hillsboro (Inside)
 Small furniture items, grandfather clock, some clothing, dishes, pictures, blankets, pillows, Shark vacuum, holiday décor, etc.
TONS of misc. items!

TREASURER WANTED:
 The Village of Irving is now accepting applications for the treasurer position. Quickbooks experience helpful. Applications available at the Village Hall.
217-533-4601

FOR SALE
POWER HOUSE WASH
 ESTABLISHED POWER WASH BUSINESS
217-971-2970

Affordable, all-inclusive housekeeping and basic lawn care for seniors.
Rates are \$15 an hour.
Please call 217-339-9989 and ask for Ray.
 (If you would like to know more.)

Power House Wash
 "Make That Vinyl Siding Look New Again"
 Serving Nokomis and Surrounding Areas

 "I would like to thank all my customers for supporting my business for the last 9 years. It has been a pleasure to serve you." Kevin Schmitz

FOR RENT
Main Street Office Space in Downtown Hillsboro
Call John or Susie at 217-532-3933

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, Case No. 2023TX10, JICTB, Inc.
To: Judy Shoemaker; Occupants of; Hillsboro Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, LLC; Montgomery County as Trustee; Montgomery County Clerk; and all other persons/entities UNKNOWN having or claiming any right, interest or title in the following described real estate:
Lots 10, 11 and 12 all in Block 18, of the Original Plat of the Village of Waggoner, in Montgomery County Illinois.

Montgomery County Treasurer on October 26, 2020. The taxes due under the certificate are for the 2019 tax year. The petition asks the court to direct the county clerk to issue a tax deed if the property is not redeemed from the sale on or before October 11, 2023, and that Petitioner, as grantee of tax deed be put in possession of said parcel of real estate. The Petition for Order of Tax Deed will be brought before the Montgomery County Circuit Court on October 24, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in Courtroom 2. If you fail to redeem, the court may enter a judgment for the relief demanded in the petition.

Permanent Index No. 03-28-131-006
On April 11, 2023, JICTB, Inc. filed a Petition for Order of Tax Deed. The object of the plaintiff's petition is to foreclose on the Tax Sale Certificate No. 2019-00255 for the delinquent taxes on real estate described above which was issued by the

JICTB, Inc. Petitioner
Stuart E. Morgenstern, #6275553
Attorney for Petitioner
1 W. Laurel Street
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274
(618) 357-5315

6-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

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:

AL - SALE OF 123 SOUTH DOUGLAS, HILLSBORO, IL" and shall include the name and address of the bidder. **All bids received after 12:00 Noon on July 14, 2023 will be rejected.**

Lot Forty-three (43) in Roundtree's Addition to East Hillsboro, situated in the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois.
P.I.N.: 16-01-384-003
Property Address: 123 South Douglas Hillsboro, IL 62049
Said real property is vacant.

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 July 18, 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.

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 Friday, July 14, 2023. Said proposals shall be addressed to the City of Hillsboro, Attention: City Clerk, 447 South Main Street, P.O. Box 556, Hillsboro, Illinois, and shall bear the legend: "PROPOS-

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.

10-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

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:

Street, P.O. Box 556, Hillsboro, Illinois, and shall bear the legend: "PROPOSAL - SALE OF 672 VIRGINIA STREET, HILLSBORO, IL" and shall include the name and address of the bidder. **All bids received after 12:00 Noon on July 14, 2023 will be rejected.**

Lots Eighty-nine (89) and Ninety (90) in Prairie Heights, a subdivision in the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois, EXCEPTING any coal or mineral rights previously severed from the surface and subject to all easements of record.
P.I.N.: 16-12-253-029
Property Address: 672 Virginia Street Hillsboro, IL 62049
Said real property is vacant.

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 July 18, 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.

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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.

10-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN PROBATE IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA SPARKS, DECEASED.
No. 2023-PR-14
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION WILL AND CLAIMS, NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES AND NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF WILL ADMITTED

NOTICE is given of the death of Linda K. Sparks of Hillsboro, IL 62049. Letters of office were issued on May 25, 2023 to Jaye A. Brandon, whose attorney is Alan Pretnar, 510 Hillsboro St., Taylor Springs, IL 62089.

Notice is given to unknown heirs, legatees and devisees in the above proceeding to probate a will and whose name or address is not stated in the petition to admit the will to probate, that an order was entered by the court on May 25, 2023, admitting the will to probate. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original

order of admission you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open Court or other evidence, as provided in Section 6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21). You also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 6/8-1) to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after admission of the will to probate.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first date of publication and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it had been filed.

/s/ Alan Pretnar
Alan Pretnar #6182987
Attorney at Law
510 Hillsboro St.
P.O. Box 310
Taylor Springs, IL 62089
217-532-9298
8-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, Case No. 2023TX11, JICTB, Inc.
To: Steve Price; Tammy Price; Occupants of; Montgomery County Clerk; and all other persons/entities UNKNOWN having or claiming any right, interest or title in the following described real estate:

That part of Block 21 of the Original Town of Waggoner, described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Block, thence South 150 feet; West 142 feet; North 150 feet; East 142 feet to the point of beginning, situated in the Village of Waggoner, Township of Pitman, County of Montgomery, State of Illinois.

Permanent Index No. 03-28-206-008
On April 11, 2023, JICTB, Inc. filed a Petition for Order of Tax Deed. The object of the plaintiff's petition is to foreclose on the Tax Sale

Certificate No. 2019-00260 for the delinquent taxes on real estate described above which was issued by the Montgomery County Treasurer on October 26, 2020. The taxes due under the certificate are for the 2019 tax year. The petition asks the court to direct the county clerk to issue a tax deed if the property is not redeemed from the sale on or before October 11, 2023, and that Petitioner, as grantee of tax deed be put in possession of said parcel of real estate. The Petition for Order of Tax Deed will be brought before the Montgomery County Circuit Court on October 24, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in Courtroom 2. If you fail to redeem, the court may enter a judgment for the relief demanded in the petition.

JICTB, Inc. Petitioner
Stuart E. Morgenstern, #6275553
Attorney for Petitioner
1 W. Laurel Street
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274
(618) 357-5315

6-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS SECURITY NATIONAL BANK,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ALEXANDER J. HICKEY, NICOLE A. JEFFERS, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
2023-FC-18

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS and UNKNOWN OWNERS, Defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for foreclosure of a certain mortgage and other relief, as follows:

- Names of All Plaintiffs and the Case Number: SECURITY NATIONAL BANK, Case No. 2023-FC-18
- The Court in Which the Action was Brought: Circuit Court for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, Montgomery County, Illinois.
- Name of Titleholder of Record: ALEXANDER J. HICKEY and NICOLE A. JEFFERS
- Legal Description of the Real Estate Sufficient to Identify It with Reasonable Certainty:
Lot Two (2) in Block Two (2) of Ora E. Lane's Second Addition to the Town, now Village of Fillmore, situated in the Village of Fillmore, Montgomery County, Illinois, except the coal within and underlying the land and all rights and easements in favor of the

estate of said coal.
5. Common Address or Descriptions of the Location of the Real Estate:
205 S. Blain Street
Fillmore, Illinois 62032
6. The Parcel Number is: 18-26-130-005
7. Identification of the Mortgage(s) Sought to be Foreclosed:
(a) Name of Mortgagor: Alexander J. Hickey & Nicole A. Jeffers
(b) Name of Mortgagee: Security National Bank
(c) Date of Mortgage: November 15, 2018
(d) Date of Recording or Registering Mortgage: November 16, 2018
(e) County where recorded: Montgomery County
(f) Identification of Mortgage Recording: Inst. 201800003718 at Book 1682 Page 593
UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the office of the Clerk of this Court, Montgomery County Courthouse, 120 North Main Street, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049, on or before July 13, 2023, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.
Daniel T. Robbins
Clerk of the Court
Erik Hyam
IL Bar No. 6311090
silver lake group, ltd.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
314 N. Monroe St.
P.O. Box 98
Litchfield, IL 62056
Tel. (217) 324.6147
Fax (217) 324.6249
erik@silverlakelaw.com

8-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on June 5, 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: TRAVELING GROUNDS & CO. located at 917 S. MAIN ST. in the city of HILLSBORO and state of IL.
Dated June 5, 2023
Sandy Leitheiser,
County Clerk
8-3T*

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on May 31, 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: PINE AND VINE FLORALS located at 717 ROUNTREE ST. in the city of HILLSBORO and state of IL.
Dated MAY 31, 2023
Sandy Leitheiser,
County Clerk
6-3T*

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, Case No. 2023TX8, JICTB, Inc.
To: Ernesto Cordova; Gladys Cordova; Occupants of; Heirs at Law and/or Legatees of Ernest Cyprian, deceased; JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA; First American Title Insurance Company; Michael Cyprian; Tim Cyprian; Michelle Dagon; Unknown Heirs of Ernest Cyprian; Montgomery County Clerk; and all other persons/entities UNKNOWN having or claiming any right, interest or title in the following described real estate:

Fifteen feet off of the North side of Lot 48; all of Lot 47 and ten feet off of the South-west side of Lot 46, all in G.F. Coffeen's Third Addition to the Village (now City) of Coffeen, situated in the City of Coffeen, Montgomery County, Illinois. Excepting title to all coal within and underlying the premises, together with all mining rights and other rights, privileges and immunities relating thereto.

Permanent Index No. 17-35-305-011

On April 11, 2023, JICTB, Inc. filed a Petition for Order of Tax Deed. The object of the plaintiff's petition is to foreclose on the Tax Sale Certificate No. 2019-00027 for the delinquent taxes on real estate described above which was issued by the Montgomery County Treasurer on October 26, 2020. The taxes due under the certificate are for the 2019 tax year. The petition asks the court to direct the county clerk to issue a tax deed if the property is not redeemed from the sale on or before October 11, 2023, and that Petitioner, as grantee of tax deed be put in possession of said parcel of real estate. The Petition for Order of Tax Deed will be brought before the Montgomery County Circuit Court on October 24, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in Courtroom 2. If you fail to redeem, the court may enter a judgment for the relief demanded in the petition.

JICTB, Inc. Petitioner
Stuart E. Morgenstern, #6275553
Attorney for Petitioner
1 W. Laurel Street
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274
(618) 357-5315

6-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS - CHANCERY DIVISION
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
EDGAR E. WELLER, ET AL.,
Defendants.
Case No.: 2023FC9
Property Address: 123 W. Ferdon Litchfield, IL 62056
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING, EDGAR WELLER, defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

THE WEST HALF OF LOT 7 AND THE WEST HALF OF LOT 6 EXCEPT 10 FEET OFF THE NORTH SIDE OF SAID LOT 6, IN BLOCK 1 OF SCHERER'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD, COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 123 W. Ferdon Litchfield, IL 62056
Names of the titleholders of record: EDGAR E. WELLER.
Date of the Mortgage: February 13, 2009.
Name or names of the mortgagors: EDGAR E. WELLER.
Name of the mortgagee: UNITED FIDELITY FUNDING, CORP.
Date and place of recording: February 19, 2009; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Montgomery County, Illinois.
Identification of recording: Document No. 200900050280.
NOW THEREFORE, un-

less you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before July 17, 2023, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaids.org. For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegalaids.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Lender Legal PLLC
1800 Pembroke Drive, Suite 250
Orlando, Florida 32810
Tel: (407) 730-4644
Service Emails: cwinters@lenderlegal.com
ESLService@LenderLegal.com
LLS11014-IL - Weller s/Colin Winters, Esq. Colin Winters, Esq. Counsel of Record for Plaintiff
ARDC # 6297980
I3222375

10-3T



23 Buick Enclave Essence B10296 NOW ONLY \$47,990	23 Buick Enclave Essence B10330 NOW ONLY \$51,190	23 Buick Encore GX Preferred B10298 NOW ONLY \$29,616
23 Buick Encore GX B10302 NOW ONLY \$29,906	23 Buick Envision Preferred B10184 NOW ONLY \$36,999	23 Buick Envision Essence B10303 NOW ONLY \$40,489
23 Chevy Bolt EUV 2LT B10373 NOW ONLY \$32,675	23 Chevy Silverado 1500 Custom B10364 NOW ONLY \$48,740	23 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST B10358 NOW ONLY \$58,620
23 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD Custom B10313 NOW ONLY \$55,340	24 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD LT B10314 NOW ONLY \$68,890	23 Chevy Trailblazer Activ B10350 NOW ONLY \$32,905
23 Chevy Traverse RS B10371 NOW ONLY \$45,945	23 GMC Acadia Denali B10310 NOW ONLY \$56,285	
23 GMC Acadia Denali B10349 NOW ONLY \$57,785	23 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT B10367 NOW ONLY \$67,840	23 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT B10273 NOW ONLY \$62,413
23 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT B10368 NOW ONLY \$68,440	23 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT B10290 2500 MILES \$DEMO SAVINGS!	23 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali Ultimate B10355 NOW ONLY \$86,640
23 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali Ultimate B10362 NOW ONLY \$86,640	23 Buick Enclave Essence B10323 NOW ONLY \$47,290	23 Chevy Traverse LT B10325 NOW ONLY \$44,785

INBOUND ...

23 Buick Enclave Avenir, B10380	\$61,465
24 Buick Encore GX Sport Touring, B10366	\$32,335
23 Chevy Silverado 1500 ZR2, B10374	\$76,755
23 Chevy Traverse LT, B10369	\$40,085
24 Buick Encore GX Preferred	\$30,405
24 Buick Encore GX Sport Touring	\$31,630
24 Buick Encore GX Avenir	\$34,345
23 Chevy Trailblazer RS	\$28,255
24 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Denali Ultimate	\$95,435

Car Bravo

The cars are used. The experience is amazingly new.

Steve Schmitt of LITCHFIELD

217-324-3932 • www.steveschmittoflitchfield.com

 Kelly Ondrey General Manager	 Rhonda Jurgena Receptionist	 Forrest Brake Finance Manager	 Trevor Young Sales Manager	 Jim Barr Product Specialist	 Isaac McDonald Product Specialist
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Junior Board Helps Clean Fairgrounds

Members of the Montgomery County Fair Junior Board spent Sunday, June 11, working to get the fairgrounds ready for fair week. Some of the many tasks they took on included cleaning out the ticket booths, cleaning the bleachers, pulling weeds and planting flowers that were donated by Ace Hardware of Hillsboro. The Junior Fair Board is excited to work alongside the fair board members and other volunteers at this year's fair. The Junior Fair Board is open to new members from sixth through 12th grade, who want to make a difference in their community. From the left, are Jack Johnson, Marcie Carroll, Rylie Jones, Morgan Hampton, Faith Ellinger, Tilly Ferguson, Ady Ferguson, Hayden Thompson and Isabella Steiner.

FBCA Students Recognized At Chapel

Faith Bible Christian Academy in Rosamond presented awards to their elementary school students during a special chapel on Friday, May 12.

Preschool

Annalise Houser received the Sweet Servant, Count to 100, ABC's forward and backward awards. Aurora Schuyler received the Kindness Certificate and Child of God - Salvation awards. Charlotte Bailey received the Courageous Character, Count to 100, ABC's forward and backward and Child of God-Salvation awards. Dallas Kile received the Miraculous Memorizer, Count to 100 and ABC's forward and backward awards. Derek Ashcraft received the Humble Heart and Child of God - Salvation awards. Emmalynn Kater received the Collaborative Kid and Child of God - Salvation awards. Harper Bailey received the Stupendous Student award. Harper Walter received the Beautiful Prayer Warrior award. Hudson Presnell received the Bright Bulb Award and ABC's forward and backward award. Jace Bailey received the Devoted Disciple award. Josephine Ade received the Brilliant Bible Scholar, Count to 100, ABC's forward and backward and Child of God - Salvation awards.

Kindergarten

Waylon Harris received the all 26-letter recognition-100% accuracy, Star Reader, Character Award and Prayer Warrior awards. Alexis Koons received the Character Award, Always Enthusiastic! and Least Likely to Interrupt awards. Elias Plumer received the advanced reading groups, Character Awards, Best Attitude and Prayer Warrior awards. Adaline Cross received the all 26-letter recognition-100 percent accuracy, Character Award and Prayer Warrior awards. Tiller Leinweber received the Character Award, Leadership and Most Expressive awards. Lauren Adams received the all 26-letter recognition-100 percent accuracy, Character Award and Leadership award. Myles Kater received the Character Award, Always Enthusiastic! and Least Likely to Interrupt awards. Lillian Vallelonga received the Character Award, Prayer Warrior and Best Effort to Succeed awards. Tighe Kuffel received the STAR reader, all 26-letter recognition-100 percent accuracy, Character Awards and Kindness and Welcoming awards. Clairebell Walter received the Character Awards, Best Attitude and Prayer War-

rior awards. Timothy Jeffrey received the ability to count to 100 by 1's, 2's, 5's & 10's, all 26-letter recognition-100 percent accuracy, Character Award and Best Attitude. Opal Lynne Casey received the all 26-letter recognition-100 percent accuracy, Character Award and Super Helper. Alaina Clayton received the Character Award, Enthusiastic in every Situation!, and Most Likely to Rebound awards.

First Grade

Caralyn Wheeler received the Fruit of the Spirit: Patience, Star Reader, Math Whiz, Best Handwriting, Best Memory and Most Likely to Write a Book awards. Elena Houser received the Fruit of the Spirit: Peace and Kindness, Star Reader, Excellent Effort, Best Handwriting, Best Listening Ears, Math Whiz, Quietest Worker and Character Counts awards. Isabelle Hunt received the Fruit of the Spirit: Joy, Math Whiz, Most Likely to Brighten Your Day and Future Vet awards.

Charleigh Etter received the Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness, Super Speller, Star Reader, Math Whiz, Terrific Helper and Most Likely to Write a Book awards. Felicia Houser received the Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness, Most Artistic, Most Improved in reading, Most Dependable and Terrific Helper awards. Jack Kessler received the Fruit of the Spirit: Joy, Super Scientist, Fastest Runner, Math Whiz, Mr. Manners, Most Responsible, and Most Improved Reading awards. Korbon Morell received the Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness, Most Responsible, Math Whiz, and Most Improved reading awards. Macee Bailey received the Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness, Math Whiz, Most Responsible, Most Artistic, Terrific Helper, Most Improved reading and Most Organized awards. Maddux Warner received the Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness, Math Whiz, Star Reader, Super Scientist, Most Responsible, Terrific Helper and Best Friend to all awards. Randi Evans received the Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness, Star Reader, Miss Manners, and Best Friend to all awards. Ryder Thomas received the Fruit of the Spirit: Self Control, Reading All Star, Math Whiz, Best Handwriting, Best Listening Ears, Excellent Effort and Terrific Helper awards.

Second Grade

Abigail Boehler received the Helping Award. Lane Bailey received the History Buff Award. Ellie Adams received the Kind Heart Award. Beau Coss received the Brave and Bold Award. Luke Rahar received the Great Listener Award. Cross Opperman received the Most Inquisitive Award. Willow Oreskovich received the Most Cheerful Award. Noelan Casey received the Future Author Award. Zac Lutz received the Fantastic Friend Award.

Third Grade

Honor Roll Awards: Adeline Houser (Exceptional Honors), Josie Clayton (High Honors), Cason Garrett (High Honors), Mackenzie Bailey (Honors) and Seth Vallelonga (Honors)

Fourth Grade

Celyna Benavides received the Character Trait - Contentment and Running Improvement Award. Tynsley Collins received Honor Roll, Character Trait - Responsibility, Highest Spelling Average, 100 percent Average in Bible, Language A Average, Book Taco- most quizzes, and Running Improvement Award. Benny Coss received Honor Roll, Character Traits - Diligence, Dependability, 99 percent Average in Bible, A+ Average in Reading, A Average in Math, and 1st Place Award in Running for 4th Grade. Colt Garrett received Honor Roll, Character Traits - Enthusiasm in History. Dependability, Faithful Attendance. Highest Bible Average, 101 percent, History Average of 100 percent, Highest Math Average, Language A Average, Book Taco- most 100's, and Running Participation Award. Kylee Hopkins received the Character Traits - Joyfulness and Dependability and Running Improvement Award. Sadie Kessler received the Character Trait - Gentleness and Running Improvement Award. Zane Lutz received Honor Roll, Character Trait - Thoroughness, Highest Reading Average, Running Improvement Award and the Bible Reading Award. Elijah Patton received the Character Trait - Creativity, Global Thinker and Running Improvement Award. Trenton Segrest received the Character Trait - Thoroughness and Running Improvement Award. Monroe Warner received Honor Roll, Character Trait - Orderliness, History Average of 100 percent, Running Improvement Award and the Bible Reading Award.

Fifth Grade

Reagan Bonney received Honor Roll. Hannah Houser received History A+ Average, and Honor Roll. Judah Jeffrey received the History A+ Average award. Isaac King received Honor Roll.

Sixth Grade

Ricky Beetem received Most Books Read for Book Taco (72) and Character Award - Integrity. Annie Flood received Most Improved in Grammar and Character Award - Devout. Josiah Houser received the Most Improvement in History, Character Award - Leadership. Ian Jeffrey received the Most 100's on Book Taco Quizzes Award. Spencer Johnson received the Highest Grade in Science, Character Award - Encouragement. Blaire Rahar received the Most Improvement in Reading and Character Award - Friendship. Brianna Vallelonga received the Most Improvement in Spelling and Character Award - Loyalty.